

Participatory Budgeting Projects in Scotland

A survey carried out in August 2014 showed that there have been around 25 participatory budgeting (PB) projects in Scotland over the last few years in one form or another. For example:

- In 2010 the Scottish Government's Community Safety Unit in collaboration with COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) launched the Community Wellbeing Champions Initiative.
- Also in 2010 four PB projects were held in Govanhill, Glasgow to help reduce health inequalities.
- Edinburgh City Council has successfully run £ith Decides for the past five years.
- The Coalfields Community Futures runs PB projects as part of their annual programme.
- Fife Council has run a number of PB projects such as Over to YOUTH for young people.

More information can be found on these and other projects in the **PB Projects in Scotland** document at:

www.communityscot.org.uk/features/participatory-budgeting



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Participatory budgeting (PB) is recognised internationally as a way for local people to have a direct say in how, and where, public funds can be used to address local requirements.

PB originated in Porto Alegre, Brazil in the late 1980s and has since spread to over 1,500 localities around the world. It was born from a desire to reallocate public money locally and democratically to where it was needed most. As one Brazilian resident put it *'If it feels like we have decided ---- it's PB. If it feels like someone else has decided, it isn't.'*

The Scottish Government supports PB as a tool for community engagement which sits alongside the objectives of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill introduced to the Scottish Parliament in June 2014. PB is also seen as an important resource to build on the wider development of participatory democracy in Scotland.

The Commission for Strengthening Local Democracy also advocate PB in their August 2014 Report which states: *'Democratic innovations such asparticipatory budgeting ... should ...become the standard by which [participation in decision making] is delivered in Scotland'*.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN SCOTLAND

Since June 2014 the Scottish Government has been raising awareness of participatory budgeting (PB) and setting the conditions for it to be delivered in a meaningful and sustainable way across Scotland, supported by a PB Working Group.

In October 2014 a PB Learning Event was held in Glasgow to share the learning from past and current PB projects and to inform future ones.

During Autumn 2014 six one day training events were delivered by experts, PB Partners, across Scotland to introduce PB to local authorities. A total of 115 delegates from 26 local authority areas attended the events.

Following the success of these events the Scottish Government is part-funding further inhouse PB consultancy support for local authorities. This will be delivered by PB Partners during 2015/16 with over 50% of local authorities already signed up for PB activity in their area.

Reports on the Learning event and the six training events can be found on the Communities Channel Scotland website:

www.communityscot.org.uk/features/participatory-budgeting



The Communities Channel Scotland website provides support to local groups and organisations to grow and connect with each other.

The website is funded by the Scottish Government and hosted by the Scottish Community Development Centre.

www.communityscot.org.uk

Get in touch

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