

# The development of Participatory Budgeting (PB) within Scotland from 2014 to 2017

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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)



# Participatory Budgeting is Worldwide



# EUROPEAN PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Latin countries... Reformist, socialist, participatory

Germany ... Consultative, managerial, transparent

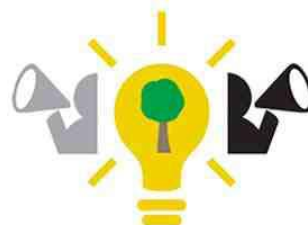
*Over 250 municipalities on the map of participatory budgeting processes in Germany.*



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

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

Nordic Countries: school/ neighbourhood/ environment



## USA and Canada

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

**New York:** 7<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:](#)



COMMUNITY  
VOICES HEARD

fighting for our families, fighting for our communities, fighting for ourselves





# ORIGINS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1980s

End of military dictatorship and rebirth of democracy

Public finances were empty (stolen) and people wanted democracy to be done differently

= Democratic innovation!

Then we had the ....  
**Scottish Independence Referendum 2014...**



- 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 (2)
  - ✓ Edinburgh City (16)
  - ✓ Fife (6)
  - ✓ Glasgow City (32)
  - ✓ Highland (6)
  - ✓ 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 (4)
  - ✓ South Lanarkshire (2)
  - ✓ Stirling (1)
  - ✓ West Dunbartonshire (1)



# 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)*

## UK PB MODELS

- Small grants allocation
- Mainstream Investment
- Commissioning and scenario development





# The Scottish Policy Context

## Referendum – September 2014

“Harnessing the Democratic Energy” (Nicola Sturgeon)

## The Commission on Strengthening Democracy (2014):

*“that a process of participatory budgeting, covering tax and spending options, is adopted by all local governments to enhance local choices over tax and spend within a new system of local government finance”.*

## Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Provisions for public participation on decision making  
(including resources)

## Programme for Government 2017:

*“the best people to decide the future of our communities are the people who live in those communities.”*

**£4.7m (<US\$5m) invested by Scottish Government in PB to date**

# Objectives of PB In Scotland

- Increase the quality and quantity of community engagement (deliberative, inclusive and transparent);
- Increase trust in politics and in politicians;
- Stimulate dialogue and positive action within communities;
- Encourage well targeted public investments.

## 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 PB process is led by residents
- Supports:
  - Representative Democracy
  - Public Service Reform
  - Community Development

# 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 for councils and community organisations – on how to ‘do PB’
- Resources - how to guides, briefings for elected members
- Research, testing, and implementation of digital platforms
- A critical mass of processes
- A national Scottish PB identity and network
- A national PB working group (Civil Society & Experts)
- A PB advisory group  
(local practitioners from councils and community organisations)
- A cohort of trained facilitators and advocates



# The Scottish Government investment

**2013-15:** Awareness raising, capacity building, research on digital PB, plus a PB Scotland website (approx £150,000)  
Match funding for local authorities to try PB (approx £500,000)

**2016-17:** Community Choices Fund – (£1.5M )  
50% local authorities, 50% community led,  
Plus Impact acceleration projects, (£200,000)  
Plus Support costs including: evaluation, digital  
and establishment of PB Scotland Network. (£300,000)  
**Mainly focused on small grants.**

**2017-18:** Community Choices Fund, again evenly split, (£1.5M)  
Plus continued support costs (£500,000 )  
Plus a new dedicated CoSLA officer  
**This time the main focus is mainly on mainstream.**

**All to help progress towards the 2020: 1% commitment.**

# THE NEED FOR PB IN SCOTLAND

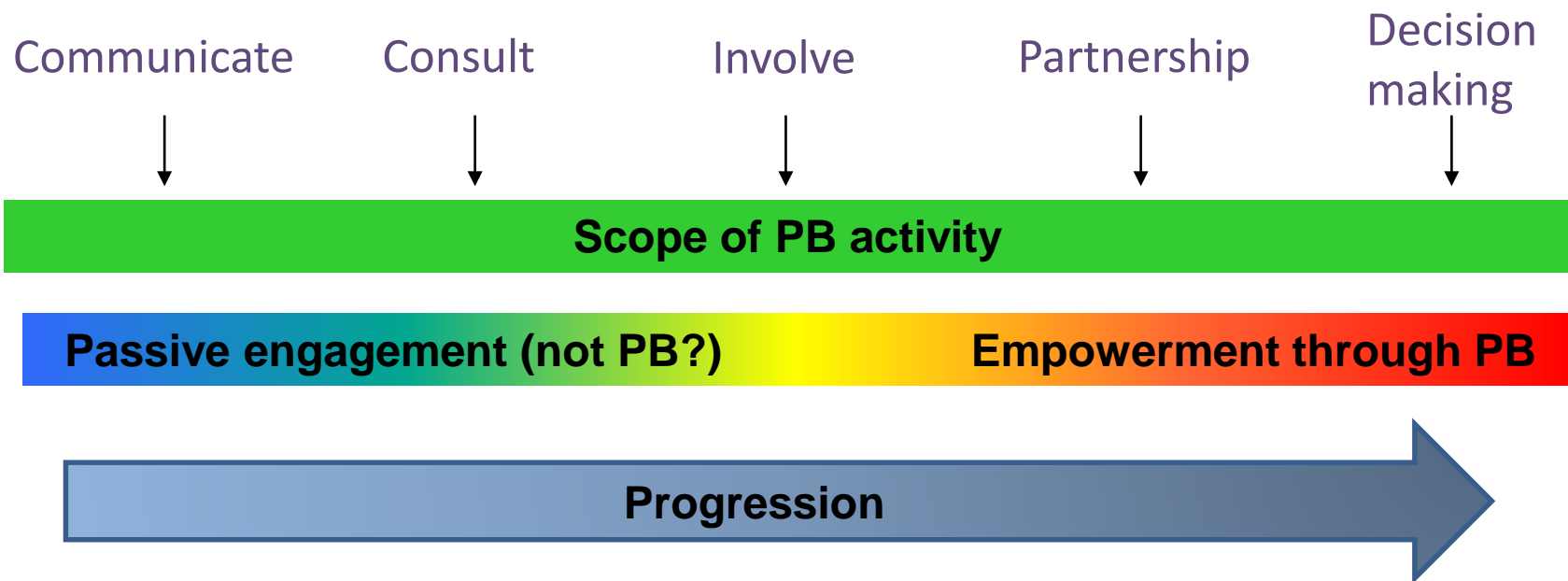
Scottish Government's response to the Christie Commission (September 2011) - Four P's'

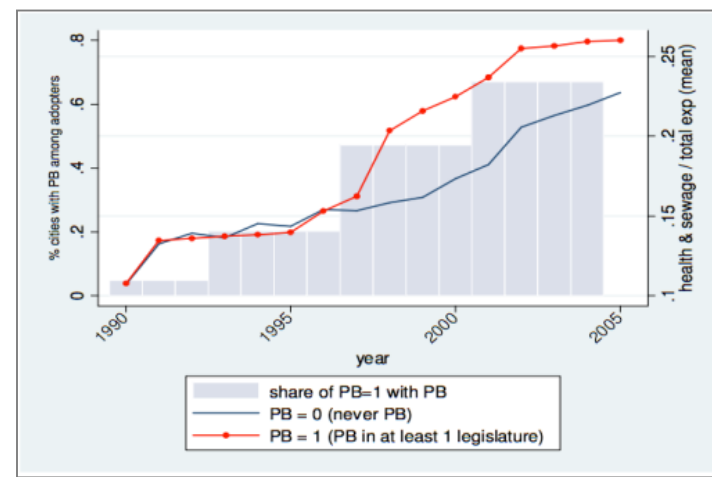
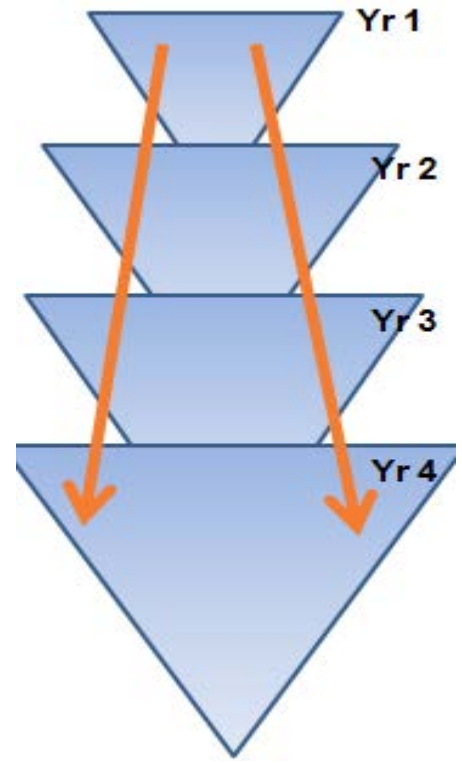
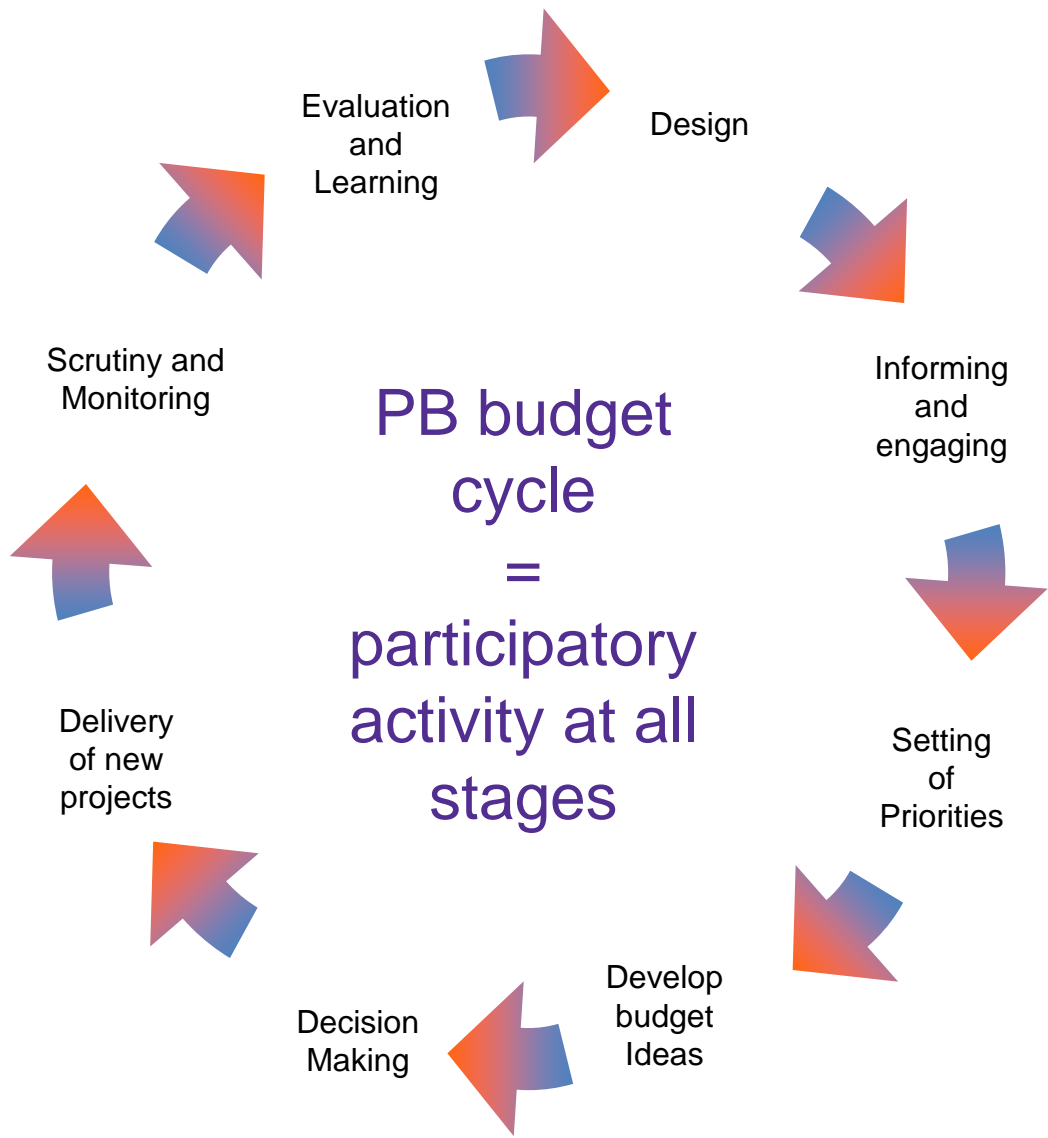
- a decisive shift to **Prevention**;
- continually improving **Performance**
- working in **Partnership** (nationally and locally)
- engaging and developing our **People**



# The Empowerment Line

PB works in different ways,  
but should be meaningful and  
change how money is spent





## 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 a new PB process.
- Inclusivity and connecting with seldom heard groups.
- Strategic or sensitive issues not immediately 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 logo for 'Making People Count PB Network'. A navigation menu includes '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' with a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom right is a 'FIND BY SUBJECT' menu with the following 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, there is a navigation bar with the PB Scotland logo and links for Home, About, News, Conference 2017, Network, Map, and Contact. Below the navigation bar, a search box is visible. The main content area features a large blue header with the text "The PB Scotland Conference 2017" and "14th November, Edinburgh". To the right of the text is a blue speech bubble containing the white saltire of the Scottish flag. Below the main header, there are three columns of content: "Reports & Ideas" with a link to "See PB voting in action" and a photo of a group of people; "News" with a link to "Read the latest" and a link to "Scottish Government's Programme for Scotland 2017-1"; and "About" with a link to "What is PB?" and a link to "A 60-second guide to PB".

Home / About / News / Conference 2017 / Network / Map / Contact

Welcome to PB Scotland - The latest events, news & ideas on Participatory Budgetting In Scotland.

Search


# The PB Scotland Conference 2017

14th November, Edinburgh

Register your interest in attending >>

### Reports & Ideas

See PB voting in action



**Blog: Young People Make**

### News

Read the latest

Scottish Government's Programme for Scotland 2017-1

The Scottish Government has set out its Programme for Government 2017-18, which sets out how it will build on existing work with a fresh set of priorities.

Sep 6, 2017

Forms of Mini-publics: An Introduction to

### About

What is PB?

Participatory budgetting (PB) is a way for people to have a direct say in how local money is spent.

A 60-second guide to PB

Get it straight

## 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 communities 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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