Dr Louise O’Kane – Welcome
PB Works Project

- BCT: Civic Activism Programme
- Collaborative effort
- Raise awareness of and advocate for Participatory Budgeting
- 4 Thematic PB Workshops
- Tailored Training and Support - working with PB Partners and Democratic Society
PB Works

• PB processes on the ground:
  • Rathlin Island – ‘Grugach’s Gold’
  • Mournes, NMDDC and Partners ‘Communities Leading Change’
  • Downpatrick, Parent Action – ‘Getting our Voices Heard’
  • Fermanagh and Omagh DC – Policing and Community Safety; Antrim and Newtownabbey BC - Youth; Newington Housing Association – Tenant Participation; Forward South Partnership – Communities and Regeneration.
Siobhan McCauley, Director of Regional Services Housing Executive – Opening Remarks
Alan Budge, PB Partners: What is PB? And How PB can enhance tenant and community participation
INTRODUCTION TO PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB)
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

People have direct decision making powers on how to allocate part of a public budget

‘If it feels like we have decided ---- it’s PB.
If it feels like someone else has decided, it isn’t.’

Brazilian resident involved in PB
Only a small percentage of any public budget will be allocated using PB.

The PB process is formally mandated and ‘signed off’ by the elected legislature.

Supporting Representative Democracy.
ORIGINS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1980s – city of 1.5m people

End of military dictatorship and election of Workers’ Party
DEVELOPMENT OF PB

Now in 300+ cities worldwide, including Latin America, Canada, USA and over 25 in Europe

Identified as good practise by international institutions, including World Bank, UNESCO, OECD, UN Habitat prize, and DFID

175 + examples of UK pilots

Links with the ‘localism’ agenda
PB worldwide
International examples

- **Paris**: 426m euros to 2020, 5% of the city budget.

- **Portugal**: 80,000 voters in its 3m euro national PB

- **Nordic Countries**: school/ neighbourhood/ environment
IN SCOTLAND

Over £15 million has been allocated by PB across Scotland to date.

All 32 Local Authority areas engaged in some form of PB

Scottish Govt have invested £6.5m in support to PB
Community Choices fund, support to PB programme development

Participatory budgets ranged from £750 to £500k

Projects have been delivered under a wide range of themes – health and social care, economic development, transport etc.
November 2017: SG and COSLA announce agreement for 1% of LA budgets to be allocated through PB by 2021.

• Equates to £100m.
POSSIBLE PB MODELS

Small grants allocation

Mainstream Investment
SMALL GRANTS ALLOCATION

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
MAINSTREAM INVESTMENT

Scottish Govt commitment to 1% of Local Authority budgets allocated via PB.

- EDINBURGH: £500K of youth provision budget.
- WESTERN ISLES – £500K bus programme
- DUNDEE - £1.2m across disadvantaged wards
- DUNMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - £250k to address poverty
## The Budget Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Priority total</th>
<th>Need total</th>
<th>Population total</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>% of total city score</th>
<th>Resource available (£41,200)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area A</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>£5,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>£4,544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area C</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>£7,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area D</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>£1,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area E</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>£4,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>etc</td>
<td>~</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for all areas of the city</td>
<td>163</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td>£41,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PB budget cycle = participatory activity at all stages

Yr 1
Yr 2
Yr 3

Building participation through repeated cycles
“I approached this as a local officer would, who thought I was in charge and I knew best. I was very firmly told by the residents that I wasn’t in charge and I didn’t know best – and they were absolutely right.”

Stuart Pudney: Deputy Chief Executive,
Yorks Police Authority

“The PB process has changed (for the better) out of all recognition our relationship with local officers and members”

Chris Parsons: local resident
PB - benefits and challenges

• What are the benefits of undertaking a PB process?

• What are the challenges of adopting a PB approach?
Questions and Answers

www.pbnetwork.org.uk
www.PBScotland.scot
www.pbpartners.org.uk
Chris Alexander, Chief Executive Triangle Housing Association: Sharing Experience and Learning
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Presented by Chris Alexander (CEO)
What is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a way for local people to directly vote on how local money should be spent.

PB comes in all shapes and sizes, but basically it looks like this:

1. Ideas are generated about how a budget should be spent
2. People vote for their priorities
3. The projects with the most votes get funded

Mostly, participatory budgeting is about bringing people together at local events. Sometimes it also happens online, where digital tools can help even more people to get involved.

Source: https://pbscotland.scot/what-is-pb
Why do it?

• Deeper Democracy

• Transparency & Accountability

• Community Building

Source: www.participatorybudgeting.org/what-is-pb/
WNoT Partners

Beyond Skin

diversity · global · education
arts · culture

Charo Lanao-Madden

PB Partners
Making People Count

Rural Community Network
Supporting Rural Communities
How it worked

The project became known as the “Big Dish Out”.

• Local people were invited to put forward their ideas.

• Projects were pitched to neighbours and community. People from the area voted on their favourite project. You couldn’t just choose one!

• The projects with the most votes got the money to make them happen. Those who didn't win the vote were supported. This could include connecting them to one of the winning projects and/or other groups or seeking other resources.
"IF IT FEELS LIKE WE'VE DECIDED THEN IT'S PB"

The Big Dish Out
2017-2018

SOME NUMBERS

Cross Glebe / Harpur's Hill & Cushendall

VOTERS - 10 YEARS AND UP
110 voters in Harpur's Hill
116 voters in Cushendall
5 votes each

BIDS
32 Bids submitted across the two areas

FEEDBACK
65% of voters said the process was good for their community.
60% said they would do it again.

THE WINNING BIDS
20 winning bids across the two areas - £300 each.

Source: WNOT Project
Projects Funded

• “Happy Hookers”: A support space for 50+ women with a passion for crocheting
• Establishing a drop-in space for teenagers
• Local Men’s Darts & Pool Competition
• Crafting for good mental health
• Men’s Shed
• Scooter Group
• Welcome signage increasing awareness and understanding of the Irish Language
• Purchase of equipment for a dancing school
• Purchase of music books for a local Comhaltas (traditional music group)
• Inter-Generational Relations / Gardening & Growing
• Community mosaic
• Local Safety - Reduction of speeding campaign
• Well-being Project-Sailing for families with autism
• Cheer Leaders Group
• Equipment for parents & toddlers group
• Local Sustainability - Equipment for Red Squirrel Group
What the group learned

• Local Ownership / Direct Involvement

• Courage and Generosity

• Redistributing Power / Representative Democracy

• Transparency
We had fun…
whilst making a difference….
Links to Videos or Want to Learn More?

Harpur's Hill (Cross Glebe), Coleraine Event
www.facebook.com/wastenotimetimeproject/videos/250000255631296/

Cushendall Event
www.facebook.com/wastenotimetimeproject/videos/225436711462207/

https://pbnetwork.org.uk/

https://pbpartners.org.uk/

https://www.wastenotime.net/
PB AND HOUSING
REDCAR- COAST AND COUNTRY HOUSING
2009

• £60k made available from C and C’s estate improvement fund – previously allocated by a small panel of residents
• 120 residents attended the voting day
• 20 projects – up to 5k per project – funded
• Range of projects from young peoples allotment to a solar lighting scheme
‘When people have a real say and control over what goes on in their community they take more care of and have more pride in their neighbourhoods’

Iain Sim, Coast & Country Chief Executive.
ROCHDALE BOROUGHWIDE HOUSING
2012-13

• £41K across 8 neighbourhood areas.

• Proposals invited that would link projects to existing neighbourhood action planning objectives eg, ‘Deliver safe, secure, attractive neighbourhoods; support friendly and inclusive communities’
ROCHDALE BOROUGHWIDE HOUSING

• 1 pilot in one area – ‘to test the water’, then one large central event to allocate funding to other 7 areas.

• 43 of 46 respondents to evaluation questions thought this was a good way to distribute funds
LINKSFIELD – ABERDEEN
2015-16
LINKSFIELD – ABERDEEN

- £100k to be spent on improvements to buildings and outside areas

- Almost 50% of 153 households voted – either at a voting event or by postal vote
LINKSFIELD

Most popular projects:

• Replacing the flooring in each building
• Deep clean of each multi block
• Painting the inside of each building.
‘The funding available via our UDecide programme has allowed our tenants and residents to address the issues that are most important to them. All of our participatory budgeting projects have been very well received and have generated a great deal of interest and excitement in local areas where engagement with the council has previously been low’.

Aberdeen City Council leader Councillor Jenny Laing
Panel: Questions and Answers

Alan Budge and Chris Alexander
Table Discussion
What are the opportunities and challenges to Housing led PB approaches across the region?
FEEDBACK

What are the opportunities and challenges to Housing led PB approaches across the region?
Table Discussion: Actions to take forward…
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

Visit [www.participatorybudgetingworks.org](http://www.participatorybudgetingworks.org) for more information.
Final Learning Event
Wednesday 28 November 2018
The MAC, Belfast 10.00 am to 13.00 pm
Evaluation
Thank-you for participating