

# Participatory Budgeting in the UK



*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

# 2001AD

Outposts of PB - eg. York, Haringey.

Manchester: PB Unit develops

Bradford: Participatory Grant-making pilots

# 2004-10

- PB Unit, based in Manchester, funded by Central Govt
- Toolkits, websites, resources.
- 100 + Projects supported across UK
- - Local Authorities, housing, health, police etc

## 2004-10 – development of PB in UK

- 100 + Projects supported across UK
- From £500 – Herefordshire Town Council
- To £4.8m - Tower Hamlets
- - Local Authorities, housing, health, police, church etc

# 2010 -2015

- Austerity! Rabbit in headlights time



# GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE 2014-15

Total funds available	250k	
Total number of voters:	2650	
Number of projects funded	152	
Was the event well organised? (yes)	88%	
Was the event good for your area?	94%	

# PB in Scotland 2014-17

The Scottish Government have expressed an aspiration for 1% of all LA funding to be allocated through PB

SG is part funding support for developing PB Scotland.

So far, 26 of 32 Local Authorities are accessing this support

Other LA areas currently being considering offer of support





# SCOTLAND- TOWARDS THE MAINSTREAM

- EDINBURGH: £500K of youth provision budget.
- - WESTERN ISLES – £500K bus programme
- - DUNDEE 1.2m to be allocated through ‘resident commissioning’ model
- - DUMFRIES £250K from council budget to address issues of poverty

*“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







