

# An Introduction to Participatory Budgeting in Wales (PB)



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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](http://www.pbnetwork.org.uk) and supporting PB in Scotland



# Participatory Budgeting is Worldwide



# EUROPEAN PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

**Latin countries...** Reformist, participatory

**Germany ...** Consultative, transparent

*250 municipalities on their map of participatory budgeting processes*

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

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



## USA and CANADA

**Chicago:** first major programme \$1m in 49<sup>th</sup> Ward (now \$4m)

**New York:** 8<sup>th</sup> year growing < \$35m per year (50,000 voters)

**City of Boston:** 4th consecutive year of \$1m of PB capital funds branded as [Youth Lead the Change:](#)





# 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?

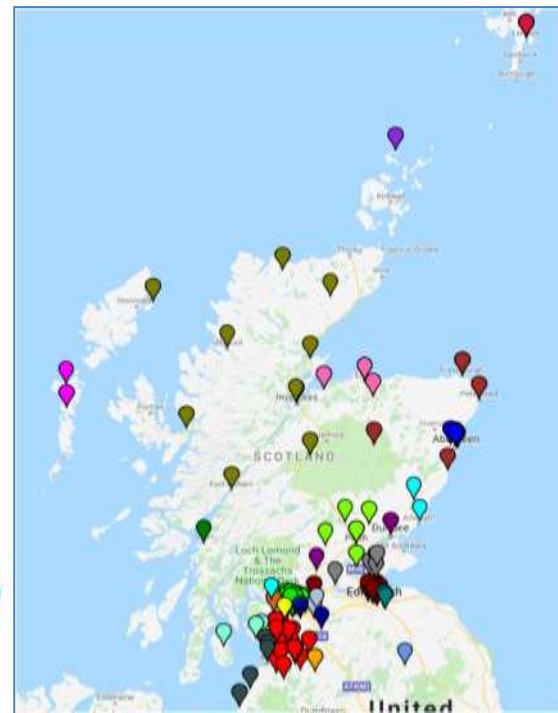
e.g.... The 141+ experiences in Scotland

like... The Scottish Independence Referendum 2014???

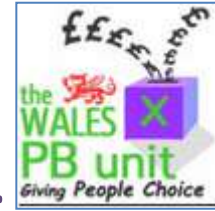


Or... **Brexit???**

- Local authority area
- ✓ Aberdeen City (7)
  - ✓ Aberdeenshire (5)
  - ✓ Angus (2)
  - ✓ Argyll and Bute (1)
  - ✓ Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (2)
  - ✓ Dumfries and Galloway (1)
  - ✓ Dundee City (1)
  - ✓ East Ayrshire (23)
  - ✓ East Renfrewshire (1)
  - ✓ Edinburgh City (16)
  - ✓ Fife (6)
  - ✓ Glasgow City (33)
  - ✓ Highland (10)
  - ✓ Midlothian (2)
  - ✓ Moray (4)
  - ✓ North Ayrshire (3)
  - ✓ North Lanarkshire (2)
  - ✓ Orkney (1)
  - ✓ Perth and Kinross (6)
  - ✓ Renfrewshire (1)
  - ✓ Scottish Borders (1)
  - ✓ Shetland (4)
  - ✓ South Ayrshire (5)
  - ✓ South Lanarkshire (2)
  - ✓ Stirling (1)
  - ✓ West Dunbartonshire (1)



# From 2006 to 2010



**The English PB Unit supports a nascent Wales PB Unit.**

**The Coedpoeth Participatory Budgeting Pilot 2006**

*“More of the same please!” “Informative and helpful. Thank you”*

*“This is different because it is trying to involve local residents in deciding what and how to improve the community”.*

**Participatory Budgeting in Pen Y Gelli Junior School**

*“linked to the above process to involve more young people.”*



**St. Asaph "Your City, Your Choice" Denbighshire, 2008**

*“Small sums can facilitate huge changes.*

*Initial detractors, once involved, become committed supporters.*

**Blaenau Gwent ‘Your Voice, Your Choice’ Participatory Budgeting, 2010**

*£30,000 was available for local people to decide which community safety projects would be funded in their neighbourhoods. The pilot was supported by the Home Office*



# PB grants from 2011 up to now

## Residents vote on upper Denbigh park: July 2011.

*About 120 residents take part in a vote on how to spend £26,000 on children's play.*

***Mr Bill Ellis-Jones** said success "due entirely to the time, dedication and commitment of residents"*



## Youth focussed PB in Colwyn Bay in 5th year and growing: 2014

*Fifth round in Colwyn Bay*

*£42,000 via support from the Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places Community Fund.*



## Citizens decide online on the proceeds of crime in North Wales, 2014 and 2015

*Anglesey and Gwynedd residents have their say on how money seized from criminals is spent. Led by Police and Crime Commissioner Winston Roddick, and partly funded by money seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.*

*£42k available for projects.*

*Rolled out in 2015 to Wrexham and Flintshire.*



*Plus many other small processes, mainly in North Wales, such as **The Llangollen Town Council's PB**, that may restart this year, after a few years pause.*

# PB Policy papers/blogs from Wales

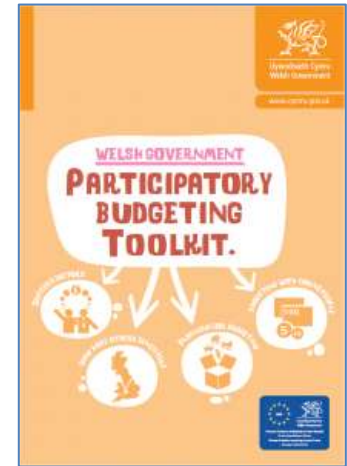
## Welsh Government children’s PB toolkit:

In 2012 the Welsh Government published a toolkit on using PB with Young People.

*In 2009 the Welsh Government said*

*“PB represents an opportunity for local authorities and their partners to involve young people ...*

*The Welsh Government feel very strongly that children and young people should be given the opportunities to be involved in making budgetary decisions on issues that affect them.”*



## PPIW Publication: PB Evidence Review, August 2017

*The Welsh Government is exploring the role Participatory Budgeting (PB) could play in the Welsh Government budget. To help inform this work, a new report by the PPIW provides evidence on the different types of PB, how they have been used, and the key considerations for designing a PB process.*



## Institute for Welsh Affairs blog, Sept 2017

### It doesn’t have to become a bun fight!

*Could a blend of participatory budgeting and citizen juries help solve some of Wales’ policy dilemmas?*





## WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

# 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”*  
(Brazilian resident)



# 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 Development



## UK PB MODELS

- Small grants allocation
- Mainstream Investment  
(the 1% commitment)
- Commissioning, community planning and budget development and consultation





## PB in Scotland 2014-18

- Over £10 million has been allocated by PB across Scotland to date.
- 30 of 32 Local Authority areas engaged in some form of PB
- Scottish Govt have invested £4.9m in support to PB
- Community Choices fund, support to PB programme development
- Participatory budgets ranged from £750 to £500m
- Projects have been delivered under a wide range of themes – health and social care, economic development, transport etc.



# The Scottish Policy Context

## Referendum – September 2014

“Harnessing the Democratic Energy” (Nicola Sturgeon)

## Commission on Strengthening Democracy (2014):

*“that a process of participatory budgeting, covering tax and spending options, is adopted by all local governments ...”*

## Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Provisions for public participation  
on decision making (including resources)

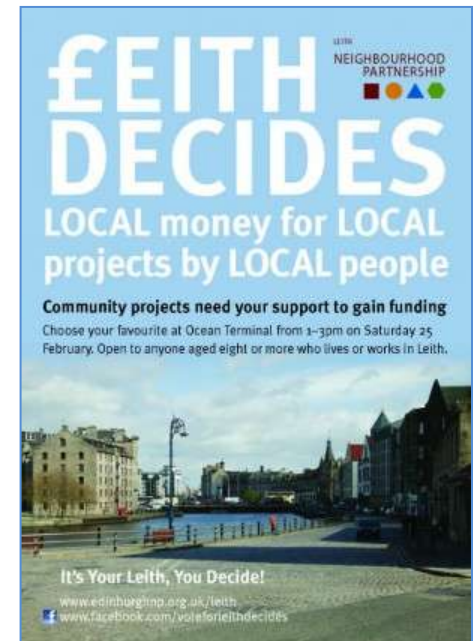
## Programme for Government 2017 and the COSLA 1% agreement

*“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);
- Increase trust in politics and in politicians;
- Stimulate dialogue and positive action within communities;
- Encourage well targeted public investments.



# How PB might support Democracy

**Margo Howe, a local Councillor said:**

*I think it's revealing that people themselves have grabbed the opportunity and seen the benefit of it. It's their ideas and, because of this, they will make it work. They're loving it!"*



*"Democratic power should be delivered from communities up, not drip down from above."*

**The Commission for Strengthening Local Democracy, 2014.**

**PB brings new opportunities for engagement with voters and, perhaps most importantly ...**

**building trust in the democratic process.**



# Scottish PB infrastructure

- Training and capacity building – on how to ‘do PB’
- Resources - how to guides, briefings for elected members
- Research, testing, and implementation of digital platforms
- Scottish PB identity and network
- PB advisory group
- PB evaluation
- Trained facilitators and advocates
- SG funding and leadership
- A critical mass of processes from which to learn



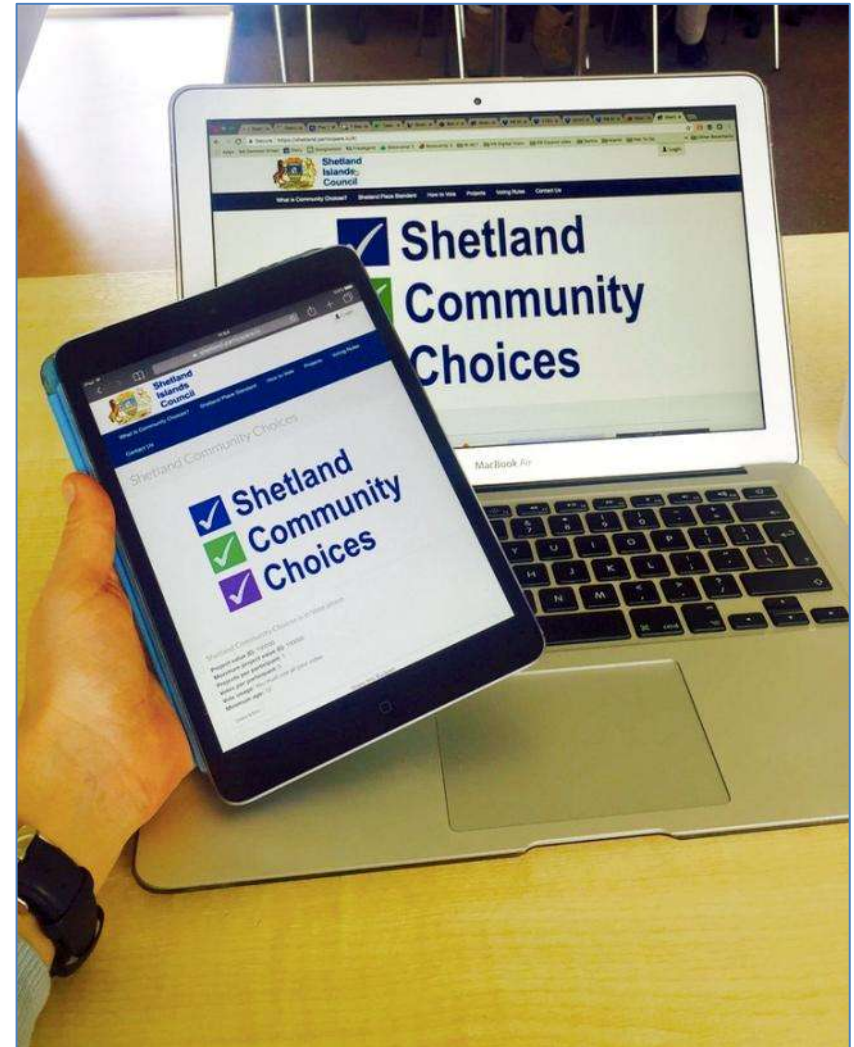
# ONLINE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Digital tools and engagement

Connecting on and offline participation

To reinforce and amplify...

**Ideas, engagement, deliberation and voting**



# 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.

11,500 votes  
cast- over  
10% of entire  
eligible voting  
population.

72% new to  
engaging in  
community  
planning





# 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

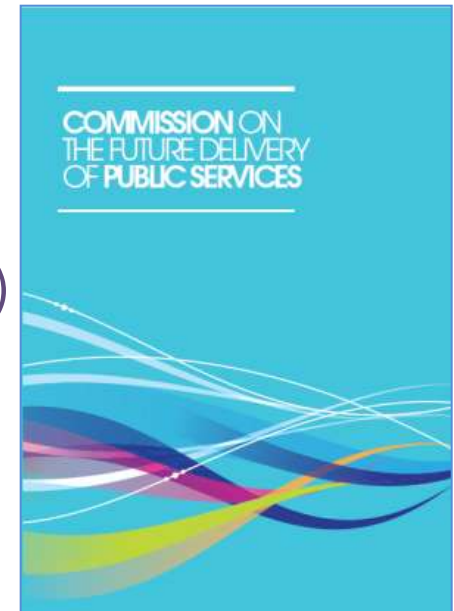
Effective at engaging, networking  
and enthusing local people



# THE NEED FOR PB

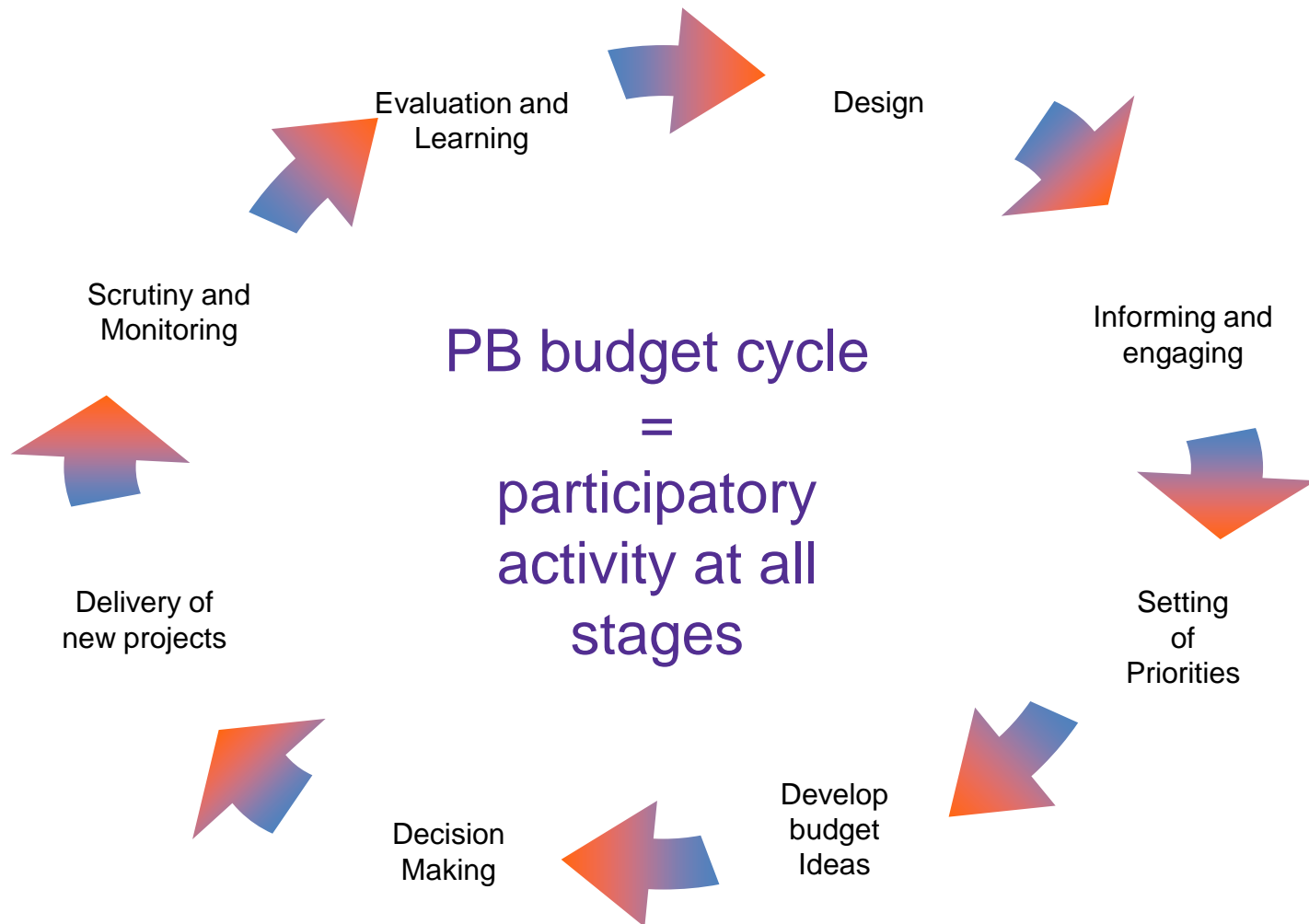
Christie Commission (September 2011) - Four P's'

- a decisive shift to **Prevention**;
- continually improving **Performance**
- working in **Partnership**(nationally and locally)
- engaging and developing our **People**



# MAINSTREAM PB – SOME COMMON ELEMENTS

## THE ANNUAL CYCLE



# MAINSTREAM PB – A NEW COMMUNITY CHARTER

## Localism in practice?

- Local Governance
- Widening of participation
- Co-production
- Rights AND Responsibilities





# Mainstream PB –examples from Scotland

**EDINBURGH:**  
£500K of youth provision budget.



**WESTERN ISLES:**  
£500K rural transport programme

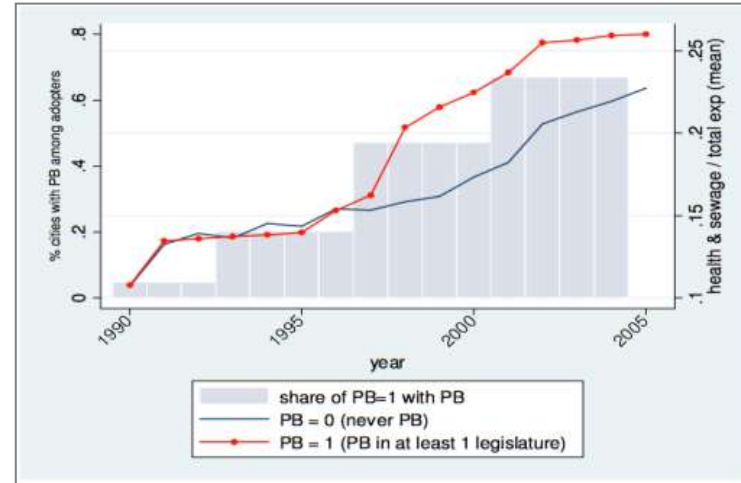
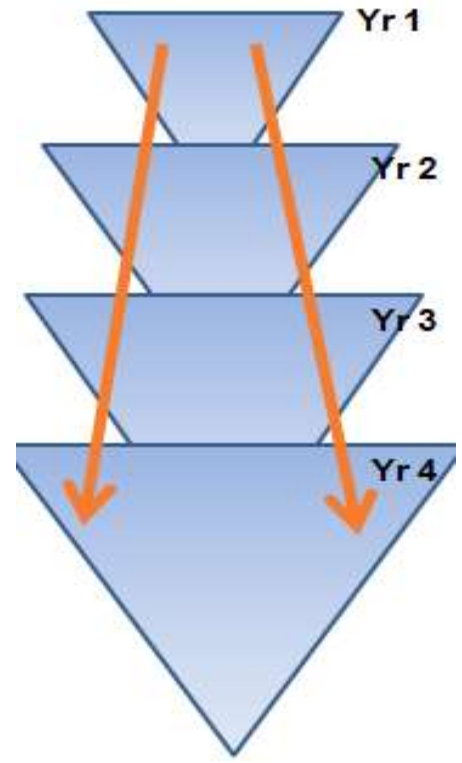
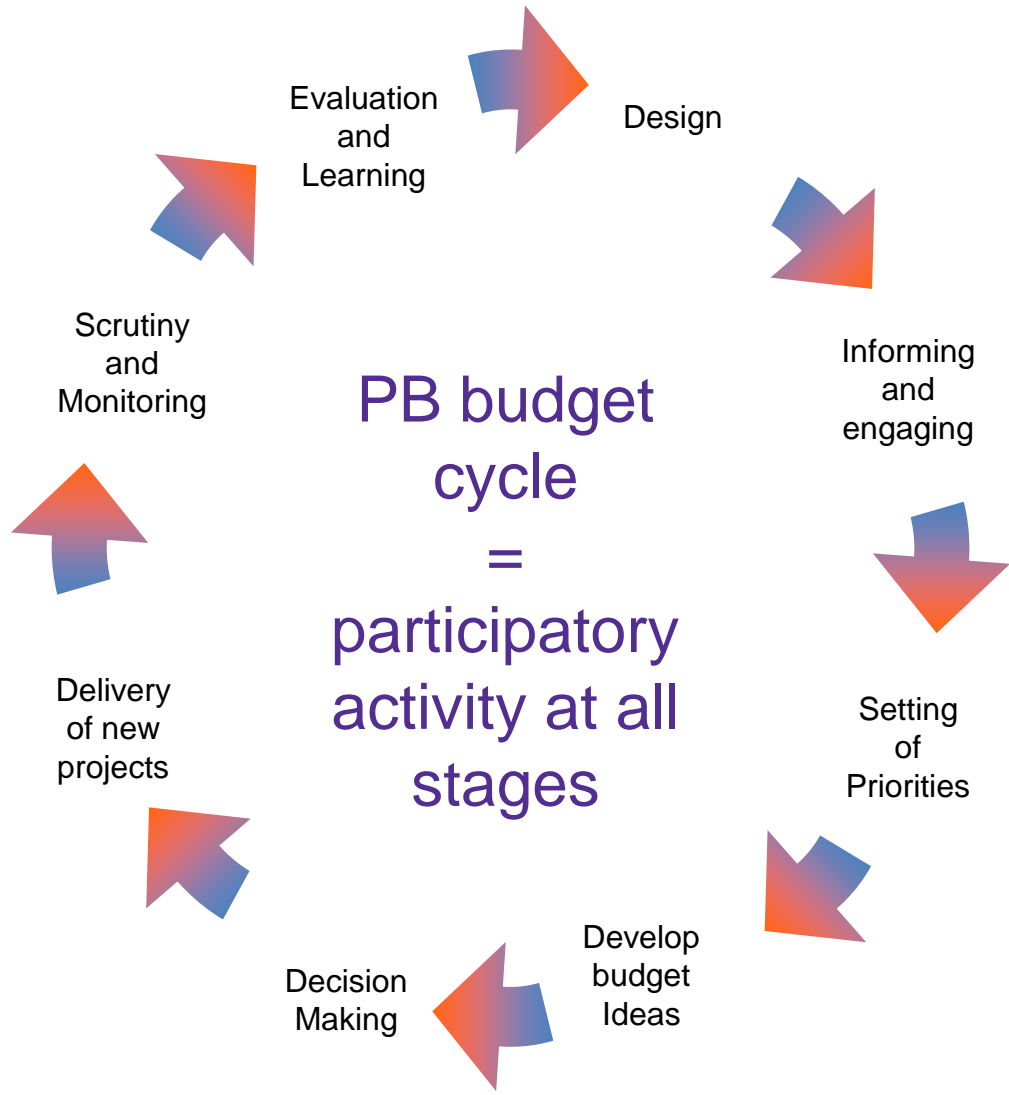


**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY:**  
£240k to address poverty



**GLASGOW:**  
Committed to spending between £10m and £20m by 2021 per year





## Key challenges

Reconciling representative democracy with open, direct participatory democracy.

When resources are tight, and people worried about the withdrawal of cherished services, **will vested interests try to unfairly influence the opening up of decision-making?**

Concerns about 'up-front' costs to implement PB.

Inclusivity and connecting with seldom heard groups.

Strategic/sensitive issues (not amenable to PB?)

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

The screenshot shows the PB Network website's resources page. At the top left is the PB Network logo, which includes a colorful pie chart and the text 'Making People Count' and 'PB Network'. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, NEWS, RESOURCES (highlighted in a blue button), and CONTACT. Below the navigation is the heading 'RESOURCES' with the subtext 'Learning through best practice'. The main content area features four resource cards, each with a thumbnail image and a title: 1. 'DOWNLOAD OUR INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING' with a thumbnail of people at a table. 2. 'DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE ON GRANT MAKING GRANT MAKING THROUGH PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING' with a thumbnail of a group of people. 3. 'DOWNLOAD THE BRIEFING ON PB AT SCALE MAINSTREAMING PB' with a thumbnail of a group of people. 4. 'DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE TO EVALUATING PB HEAR THE VOICE MAKE THE CHANGE' with a thumbnail of a group of people. To the right of the resource cards is a social media section with icons for Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Below that is a search bar labeled 'Search PB Network:'. At the bottom right is a 'FIND BY SUBJECT' sidebar with a blue header. The sidebar lists categories: Events, Geographic (England, International, Scotland, Wales), News, PB Network, Resources (Case Studies, Documents, Videos), and Themes (Health, Housing, Neighbourhoods, Online PB, Policing, Young People).

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

The screenshot shows the PB Scotland website homepage. At the top, a blue banner reads "Learn about the Community Choices events happening near you in 2018 >>". Below this is the PB Scotland logo and a navigation menu with links: Home / About / News / Network / Map / What Is PB...? / Contact. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column features a "Welcome to PB Scotland" message, a "Reports & ideas" section with the subtext "See PB voting in action", and a large graphic for "COMMUNITY CHOICES SCOTLAND" with the tagline "Your ideas, your budget, your decision". Below this is a section titled "Community Choices events near you in 2018" with a brief description. The middle column has a "News" section titled "Read the latest" featuring an article about a "Your Place, Your Priorities Event" by Stirling Council, dated Mar 6, 2018. The right column has an "About" section titled "What is PB?" explaining that Participatory budgeting (PB) is a way for people to have a direct say in how local money is spent. It also includes a search bar, a "Get started" button, and a section titled "Where is PB happening?".



NI PB works Website: [participatorybudgetingworks.org](http://participatorybudgetingworks.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Participatory Budgeting Works website. At the top left is the logo with 'PB' in a yellow speech bubble and 'PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORKS' in blue and green text. A navigation menu at the top includes 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'WHAT IS PB', 'NEWS', 'EVENTS', 'TRAINING', 'RESOURCES', and 'CONTACT', with a 'REGISTER' button in a teal rounded rectangle on the right. The main content area features the heading 'WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING' in blue and black. Below it is a definition: 'Participatory Budgeting can be described as "Local People deciding how to allocate part of a public budget."'. A pink button labeled 'FIND OUT MORE' is positioned below the text. To the right is an illustration of three diverse people (a man in a white shirt and blue tie, a woman in a pink top, and a man with a beard in a yellow sweater) with speech bubbles above them containing icons for a lightbulb, a thumbs up, and a trophy.

## Democratic Society Scotland

<http://www.demsoc.org/participatory-budgeting-in-scotland/>



### The Democratic Society

Better democracy, everywhere.

#### Digital PB Case Studies

The Democratic Society has been actively working with local Councils and corporates to select, implement, test and embed digital tools for participatory budgeting (PB).

Below you can read some case studies which capture key learning points from participatory processes at a local level. Please note that a PDF file will open in a new window.

To read more about our 'Digital Tools for Participatory Budgeting in Scotland' into digital tools, please visit our main PB page.

Read our case studies to find out how digital tools have enhanced PB processes in 2016-17:



The programme is informed by research, workshops and discussions with 18 councils working on PB around Scotland. We released our first report in February 2016 and we're planning to undertake further research in Autumn 2017. **Read about the research that informs the programme:**





# PB PARTNERS

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