PB Works – The Role of PB in Widening Engagement

Play Resource Centre, Wednesday 13 June 2018
Welcome and Introductions
Dr Louise O’Kane, Community Places
PB Works Project

• BCT: Civic Activism Programme
• Collaborative effort
• Raise awareness of and advocate for Participatory Budgeting (PB)
• Tailored Training and Support - working with PB Partners and Democratic Society
• PB Works Website [www.participatorybudgetingworks.org](http://www.participatorybudgetingworks.org)
• PB Works Network
Introduction to Participatory Budgeting
Jez Hall, PB Partners
PB PARTNERS

Independent social enterprise that is working to empower citizens
• Supporting new ways of doing PB
• Community engagement specialists

PB Network: Advocating for PB across the UK
www.pbnetwork.org.uk and supporting PB in Scotland
Participatory Budgeting is Worldwide
WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

‘PB directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget.’

Or…
‘Local people deciding on how to allocate part of a public budget’

Or……
‘If it feels like we have decided ---- it’s PB.
If it feels like someone else has decided, it isn’t’
Connecting and complimenting existing democratic processes

- Only a small percentage of any public budget will be allocated using PB
- Formally mandated and ‘signed off’ by the elected legislature... ... but then the decision is ‘the communities’
- Supports:
  Representative Democracy
  Public Service Reform
  Community Engagement
UK PB MODELS

- Small grants allocation
- Mainstream Investment (e.g. the Scottish 1% commitment)
- Commissioning, community planning and project development
THE START OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in the 1980s
End of dictatorship and rebirth of democracy
Public finances were empty (stolen), citizens had unmet expectations, and wanted...
Democracy to be done differently

= Democratic innovation!

Something drives the need for PB?
e.g.... The over 141 experiences in Scotland
like... The Scottish Independence Referendum 2014???

Or Brexit??
Or a democratic deficit??
The Scottish Context

“the best people to decide the future of our communities ... 

are the people who live in those communities.”
Objectives of PB In Scotland

- Increase quality and quantity of community engagement (more deliberative, inclusive and transparent);

- Stimulate dialogue and positive action within communities;

- Increase trust in politics and in politicians;

- Encourage well targeted public investments.
The Empowerment Line
PB works in different ways, but should be meaningful and change how money is spent
MAINTSTREAM PB –
A NEW COMMUNITY CHARTER

Localism in practice?

• Local Governance
• Widening of participation
• Co-production
• Rights AND Responsibilities
PB budget cycle
= participatory activity at all stages
PB Resources:

PB works Website: participatorybudgetingworks.org
PB Resources:

PB Scotland Website: [www.pbscotland.scot](http://www.pbscotland.scot)
PB Resources:

The UK PB Network Website: [www.pbnetwork.org.uk](http://www.pbnetwork.org.uk)
PB Resources:

Democratic Society Scotland
http://www.demsoc.org/participatory-budgeting-in-scotland/
The role of PB in widening engagement – Q&A
Paul Braithwaite and Jez Hall
The Big Dish Out

Cross Glebe, Coleraine

&

Cushendall
Cross Glebe
Pitching Bids
Cushendall Market Place
Pay: Gleaners of Antrim Contras
Amount: £300
Roll on the Celebratory Events!
Comfort Break
Good Practice Examples – Widening Engagement
Jez Hall, PB Partners
COMMUNITY LED FUNDING

Participatory Grant Making
A grants pot / initiative funding - community chest, etc

Bidders present proposals to residents, who vote on which to support

Limited impact on mainstream

Effective at engaging, networking and enthusing local people
COMMUNITY LED FUNDING

Tackling Islamophobia in Edinburgh

Led by Police Scotland in partnership with Edinburgh Council and the voluntary sector 2,500 people vote on projects to end hate crimes in Edinburgh

• £40,000 was on offer
• In total, 34 projects were shortlisted (up to a maximum of £5,000)
• Total applied for was over £120,000.
• Over a two week period over 2,500 people voted.
• Voting could be done online or in person at 28 public libraries.
• Sergeant Kennedy facilitated a community steering group to design the PB programme.
Tackling Islamophobia in Edinburgh:

A sample of the successful bids.

Edinburgh Lone Fathers Project / Edinburgh Central Mosque: 'Dads & Kids’ Day

Just Enough Scotland: Delivering fun, educational workshops on radicalisation and terrorism in 10 schools.

Kids In The Street: One Team, Many Cultures, One Goal - Raises awareness of the true meaning of faith through football, fun, food & learning

Leith Festival Association: Celebrating our Asian community through music, dance, art and food.

LifeCare (Edinburgh) Limited - Breaking down boundaries and eroding prejudice across cultures, communities and generations through friendships for isolated over 60s in Edinburgh.

Protest in Harmony - Singing and song writing workshops at Edinburgh College

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees - interfaith monthly gatherings

Sikh Sanjog Girls - A safe space for girls and young women to meet, share experiences, build self-esteem and resilience.

The Welcoming Association - Learn about the experiences of refugee families in Edinburgh
COMMUNITY LED FUNDING

School based PB

One Parent Families Scotland and Ardelgen Housing Association brought together two Primaries to hear from pupils and parents on how each school should spend £10,000 to help lower the cost of the school day. As in Paris, no age threshold was set in Castlemilk.

Amy, in class P4 in Miller primary,
“You should be able to vote if you’re 7 or 8.
I was telling the people about computers for a parent’s room. So that parents have a computer to write forms online.
I felt excited to stand up and tell everyone. Not nervous at all.”

Fiona McGovern, from Ardelgen Housing Association said:
“Today has been a huge success! I don’t think I’ve seen the hall quite so busy. There are lots of people who haven’t been in the hall before with two lone parents telling us that they were going to join one of our groups.”
ONLINE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING BUILDS ENGAGEMENT

Digital tools and engagement

Connecting people through on and offline participation

To reinforce and amplify...
Ideas,
Engagement,
Deliberation and
Voting

The Democratic Society

PB Partners
Making People Count
ONLINE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Council grant funding to support Local Communities

£2.5k per project

150 ideas generated online

1,300 people taking part in discussions online

Map shows the spread of ideas
ONLINE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Dundee Decides

£1.2 million Community Infrastructure fund.

7,000 people taking part online

Aiming for 12,000
Table Discussion – When planning a PB process what steps can you take to encourage wide engagement/target groups who may be underrepresented?

Questions and Answers
How best to support those who are unsuccessful
Jez Hall, PB Partners
Lunch Break
The 10 Steps to planning a PB grant making process
Jez Hall, PB Partners
PB SMALL GRANTS MODEL – KEY COMPONENTS 1

Create a Steering/Planning Group

Including key stakeholders

Role is to design

and manage the process

And set the rules.
KEY COMPONENTS - 2

Develop Publicity Strategy and Brand Name
KEY COMPONENTS - 3

Agree priorities

Meet with as many members of the community as possible

Decide what matters to help bidders to bid and voters to choose where the money goes.
KEY COMPONENTS - 4

Inform and engage

Hold information events
Publicity
Networking
Social media
KEY COMPONENTS – 5

Receive and process applications

Keep applications forms simple
Allow enough time for people to bid
Hold a review meeting to check applications
Feed back to bidders to help them improve their bid
KEY COMPONENTS – 6

Hold the decision event

Invite residents and ‘Deliverers’ to Decision Day

PR strategy to include effective ways of creating awareness and engaging service users
**KEIGHLEY**

**Pay:**

Date: 25th November 2006

**Amount:** One hundred and thirty thousand pounds only

£130,000

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

*Funds will be distributed in the Brackenbank, Brathwaite/Guardhouse, Branshaw/Fell Lane, Eastwood, Hainworth/Parkwood, Highfield and Stockbridge areas of Keighley only*

**Doing anything on 25th November?**

Can you spare half a day to decide how money should be spent to improve your neighbourhood?

**Come along to Decision Day on Saturday, 25th November at the Highfield Centre, Drewry Road, Keighley**

**Morning session:** 9.30am-12.30pm
Brackenbank, Branshaw/Fell Lane and Hainworth/Parkwood

**Lunch:** 12.30pm-1.30pm

**Afternoon session:** 1.30pm-4.30pm
Brathwaite/Guardhouse, Eastwood, Highfield and Stockbridge

**We provide:**
- £130,000 and proposals on how to spend it (funds for Young People, Safer Communities, etc.)
- Free lunch and refreshments
- Free childcare
- Free transport

**You provide:**
- Your local knowledge
- Your vote!

The projects with the most votes are the ones that get the money.

You decide. It's as simple as that!

You will be receiving a letter giving further details shortly.

For further information please telephone Bradford Vision on (01274) 433987.
KEY COMPONENTS – 7

Announce the results
Projects scoring highest receive funding.

Support those who don’t

Inform the wider community of the outcome
KEY COMPONENTS – 8

Keep in touch with what happens next
(its not just about funding)

Successful projects get contracts

Monitoring guidelines established
KEY COMPONENTS – 9

Spread the word
Report what has been achieved

To..
• Residents/Service Users
• Public bodies
• Board members and Staff
• The whole community
KEY COMPONENTS – 10

Plan to repeat it

In Partnership

With your own funds?

Advocate to public bodies
WHAT IS
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Participatory Budgeting can be described as "Local People deciding how to allocate part of a public budget."

JOIN THE
PB NETWORK

The PB Works Network is free and open to anyone who is interested in participatory budgeting.

Network members are invited to contribute their ideas, learning and enthusiasm to advancing PB across the region.

BECOME A MEMBER

Having trouble with the form? Contact louise@communityplaces.info
FIND OUT MORE RESOURCES

LINKS TO PB IN ACTION

HOLYWELL STEW

YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE

MAKING PEOPLE COUNT

VIDEO

DOCUMENT

PB CASE STUDY

The City of Edinburgh Council and the Loth Partnership

PB SUPPORT WEBSITES

DUNDEE DECIDES

TRIANGLE 'Vote for Fun'

TRIANGLE HOUSING ASSOCIATION VOTE FOR FUN

VIDEO

DOCUMENT
Evaluation
Thank-you for participating

www.participatorybudgetingworks.org