

Encouraging Participation: Participatory Budgeting

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a way for people to have a direct say in how, and where, public funds can be used to address local issues and inequalities. PB involves members of the community deciding how to spend part of the budget of a public service. There are two types of PB:

- **Small grants:** community groups and third sector groups are invited to develop projects and local people decide which projects should be allocated the funding.
- **Mainstream budgets:** where a wide range of people decide how a public service allocates funding.

The Scottish Government and the Scottish Community Development Centre has established a website called pbscotland.scot, which provides a central hub with information and examples of PB in action.

2.1 Participatory Budgeting in Perth and Kinross

PB has been used in Perth and Kinross since 2016, Action Partnerships carried out two rounds of PB in 2017 and 2018. During 2018 events there was a big increase in the numbers of people taking part in PB.

Key Benefits of Participatory Budgeting include:

- Communities decide on how money is spent in their area;
- It helps to build capacity within communities, with funds directed toward local groups and initiatives;
- It brings communities together, promoting networking and raising awareness of the various projects and initiatives in that area; and
- It is a transparent way of making decisions, as it is done in public.