

Participatory Budgeting



What is Participatory Budgeting?

- *Participatory Budgeting directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget. This means engaging residents and community groups to discuss spending priorities, make spending proposals, and vote on them, as well as giving local people a role in the scrutiny and monitoring of the process'*



OR

Local people decide 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



HEALTH WARNING!

- Only a small percentage of any public budget will be allocated using PB
- The PB process is formally mandated and 'signed off' by the elected legislature



ORIGINS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1980s – city of 1.5m people

End of military dictatorship and election of Workers' Party



DEVELOPMENT OF PB

Now in 300+ cities worldwide, including Latin America, Canada, USA and over 25 in Europe
Identified as good practise by international institutions, including World Bank, UNESCO, OECD, UN Habitat prize, and DFID

175 + examples of UK pilots

Links with government 'localism' agenda



Possible PB Models

1. Small grants allocation
2. Mainstream Investment



SMALL GRANTS ALLOCATION

- A grants pot /initiative funding-community chest, NRF funds etc
- Bidders for the money present proposals to residents, who vote on which to support (eg Sunderland, Bradford, Newcastle)
- Limited impact or link to mainstream
- But very effective at engaging/enthusing local people



Mainstream Investment

Move towards allocating substantial sums of mainstream funds via PB

- Western Isles Scotland £500k residents vote on bus service provision
- Tower Hamlets £4.8m from mainstream budgets to 'top up' existing themed provision – voted on by residents -



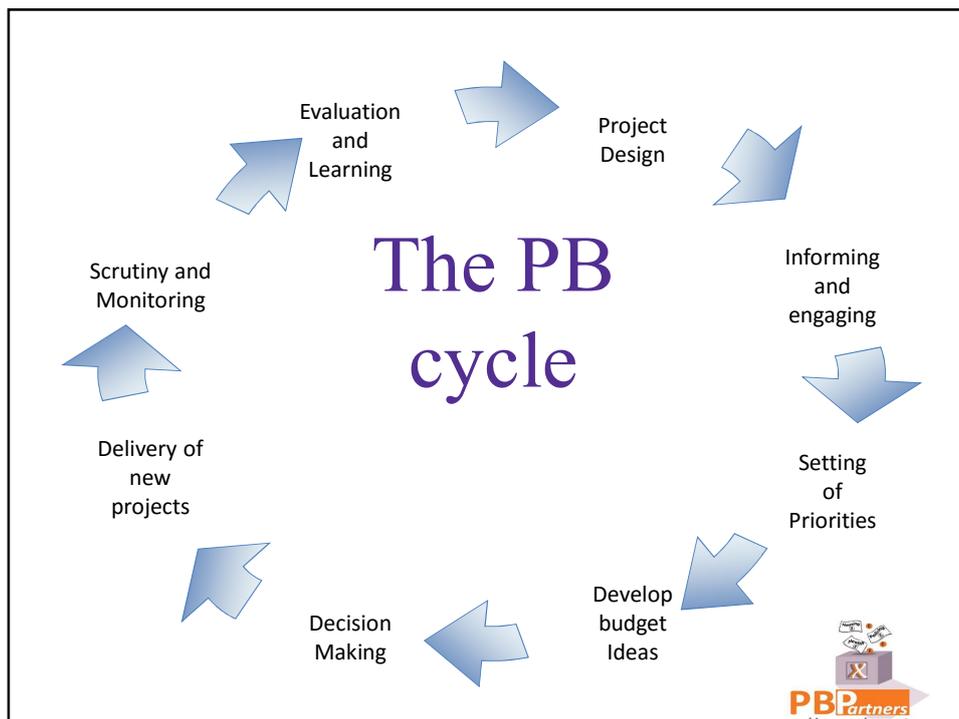
Scotland 2014 onwards

The Scottish Government is part funding support for developing PB Scotland.

So far, 20 of 32 Local Authorities are accessing this support

£3m + already committed/spent on PB programmes





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



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

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