



# Participatory Budgeting and Community Wealth Building

## Workshop Report November 2021



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# Workshop Programme

<b>11.50: Workshop Open</b>
<b>12.00: Welcome and Introductions</b> Charlie Fisher, DTNI
<b>12.15: PB Context across region and Working towards Mainstream PB,</b> Louise O’Kane, Community Places and PB Works
<b>12.25: Putting Community into Community Wealth Building (CWB), North Ayrshire Council’s approach to embedding CWB</b> Cllr Joe Cullinane, North Ayrshire Council
<b>12.40: Strategic PB Group in designing a way forward for PB in Scotland</b> Kathleen Glazik, Community Empowerment Team, Scottish Government
<b>12.55: Discussion, Q&amp;A</b>
<b>13.05: Reflections on PB practice and role on the National Strategic PB Group</b> Elidh Brown, tsiMoray
<b>13.20: Work to support and scale PB</b> Anthony Carleton, Department for Communities NI
<b>13.30: Discussion, Q&amp;A</b>
<b>13.55: Closing Comments and Thanks</b>
<b>14.00: Workshop Close</b>

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# Introduction and Welcome

On 23 November 2021, 55 participants joined an online zoom-shop to explore whether Participatory Budgeting (PB) can help put the ‘community’ into Community Wealth Building (CWB). The session was jointly hosted by Charlie Fisher, [DTNI](#) and Louise O’Kane, [Community Places - PB Works](#). Guest contributors included Cllr Joe Cullinane, North Ayrshire Council; Kathleen Glazik, Community Empowerment Team, Scottish Government; Elidh Brown, tsiMoray and Anthony Carleton, Department for Communities NI. A recording of the session is available [here](#).

Charlie welcomed participants and invited them to introduce themselves via the chat function. The programme was outlined, and it was noted that the joint workshop formed part of wider work on the development of recommendations for a policy framework on Community Wealth Building<sup>1</sup> for the Department for Communities and the ‘Putting People in the Lead through Quality PB<sup>2</sup>’ project, funded through the National Lottery Community Fund.

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## Framing the Conversation

Louise O’Kane provided an introduction to the concept of Participatory Budgeting, shared the background and focus of PB Works and an update on PB practice in the local context ([See Presentation Slides](#)). This included the presentation of a PB ‘Route Map’ to work towards the scaling up and mainstreaming of PB to deepen democracy.

## Route Map for PB

Cross-party support to promote the use of PB in the distribution of COVID-19 Recovery Funds

Investment in a core programme to move PB from incubation to consolidation over the next 4 years

Cross-party support to commit in the next Programme for Government to allocation of 1% spend through PB by 2027

Department for Communities and Department of Finance should lead on delivery by establishing a Regional Strategic PB Group

Open Government Action Plan - opportunity to commit to PB as part of a healthy participative democracy



**PB** PARTICIPATORY  
BUDGETING WORKS

Charlie and Louise introduced and extended a very warm welcome to the guest speakers.

## Cllr Joe Cullinane, North Ayrshire Council

### Key Comments

- Politics has been in a spiral of crisis since 2008, exacerbated by social media, misinformation, a disconnect between politics and people and a breakdown in trust.
- How do we repair this scarring in democracy? It’s about shifting democracy away from being an event, ‘participation limited to the ballot box’, towards a process of

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<sup>1</sup> Led by DTNI and Trademark on behalf of the Department for Communities

<sup>2</sup> Led by Community Places – PB Works

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continuing participation. Local Government are uniquely positioned to make that happen, rebuild trust by involving people in a continuous way.

- PB is a small part of that, 1% target to spend local government funding via PB in Scotland. North Ayrshire Council currently is the only local authority that has officially met that 1% target and currently exceeding it through participatory PB grant making distribution including an Annual Youth PB event, and we are moving away from small grants towards PB becoming a mainstream process for other budgets. For example, we have taken a mainstream PB approach to the Council's grounds maintenance budget. This involved hundreds of people deciding how the grounds maintenance budget would be allocated in their own areas and localities, deciding how to spend it and deciding to introduce relaxed grass cutting schemes in some areas, deciding to plant food rather than flowers in the community. A strong level of engagement through that process and is something which the Council is committed to building on and to roll PB out further, exceeding the 1% commitment.
- Recognise that there are some limitations to PB, the Scottish approach doesn't match the origins of PB in Porto Alegre where the ambition was to use PB to shift economic power to people. It is only one part of a true participatory democracy approach; this would open a whole range of opportunities and decision making for participation in mainstream budgets and embed participation across all forms of activity across local government and other public bodies.
- CWB working on this since 2018 with CLES and launched a full strategy in May 2020. The first Council to adopt CWB as our approach to economic development. Growing movement around the world, testing this approach e.g., Chicago and Preston. 55 actions are set out in the strategy across the 5 pillars of CWB e.g., in relation to procurement, more of the £1 Billion annual spend by local public bodies procuring goods and services with businesses based in Ayrshire, and more importantly with co-operatives, worker owned businesses, social enterprises, organisations with a different value set. In relation to land and assets, realizing the full social and economic value of public buildings, to use them for the common good, retaining them in council ownership and using them differently and transferring ownership to communities to

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deliver community led economic activity. Fourth pillar is in relation to our Pension fund, divest from fossil fuels and other harmful investments towards a local direct investment strategy that invests in regional economy and creates local jobs, regenerating communities and the establishment of a community, mutual bank owned by customers and able to use deposits to create more investment across the regional economy which it serves. The final pillar is plural ownership, we want to see a shift in the balance of economic power towards the workplace and communities, create new worker owned business, new co-operatives, support social enterprise and CICs, and we have plans for two Council owned solar farms.

- When we are talking about Community Wealth Building, we are talking about the economy and specifically ownership but what CWB is not, is a community empowerment initiative, you can't do community wealth building without the community. It goes without saying you can't have the community taking ownership of assets if there isn't a community group to take ownership of them, you can't have worker owned business if there are no workers. How do we put the community into CWB? We are supporting that through several initiatives some of which have direct links with participatory budgeting.
- One of these is our Community Investment Fund (CIF) a 3 million fund created in 2017, underspend from capital programmes and from the revenue budget. This was devolved to 6 Locality Partnerships, part of the Community Planning Partnership model in North Ayrshire, and consists of community planning partners, local ward members and community representatives – a partnership between public state and communities. We devolved £3 Million to localities to invest in their local priorities, identified through a series of community engagement sessions, with wide participation in the process. The Community Investment Fund did come before the council commenced their CWB journey, but it has been refreshing to see how closely aligned the projects it has supported have been to the CWB approach to the economy. It has supported a number of community groups to take ownership of lands and buildings and community led economic activity. For example, the Isle of Cumbrae, where a community group has taken ownership of the Town Hall in Millport and with £200,000 from the CIF have been able to raise £2 Million to undertake a project to

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bring the townhall back into productive use for islanders and visitors. The Karate Station in Saltcoats Train Station, a disused part of the train station, community have taken ownership of that part of the building and turned it into a karate club and training facility for the local community. Community Group in Stevenson taking ownership of land at the beach and will turn it into a new pavilion for the community.

- We want to build on these projects. We have plans to put another £3 Million into the CIF, and CWB will be very much at the heart of how we take this forward which is really exciting. We have a CWB commission made up of anchor institutions, focused on CWB in practice. The third sector interface (tsi) Ayrshire Community Trust is a member of the commission. We are looking at how we build a platform for other community anchors to become more directly involved in community wealth building activity.
- Next steps will include exploring community land trusts for areas of publicly owned land that can go into a land trust and ensure that people are actively involved in protecting land for future generations.
- Lastly, we have moved beyond participatory budgeting as we move beyond putting the community into community wealth building, transforming ourselves into a participatory democracy council which puts participation at the heart of all of its activities. We are working on a Participatory Democracy Strategy, and this will include proposals on how we get direct participation from the community at Council meetings, looking to embed the principle of participation in everything that we do going forward.

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## Kathleen Glazik, Community Empowerment Team, Scottish Government

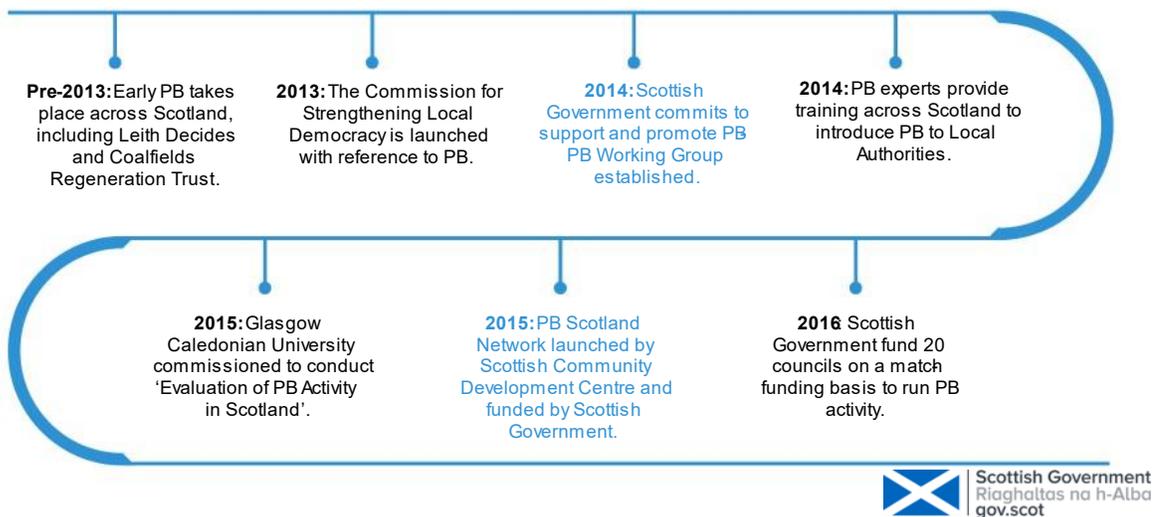
Kathleen provided an overview of Scotland's PB journey over the last seven years and highlighted the work of the National PB Strategic Group and the development of the framework for the future of PB in Scotland ([See Presentation Slides](#)).

### Key Comments

- Scottish Government committed to supporting and promoting PB in 2014 as one mechanism to enable community empowerment and as a resource to widen participatory democracy. The focus was on providing practical support and funding and to try and put the conditions in place in Scotland for PB to be delivered in a meaningful and sustainable way. We have worked closely with stakeholders and communities.

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## Participatory Budgeting in Scotland

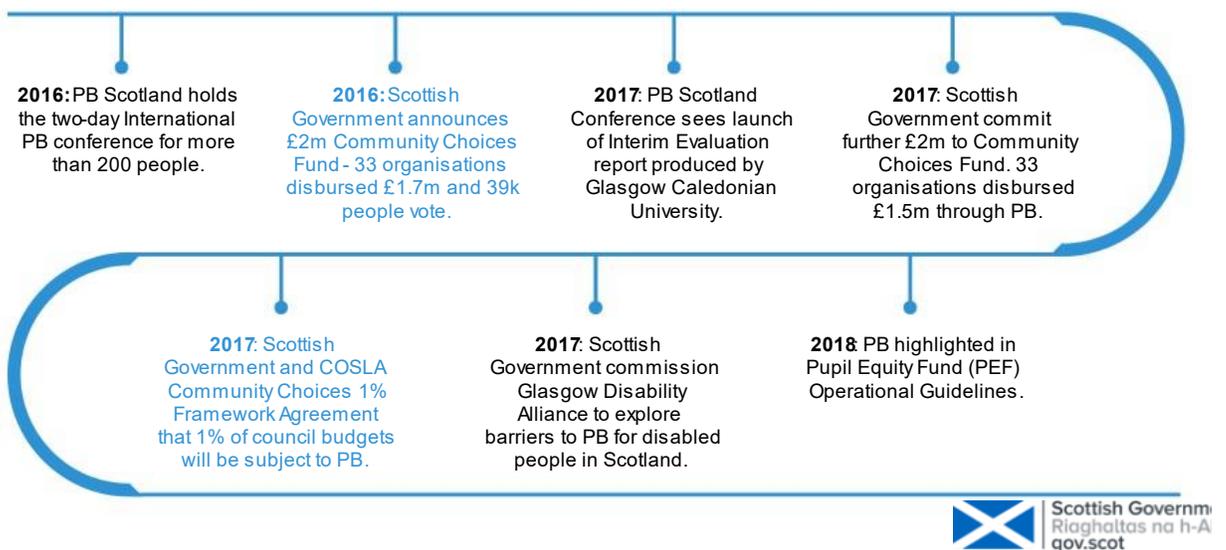


- With the referendum in 2014, over 80% of voters came out and voted. Ministers wanted to harness that democratic energy, so funding was provided for PB as part of that process. We invested in training, evaluation, launched a PB Network, provided matched funding for Councils. We funded international conferences, and this was where the Global PB Hub was launched. There is continual learning from our colleagues around the world. We launched a PB Charter, learning from colleagues in Portugal who had gone through a similar exercise. The Charter sets out seven features

to ensure PB is: Fair and Inclusive; Participatory; Deliberative; Empowering; Creative and flexible; Transparent; and part of our Democracy.

- Landmark agreement between COSLA and Scottish Government that 1% of Local Authority funding allocated through a PB process by March 2021- this has been delayed due to COVID and will be met by 2022.
- We learned from evaluations through Glasgow Caledonian University, to identify what is working, what is not working, identify barriers to participation, particularly by people with disabilities. Glasgow Disability Alliance undertook research to explore how these barriers could be overcome resulting in Budgeting for Equality and No one left behind publications.

## Participatory Budgeting in Scotland



- In 2018, PB was highlighted in the Pupil Equity Fund operational guidelines to encourage PB in schools.
- Key Statistics: £7 million investment via Community Choices, which supported over 122,000 voters; 47,000 in person voters. Investment in digital programmes. 2,400 local organisations securing funding and £6.6 million allocated via PB.

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- To understand what next for PB in Scotland a National PB Strategic group was established in September 2020. The group is chaired by Martin Johnstone. The group set out to develop a [strategic framework](#) working with stakeholders centered on five themes: Culture shift, leadership, and long-term thinking; cross-cutting priorities; Health and Well-being; Education; and Housing with links to the environment. There are 16 priorities in the framework along with 26 indicators of success.
  - The strategic PB group have defined PB as “a democratic process in which citizens decide directly how to spend part of a public budget.”
  - National drive to engage and empower communities, Social Renewal Advisory Board was established in January 2021, co-chaired by cabinet secretaries and included a commitment to “increased participation, with decision-making as close to communities as possible and an extension of participatory budgeting, so that communities of places and identity have more say on how public money is spent.
  - PB has been included in the Programme for Government to explore Green PB and community led climate action. Scottish government will work with local authorities to embed climate principles into wider participatory budgeting initiatives.
  - Kathleen shared other initiatives which government are supporting including Community Wealth Building Bill; Local Governance Review; and a Local Democracy Bill to devolve more resources and decisions; Community Empowerment Act Review which was passed in 2015; Open Government Programme and PB is included as part of participative democracy and £17 Million Community Empowerment Funding Programme in 2021 to support capacity, resilience and sustainability of communities.

## Discussion and Questions

At this stage in the proceedings, there was an opportunity for participants to pose questions to the presenters. Danny Sinclair asked, how do we know that deprived or marginalized communities are represented in PB processes. Are those who are more active in communities more likely to get involved and perhaps those who are more marginalized, less likely? Louise O’Kane responded, this is a challenge, how do we ensure that the most marginalized are included? They are perhaps the furthest away, ‘easy to ignore’ rather than ‘hard to reach’. The key thing is to include those people in the steering group or design panel and to ensure there is a broader representation of people and communities in the design of PB processes. Since the pandemic we have seen a number of local grassroots PB processes, communities developing and leading in the design of these processes, ensuring that their voices are heard and crucially that they have a real say in where resources are allocated in their areas. It isn’t an engagement process, it is an empowerment tool, the decision-making process is crucial. When we intentionally align PB to processes such as anti-poverty and make efforts to really reach out to people, that is where we can see change happen, through long-term investment.



*Snapshot of some of the participants at the Zoom Workshop*

PB as one tool in deepening democracy and having more equitable resource allocation. For example, PB is currently being used in NI to address issues of [homelessness and](#)

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[housing crisis](#), working with those with lived experiences of homelessness, specifically targeting those who are more marginalized. How we include people in the design of processes is essential and that people can see the tangible outcomes that can be delivered. We need to grow and develop PB in specific policy areas to further the inclusion of more marginalized groups.

Joe Cullinane, noted that often groups organise themselves and bring people along to vote for them. The challenge comes back to dis-trust of state and especially those who do live in marginalized areas. In terms of locality planning, one measure of success will be when we don't know the people who step forward, we'll know that we are starting to make that wider difference and people are engaging with the process. We need to listen to people, not assume that professionals know best, without this we will continue to have mistrust – we have to demonstrate that we do listen and act. There also needs to be those tangible examples that demonstrate what happens when councils work with communities, removing bureaucratic barriers and working with, rather than against communities. Massive challenge right now, to reach those that are not engaged.

Kathleen Glazik questioned, who knows best what is needed in a local community? Is it ten civil servants sitting around a desk in St Andrews House looking at applications worth millions of pounds from communities across the country, or is it communities themselves? The National support programme is supporting those furthest from power, providing childcare, signage, training on how to do presentations, all to encourage as many people as possible to take part in PB processes.

Jez Hall noted, if you are in a deprived community, facing pressures in your life, participation has an opportunity cost, you have to give up something which you may rely on in order to sustain your life. How do we make sure PB processes actually feed the real needs that people start with rather than starting with the need in local government? Sometimes PB is designed to meet the needs of public officials. How do we use PB to get people to feel that they can do things that affect change in their own lives rather than receive services that they can be frustrated about?

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## **Elidh Brown, tsiMoray**

Elidh shared her reflections on the challenges and opportunities presented by Participatory Budgeting.

### **Key Comments**

- Who are best placed to make decisions, clearly people in local communities?
- In Moray, we took forward a PB process in 4 localities. It focused on older people, who considered applications proposed by groups often led by older people themselves. The process felt like a really good day, meaningful decisions being made that would make a significant difference to people's lives. From that point on we realised we were on to something! There have now been a further 8 PB processes.
- I am a member of the National Strategic PB Group, where I have been able to give a flavour of the PB processes in Moray. Sharing values and principles of PB and how do we ensure that we begin with people who are furthest away from decision-making.
- There has been a focus on reducing barriers, from the outset having a friendly format and a place where interaction and dialogue could happen in a relaxed way. Where people feel genuinely included and part of the process. We have used marketplace events where people can ask questions informally and chat to each other.
- We have also introduced digital voting to improve inclusion, for those who can't attend events in person (due to COVID restrictions, heightened anxiety). We have worked with a range of different third sector partners and community organizations who support and have drawn on lived experience to create change. Co-creating the PB process together. Over 2000 people participate in the PB processes, in person and on-line.
- The system change required to really support PB to be even more meaningful, we are still reaching for the next part to grow and mainstream PB. I have become more aware of the different national and local levers and drivers and the challenges that exist. Why isn't this already happening when there are so many gains? When people can be directly involved in decisions that affect them?

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- Thank-you to all the speakers, in particular Joe, hearing how things are going in Ayrshire and the strong connection with the CWB agenda is inspiring, I'll be bringing that back to Moray. There is buy-in to PB, people are excited and on-board but how do we take this further? And engage even more people?
  - Our local authority lack vision and confidence that this is worthwhile, it can be perceived as a challenge, that is really unfortunate. However, they are finding their feet. I feel that the culture shift is coming and conditions will be in place to make this work, with an injection of confidence.
  - There are so many opportunities, are we reaching and including and supporting people to be part of this process, especially those that don't feel empowered. PB processes done well, quality of spaces for people to come together, spaces that are safe and inclusive, supporting people to be in those spaces and to build their confidence is so important. Efforts and resources must be targeted to do that. Good to measure who is participating, characteristics to give a picture, although this in itself can be a barrier. Community organizations who have a strong focus on place and increasing power that they have stepped into and taken forward particularly during the pandemic, they feel more empowered and enthused. Having a mix of communities of places, anchor organizations who have the experience of working with people with lived experience, bringing those interests together to co-produce PB processes and valuing the time to set up and establish a process is the most important thing.
  - The scale of PB in Scotland is exciting, people make good decisions, and the more people involved the better, sharing knowledge and experience, a sacrificial generosity in the approach to how we work. We need to maintain the passion and enthusiasm of those already engaged and persuade Local Authorities who haven't already stepped forward confidently to do so, to see the positive difference that can be made.

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## **Anthony Carleton, Director of Local Government and Housing Regulation, Department for Communities**

### Key Comments

- We have a lot of community involvement, but we need to start moving, and it is a drive from Minister Hargey and the Department, towards more co-ordination. We are currently in the grant stage of PB, for example work in Armagh Banbridge Craigavon, Newry Mourne and Down, and Belfast are considering how to introduce PB. There has been a focus on health and well-being, and there is a clear link to Community Planning with that focus.
- In relation to CWB, we are in a space of looking at policy development for CWB, looking at social value clauses and contracts, how they can impact and help CWB. The Department of Finance have recently set out new papers to indicate how they would expect to see social value contracts included in all public sector. We are working with Local Councils to see if we can get the equivalent legislation to extend this to local councils.
- We aren't as advanced in a number of these areas as a result of the lack of an assembly for a number of years, but we are moving now to drive community engagement much more in the setting up of government policy. There has been strong engagement with the community, sporting bodies, community and voluntary sector. We need to learn from PB, how do we bridge the gap between the community sector and central government policy, how do we make sure it isn't one-off or a targeted single approach to one area or issue. We have community planning, completed our first 4-year review, we need another cycle to build trust. We need to get to a space where the civil servants need to be able to trust that if the community is empowered to make decisions, that the decisions that they make will be for the benefit of themselves. I don't want to sound patronizing but that is a central approach that we need to get away from. To a place where communities are deciding, as they are best placed to know what is needed. That is a big change, and we are going through that culture change at the minute, that move will be very important and it is the road we are travelling down. Seminars like this are very good, participating with those who can talk and share their experiences.

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- There is probably more PB type activity happening than we realise. I am a regulator for social housing and push hard that they have tenant participation. I can see the similar difficulties as that shared by Elidh from Moray. Small scale issues can be dealt with easier in groups, when you start to talk with tenants and it eats into their leisure time it can become much more difficult, we need to strike that balance. How do we get the citizen to afford the time and opportunity to come along and participate in budgeting strategy at the same time as leading their own lives, what's in it for them?
  - Those are some of the points that we will take away from today. How has that been achieved elsewhere, overall, I want to say that the Department and Minister Hargey in particular, is very keen that we push the policy side along to allow for community planning, community wealth building and participatory budgeting. I suppose the one thing, this is all coming very quick in a short space of time here, whereas Scottish colleagues have had a much longer run at it, it started earlier, they have had a couple of revisions and we meet up fairly regularly pre pandemic at a community planning level across the jurisdictions. We are coming at it in a shorter space of time, and probably quicker, and a slight issue that unlocks is coming back from community planning, community wealth building and participatory budgeting. When you get to a community level you are seeing the same people all of the time, is that a burden on the voluntary/ community side that they are now looking at four or five different areas where we are expecting them to help us influence policy. We would benefit from having the input from yourselves on how we make sure that when we look at community-based activity, we are getting that breadth of experience and breadth of opinion.
  - In summary, when I looked at all the points, and Scottish colleagues have seemed to have moved down the road further, nearly all of the topics they have raised I can identify them at some stage here in NI. We aren't at a position yet that we can link them all quite cohesively as others have had to. Certainly Community Wealth Building, using it to try and address poverty, fuel poverty, community deprivation, those are the issues and matters that the Minister and Department are keen to address as part of community planning, part of community wealth building and mitigations and areas we take forward in terms of trying to look at social welfare, through Participatory

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Budgeting, very early stages here for us, but we are very hopeful and it is something which my team looks at quite a lot and we can push this forward and try and embed it more into the policy setting agenda.

Charlie thanked Anthony for his contribution and noted that there is a starting point for every initiative and that Jo, Kathleen and Elidh have drawn our attention to the fact that they are now moving beyond that. That is an aspiration for us here as well. I appreciate the very significant challenges that we face here from a policy perspective in terms of positioning ourselves to move faster. You mentioned the issue of trust Anthony, and I do think that is key to changing the place in which we live in. Politics of this place is around division and separation not around trust. Culturally that is still a huge hurdle for us to overcome in the North of Ireland if we are to progress, aligning our response to dealing with issues around marginalization, poverty and poor health and so on, this is a bridge that we need to cross. I think culture is the other big matter in NI, we do have that significant deficit of participative democracy at a local level and partly at a regional level, this is something we need to work on and change.

## **Reflections**

At this point in proceedings, Noeleen Diver (Triangle Housing and PB Works) and David Quinney Mee (Rathlin Development and Community Association) were invited to share some comments on the discussion and reflections on their experience of PB to date. Noeleen noted that it is so wonderful to have such good neighbours in our Scottish colleagues, sacrificial generosity sums up so much. I love the understanding of the burden of the officers, to get the balance between the burden which officers can feel in their duties and the frustration of local people who have lived experience, skills, passion and knowledge. To be perfectly honest I have found that if there is trust in what you are trying to achieve, if there is partnership and an appetite, I know Anthony talked about making time, ensuring that people see good value for the time that they put in. It has been my experience that if you are building something genuinely and honestly with folk they will put in the time, take it with both hands, as the frustration levels are so high, we have had decades of strategies and programmes and my background is housing. I know that the pilots and consultations and tick boxes and the programmes, very often the

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same places are the same places, and the frustration that that builds, so I suppose it comes back to, if we want to be in a different place it is down to all of us together to try and make this grow and learn together. Louise referred to a route map that PB Works has developed and there is something about the responsibility of the roles that all of us together have, community, statutory, local, central, to start trying to unpack that, the appetite is there, the frustration is there, the passion is there. If we can start to unpack the route map in building for example, anti-poverty, economic development, we need to ask people what do you need? what are your answers? lets build that together, we have to start somewhere. Yes Scotland, is ahead, and PB is happening all around the world, but we need to start together now, if not now when?

David, commented on the wealth of knowledge and commitment from the speakers. David, shared the experience of a PB process in Rathlin Island, where they wanted to share the profits of a social enterprise back into the community, enabling the community to decide how they would spend £1,000 and with the support of PB Works became one of the first pilots in the region. David noted that when he heard more about PB it seemed so obvious, I couldn't see any difficulty with it, let's do it now. We went back to Rathlin, talked about it there and got the same response, that sounds really straightforward let's just do it! And so we did! We had our hands held by Jez, Louise and Noeleen and worked through the process. The first bids were saying this is our idea, and when we have made more on the return of this we'll put it back into the next PB round. So right from the very beginning people were expecting this to be a new way forward. Then of course COVID joined in and everything has been put into hibernation, but it is exciting again to hear people saying we can't quite meet together yet, but when are we going to do another PB round. We are pleased to be able to say that we have a bit more money and we are looking forward to doing it again. The simple thing is why do more people not do it? I hear the questions, and arguments about accountability, multiplying it up the ladder, anyone that sat in the hall that we did in Rathlin and saw the way it went, saw people connecting with it, saw people's enthusiasm to take control over a tiny amount of money and make a commitment to their own community and be accountable to each other. Anybody who saw that, it would be very difficult to understand why they wouldn't want to do it again or on a bigger scale. We had some people from the Council involved with us and they were very good, the ones in the room with us, and they tried very hard to

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push it up the ladder, I have no evidence that that has been successful yet. Bottling North Ayrshire, yes, definitely let's do that! We also managed to make presentations on PB and the Rathlin experience to permanent secretaries of two government departments, Finance and Infrastructure and we have had considerable interest from others in other departments. So, at one level, we have been able to punch above the weight of those 160 islanders. Again, as we talk about it and explain our experience it appears that people are listening, so I am baffled as to why we aren't all doing it, why has it not happened, lets get on with it. I do take the point about the journey of trust, that was very much our experience on the island. It took the committee a little while to work out how simply, we were going to trust how it would work in the community and what would happen if people got hold of that money, and they were people that we didn't like or didn't understand or might use it for reasons what we weren't sure about it. At that very local and simple level, I could see that journey of trust that has to be writ large across councils and government departments. The benefit of that trust seems to me that once you bite on it, its not an extra job for you to do, it's a deeper way of doing the job that you want to do anyway. That seems to be the experience as we listen to other people, it inspires, it encourages, it empowers, not just the people who are making the bids, and making the decisions, but those who are behind the budgets and opens up all kinds of possibilities in community engagement. So again, the pathway is there, it is about taking the risk to get on with it, trusting it and making it happen. Finally, we are now looking back again at Scotland at the wellbeing economy, and hopefully PB will be a big part of that, so we will be chasing you for more!

Charlie, thanked all of the speakers: Joe, Kathleen, Elidh, Anthony and Louise, for their time and engagement, and extended thanks to colleagues behind the scenes. Charlie commented that Louise had made the point earlier that there is a need to move from a transactional process to a transformative one, that is a key take away from today. How do we develop a rights based approach to policy making in NI, we are all collectively committed to that in our owns sectors, its moving forward with that which is proving challenging. There is a lot of learning within the Community Empowerment Act and Localism Act that is directly relevant to what we as community actors are trying to achieve here. DTNI have been lobbying for a Community Rights Act, drawing on much of this learning and will continue to do so. Joe spoke about the Community Wealth Building

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Commission in Ayrshire, with community representation on it and I think we can make in-roads on that here too through existing community planning structures or something which is complementary to the purpose of community planning. DTNI have been advocating for the establishment of community wealth building hubs, 11 across the local authority areas with citizen representation. I was also taken by the commitment of 3 million which Joe talked about – there are ways and means of identifying significant amounts of money and trying to target it at particular places, interesting learning. Final point, PB is one piece of the jigsaw in terms of citizen engagement and participation in this work around community wealth building. There is more to learn and understand about the practice of this and how it will work in terms of helping to establish a more plural economy, how we can make financial power work, how we can develop fair employment and just labour markets, how we make best use of our public land and property assets, procurement practice and social value, continuing work to be done there and participation in policy design and programme outcomes. Ultimately, community wealth building is around active democratic ownership and participation at the heart of everything that we try and do.

## **Thank-you and Close**

Charlie and Louise thanked everyone for their participation and energetic discussions and noted that a report of the workshop would be made available on the [PB Works website](#). The workshop was brought to a close.

# Appendix 1: Registration List

Registered Participant	Organisation or Group
Alanna McGarry	Ashton
Brendan Burns	Aspen-Waite
Brian Kelly	BCC
Cormac McCann	BCC
Grainne O'Hare	BCC
Patricia Flynn	BCC
Tracy Mawhinney	BCC
Mark Arthur	Belfast Interface Project
Paul Smith	Belfast Interface Project
James Henderson	Blue Yonder
Sandy Wilson	Broughshane &DCA
Valerie Blake	Broughshane &DCA
Louise Scullion	Causeway Coast & Glens Council
Joy Wisener	CC&G Council
Paddy Moley	Clanrye Group
Marian Farrell	Collaboration for Change
Emma Megaughin	Commonplace
Gemma McCaughley	Community Foundation
Louise O'Kane	Community Places / PB Works
	Confederation of Community Groups
Raymond Jackson	Newry
Derek Hussey	Derry & Strabane Council
Anthony Carleton	DfC
Cathrine McLnerney	DfC
Moira Doherty	DfC
Pauline Campbell	DfC
Sharron Russell	DfC
Charlie Fisher	DTNI
Margaret Craig	DTNI
Andrew Irvine	East Belfast Mission
Charissa Murphy	Edinburgh University
Helen Crickard	Forward South
Liam O'Hagan	Grow the Glens
Paddy McLaughlin	Grow the Glens
Fiona Corvan	Holywell Trust
Andy Tough	Inspire Business Centre
Maria Morgan	Ligoniel Improvement Association

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Alan Johnston	Monkstown Community Forum
Eimear Montague	NI Resources Network
Lauren McMenamy	NM&D Council
Cllr Joe Cullinane	North Ayrshire Council
AnneMarie Doherty	Northern Trust
Mark Peters	PB Works
Bernadette Millar	PHA
Diane Anderson	PHA
Kelly McCartney	PHA
Lucille Lennon	PHA
David Quinney Mee	Rathlin & District Community Association
Aidan Campbell	RCN
Adie Bird	Resurgam
Denis Paisley	Resurgam
Gillian Lewis	Resurgam / Healthy Living Centre
Christopher Blake	Rich Music NI
Majella Gollogly	Rural Health Partnership
Kathleen Glazik	Scottish Government
Siobhan Fearon	SERC
Jez Hall	Shared Future
Michael Goodman	Sinn Fein
Kathy Cremin	South of Scotland Enterprise
Cara McLoughlin	St Columb's Park House
Grainne O'Neill	St Columb's Park House
Laura Adair	St Columb's Park House
Ursula Doherty	Strabane Community Project
Noeleen Diver	Triangle / PB Works
Elidh Brown	TSIMoray
Brenda Turnbull	Waterways Community
Stephen McGarry	Work West
Bronagh McCrory	
Claire Henderson	
Henry Ushie	
James Hunter	
Mary Casey	
Neil McCann	
Paul Rowden	
Stephen Hamill	

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*This Report was prepared by Louise O’Kane, Community Places and PB Works.  
PB Works is managed and co-ordinated by Community Places.*

