

John Munro

Participatory Budgeting in Scotland

What is COSLA?

“The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities”

**The voice of Local Government in Scotland representing
all 32 Local Authorities**

Political leadership on national issues

**Engages with Scottish, UK and international governments
to secure councils’ resources and powers**

*Works with councils to improve local services and strengthen
local democracy*



The Scottish PB Journey

The Scottish PB Journey

2015 Scottish Government legislated the **Community Empowerment Act**

2017 COSLA and Scottish Government agreed the [Community Choices 1% Framework Agreement](#)

Scottish councils (municipalities) agreed to spend 1% of their budgets using Participatory Budgeting. Scottish Government **funds** Cosla to deliver PB

2020 Covid

2022 Scottish local government achieves the 1% target

PB and Scottish Local Government

Why?

Involves communities participating not only on grants and discretionary spend but also on core budget decisions relating to service delivery and priorities.

Devolves decisions to a local level, creating opportunities for service innovation whereby communities **develop local solutions to local issues**.

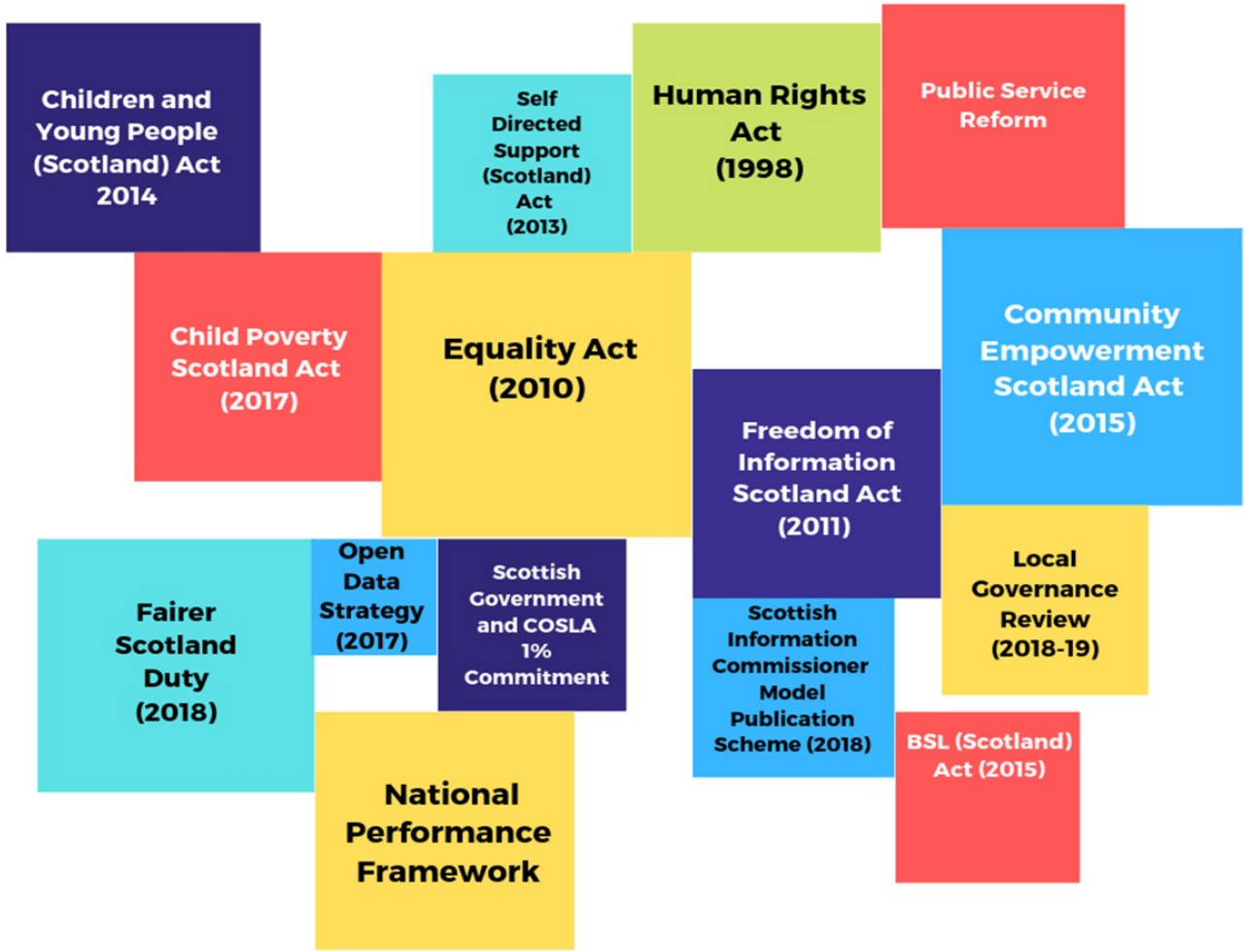
Deliberation as part of PB encourages a focus on **consensus building** through deliberation of key issues and coproduction of solutions.

Ensures **public services remain democratically accountable** to local people and meet the needs of those who use them.

Empowers underrepresented/equalities groups to actively participate in service design to ensure councils best meet equalities duties.

Enhances the role of elected members as advocates for the needs of their communities.

PB and Scottish Local Government



Why?

PB helps deliver the requirements of existing legislation

Why CONSUL DEMOCRACY?

A Changing Nation:



How Scotland will Thrive in a Digital World

Digital Strategy for Scotland
An Ethical Digital Nation
 use digital technology to increase community engagement and participation;

Transforming Government
 build a suite of common platforms to be adopted across the public sector;

Scotland's Open Government Action Plan 2021-25

Open Government Action Plan
Fiscal Openness & Transparency
 Health & Social Care
Data & Digital
 Climate Change
Participation

Community Empowerment Act 2015

Participatory Budgeting 1% Framework Agreement

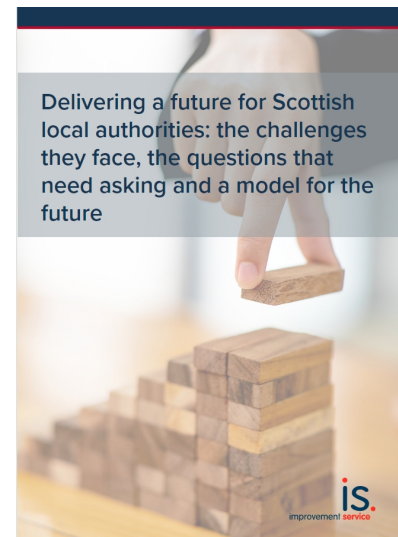
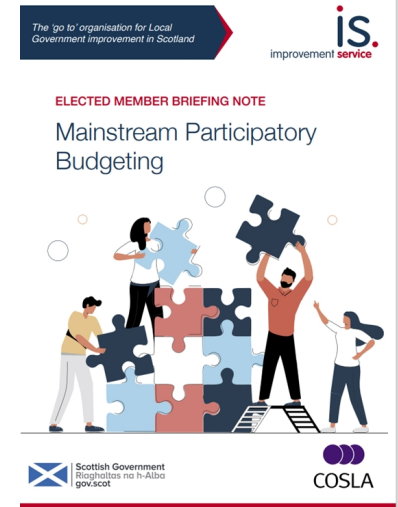
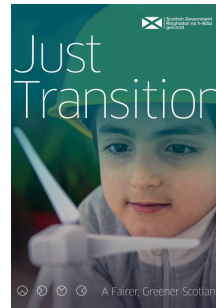
Scotland's Open Government Action Plan: 2021 to 2025

Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy

Digital Strategy for Scotland

IS Think Piece: Delivering a future for Scottish Local Authorities

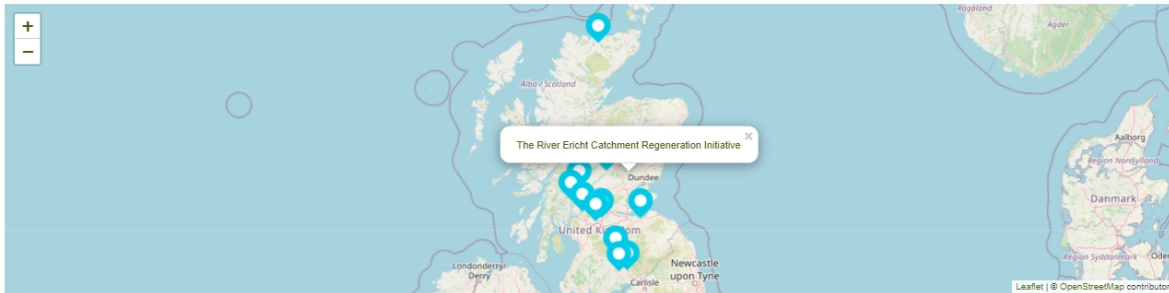
Just Transition



.....to develop a consistent and transparent digital approach to participatory democracy, maximising the benefits of shared learning and collaboration across local government

PB and Scottish Local Government

Budget investments' proposals located geographically



List of investments



Building a flood resilient Glasgow

2022-10-18 • 3 comments • Lorenza Agosti
 • Riverwoods 'Investment Readiness' Pioneers



NithLife

2022-10-31 • 4 comments • Rachel - River Nith
 • Riverwoods 'Investment Readiness' Pioneers



Don't Let Balloch Castle Country Park Sink

2022-10-17 • 22 comments • Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group
 • Riverwoods 'Investment Readiness' Pioneers

What can we PB?

Small Grants PB	Mainstream PB	Capital Budget planning	Capital Regeneration Projects
Just Transition	Place based projects	Citizen Proposals	Community Grants
Developer Gain	Community Benefits	Playparks	Gypsy & Traveller Fund
Pupil Equity Fund	Housing Revenue Account	Visitor Levy	Health and Social Care

A wide range of council services and budgets can be used for PB

The Scottish PB Resources

The Cosla PB team

Policy Infrastructure: Community Empowerment; 1% Framework; National PB Strategy Group; Political engagement between Cosla and Scottish Government;

Support Infrastructure: build capacity through National PB Officers Group, Strategic & Operational Group; training, individual council support

Digital Infrastructure: CONSUL DEMOCRACY

Developing the PB Infrastructure





COSLA Consul Democracy Support

- Briefings: what can it do?
- Training: which button do I click?
- Co-design: how do I?
- Technical Support
- Build/Host

Elected Members Briefing Note



PB Charter The PB Charter sets out seven key features of what a fair and high-quality PB process should be, accompanied by guiding statements which describe what those features should look like in practice.

The PB **strategic framework** is a key document that underlines how we can evolve PB into a central way for decisions to be made in Scotland.



Welcome to **PB Scotland** - The latest events, news & ideas on Participatory Budgeting in Scotland.

Search

Future Priorities for PB in Scotland

Explore 16 priorities setting out the future ambitions for PB in Scotland.

Reports & ideas

See PB voting in action



News

Read the latest

New event: What's Next for Participatory Budgeting?

People Powered are hosting an event exploring what needs to be done to use PB to address climate change, pursue social justice, and expand democracy



About

What is PB?

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a way for people to have a direct say in how local money is spent.



PB Charter

the charter is a practical way to show what **good PB looks like in Scotland**

The charter shows what needs to be done to make sure participatory budgeting is:

- Fair and inclusive
- Participatory
- Deliberative
- Empowering
- Creative and flexible
- Transparent
- Part of our democracy

<https://pbscotland.scot/charter/features>

should look like.

PB Framework

Priority 1: A shared understanding of PB

Priority 2: Making the links to the National Performance Framework

Priority 3: Addressing inequalities

Priority 4: Continuous learning

Priority 5: Holding PB processes directly

Priority 6: Evidence the long-term impact

Priority 7: Climate justice

Priority 8: PB supporting equalities and rights-based budgeting

Priority 9: Public sector collaboration

Priority 10: Sustainable transport

Priority 11: Health and Social Care

Priority 12: PB across education

The Documents



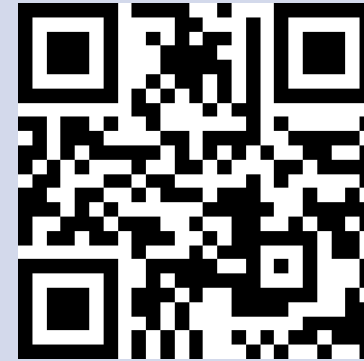
**Future of Participatory
Budgeting in Scotland:
framework**

<https://tinyurl.com/557ruk9h>



Elected Members Briefing

<https://tinyurl.com/mrsj9bxk>



**Community Choices:
Participatory Budgeting
in Scotland Framework
for the operation of the
1% target for Local
Authorities (2021 Update)**

<https://tinyurl.com/mt4kb99t>

Where are we now?

Progress

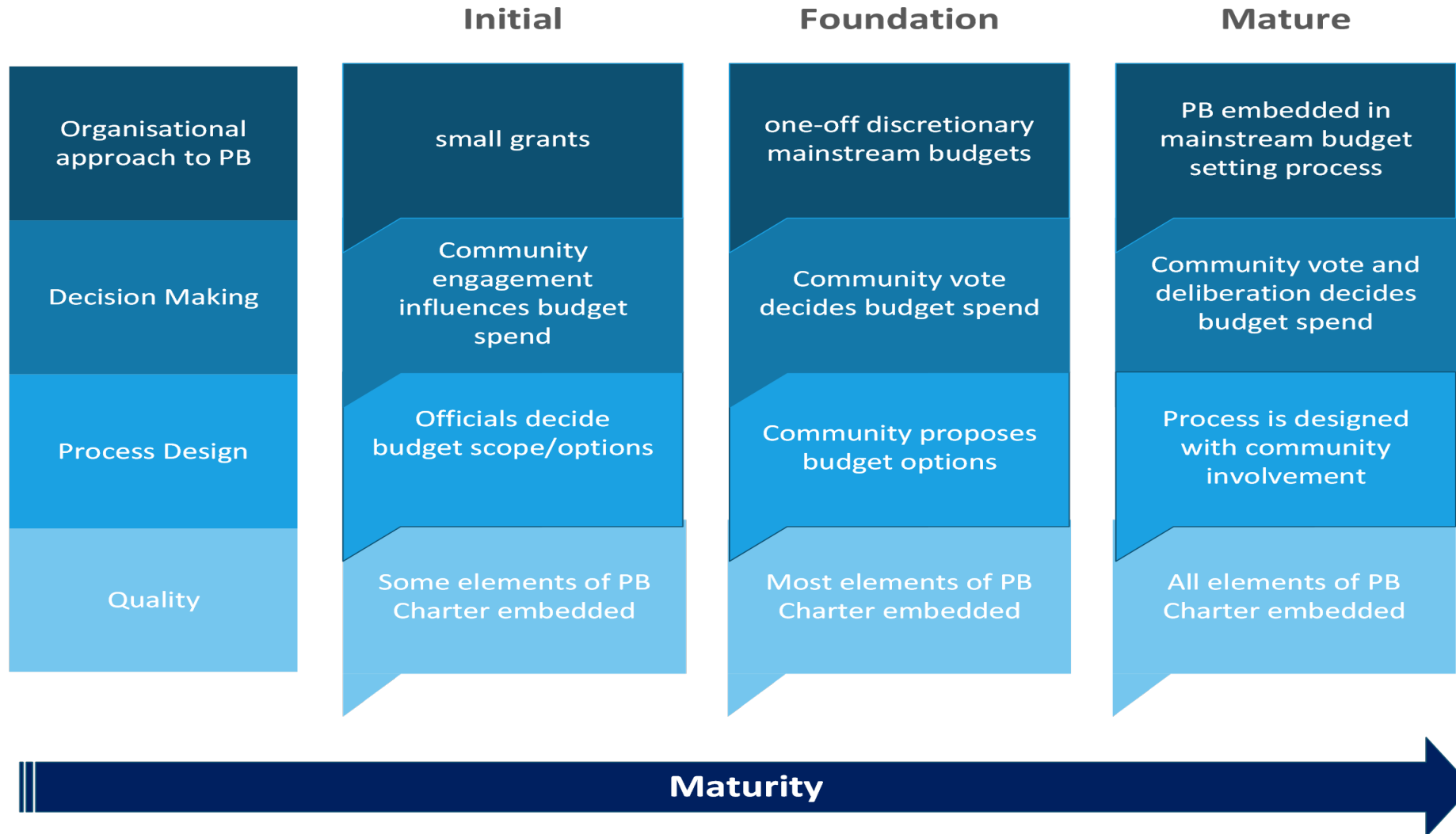
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1% Target	£106 M	£108 M	£118 M	£123 M
Budget Reported	£79	£154 M	£152 M	£195 M
% Reported	0.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.5%
Councils meeting target	8	13	14	14
Councils working towards target	17	13	14	15
Councils recording no progress	7	4	4	3
Participants	48000	110000	151000	

Are all of these “textbook” PB processes? Probably not.....

Why do we do PB?

- To empower communities
- To encourage people to work together to make sure that public money is used to achieve the best possible results.
- To be transparent in the allocation of public funds
- To be inclusive
- Because Councils agreed we would do it
- To meet our 1% target

PB Maturity Matrix



Councils are at different places. Not every PB is the same and not every PB is “Perfect”

The Scottish Examples



- Mainstream PB
- £1.2m from the Roads Capital Investment Programme over 3-year period (2020 – 2023)
- Communities given a key role in the decision a making process
- Gives the Council a better understanding of community priorities

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETS

YOUR Dundee Climate Fund 3.0

[Help with participatory budgets](#)

Dundee Climate Fund 3.0

More funding. More projects.  Dundee Climate Fund

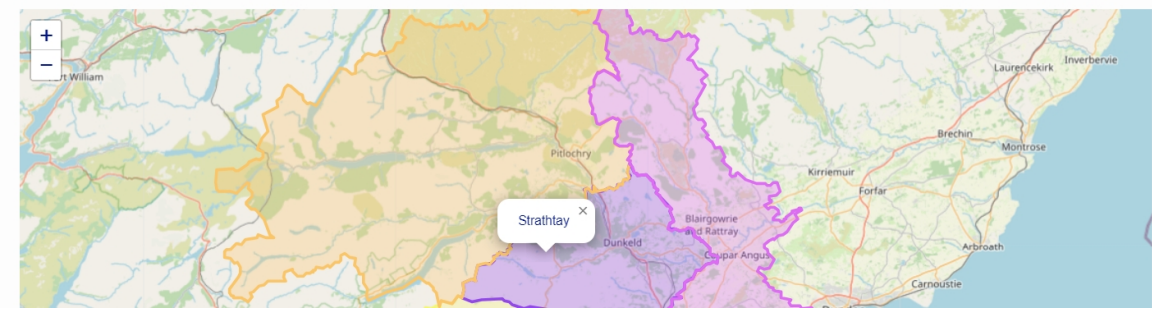
Dundee's Voice: 3 rounds of PB totalling nearly £1M using Consul. Funding has been easier to find for specific themes



Green Living Fund

Almond & Earn £23,899	Eastern Perthshire £38,360	Highland £19,663	Kinross-shire £27,863	Perth City £49,919	Strathearn & Strathallan £25,716
Strathtay £41,112					

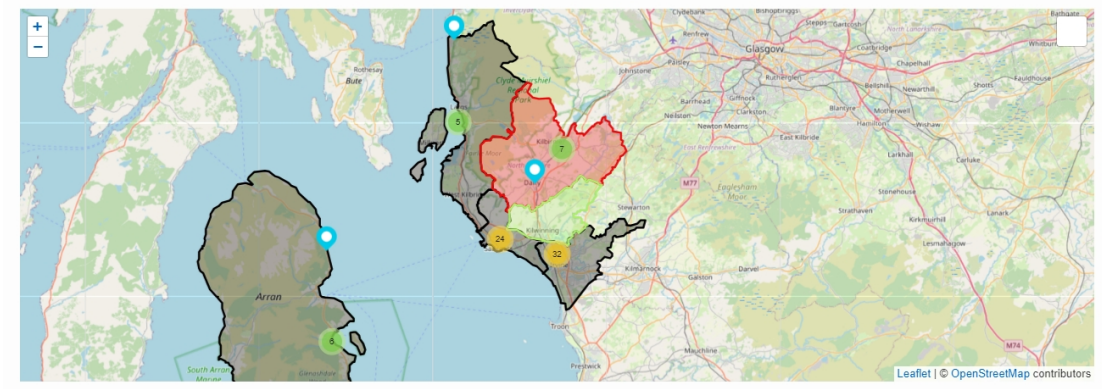
Project proposals located geographically



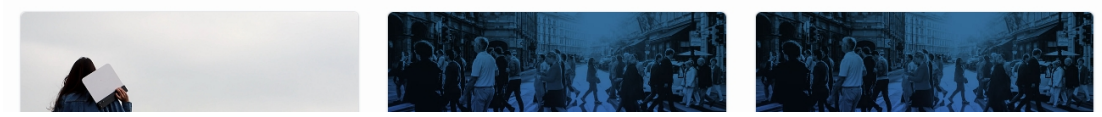
Youth PB

Arran £3,563	Garnock Valley £6,044	Irvine £11,840	Kilwinning £4,753	North Coast £6,991	Three Towns £9,810
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Budget investments' proposals located geographically



List of investments



Multi heading and multi locality budgets with mapping integration. Youth & Locality PBs with restrictions on who can vote

The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

Submit an idea or project

By district

The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

Milestone tag

All (8)

Project's current state

Complete (6)

Filter

The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund (8)



Fresh Start - Starter Packs Project
fanette

£20,000



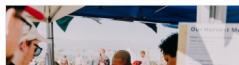
Tech Donation Boxes for Schools - An easy way to dispose of e-waste and do good
barbara

£20,000



Cargo Bike Movement Food Sharing Project
CargoBikeMovement

£20,000



Build relationships between neighbourhoods

Community Leadership and Learning

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Related content (0)

Comments (15)

Project Updates (5)

Published 2023-09-08

17 events across Edinburgh with 7114 people engaged

Published 2023-09-24

451 days of loans with active loans with businesses, community groups and individuals

Published 2023-10-07

trained 38 people to ride cargo bikes

Published 2023-10-11

collected over 25 tonnes of surplus food

Published 2023-12-22

Project update published
<https://yourvoice.edinburgh.gov.uk/cargobike>

Get help
makes

All content can have comment history, milestones and progress updates giving full transparent lifecycle



Welcome to Inverclyde Community Choices Platform

Featured Processes



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETS

Warm Spaces

[Help with participatory budgets](#)



Aspiring Places

Aspiring Places is a digital platform for information sharing, where groups across Argyll and Bute can upload and promote their projects in one digital space that is publicly available. Groups can use Aspiring Places to express their aspirations for their communities and regularly update and edit projects they are working on. Groups may choose to use Aspiring Places to collaborate with each other around shared goals and attract new members to their group to help deliver projects.

Aspiring Places is also a place where groups can find links to information and support to help evidence, develop and find funding for projects.

[You can read our Aspiring Places FAQs here](#)



STEP 1: EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY NEED

Find information that shows that your project is delivering something that your community needs.



STEP 2: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Find information that can help you to develop your project.



STEP 3: TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Showcase what your group wants to do and the changes you want to achieve here.



STEP 4: FIND FUNDING FOR YOUR PROJECT

Find information about funding opportunities that might help you take your project forward.

Feedback and Lessons Learned



City of Edinburgh Climate Fund

- 76% felt that PB is a good way to decide how money is allocated
- 71% had not been involved in any other community engagement or consultation exercise run by the Council



Renfrewshire You Decide

- 65.2% had never engaged in a council consultation before
- 82% Agreed it was a good way to decide how budgets are allocated
- 99.9% found the process easy to participate in
- Residents keen to be involved in planning future PB projects with the council

Challenges

Budgets

Financial Constraints and Resource Allocation

- Not enough money available for Participatory Budgeting (PB) activities.
- Resources are mainly allocated to essential services, leaving less for PB
- PB requires staff time
- Staff cuts make it hard to implement PB effectively

Complexity

Good PB needs to be designed well

- Good PB needs to be designed well
- Difficult to get decisions on budgets which match budget cycles
- Expanding engagement and PB budgets across a wider range of services

Other Challenges

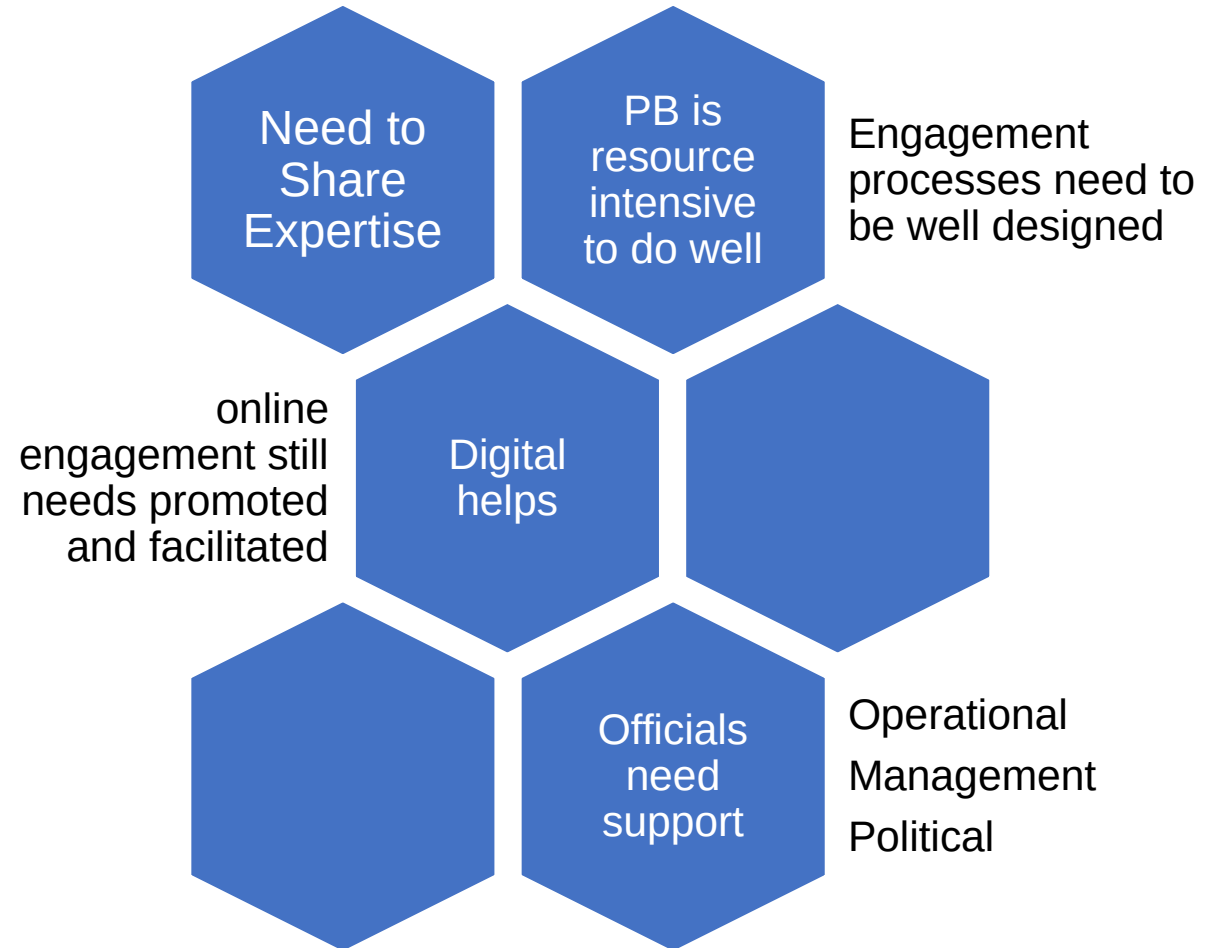
Removing barriers to participation

- Getting political support for mainstream PB
- Reaching under-represented community members
- Functionality of Digital Platforms

Lessons Learned

Design Questions

- Who is eligible to participate?
- How will you verify they are eligible?
- What are the barriers to participation?
- How do you balance making it easy to participate while ensuring integrity and collecting demographic information?
- What criteria must proposals meet?
- What information do you need?
- How will you support users to participate?



Next Steps

Guidance

Access to central advice, expertise and learning from innovation in PB across Scotland

Collating and sharing good practice to avoid duplication of effort and maximise available resources.

Digital

improve functionality of the CONSUL DEMOCRACY platform and make it sustainable

support the use of CONSUL DEMOCRACY to ensure meaningful and accessible opportunities for participation and decision making.

The Future

implement the Scottish Government commitment to “Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy” and the review of the Community Empowerment Act

Shift focus from Participatory Budgeting to Participatory Democracy

For more information contact:

John Munro – johnmunro@cosla.gov.uk

General Enquiries - consul@cosla.gov.uk

COSLA Test Site <https://dev.communitychoices.scot>