

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy & Resources
DATE	19 th April 2016
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Participatory Budgeting Update
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/16/050
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update to the Committee with respect to the effectiveness and impact of Participatory Budgeting £100,000 allocation made by the Committee during June 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is requested to

- 1) Note the Report
- 2) Request Officers to develop a Corporate Policy for PB to bring back to Committee

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The content of the report and recommendations are in line with the participation requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and will act as a catalyst to develop enhanced community participation in Locality Planning.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Background

In June 2015, The Finance, Policy and Resources Committee of Aberdeen City Council allocated £100k: to youth work and under 12's activities in regeneration areas. During September 2015 Finance Policy & Resources committed to allocating the under-spend through a Participatory Budgeting (PB) approach.

Primary and Secondary school age pupils would vote on proposals from service providers to deliver interventions aimed at improving youth provision in the designated areas. The following areas were selected (and sums of money allocated) on the basis of population and disadvantage:

1. Northfield	50k
2. Torry	20k
3. Tillydrone	10k
4. Seaton	10k
5. Woodside	10k

- 60% of the funds available for over 12's youth work
- 40% of the funds available for under 12's

5.2 Delivery

The Northfield Total Place team managed the PB process in Northfield and the Communities & Partnership Team managed the PB process across the rest of the regeneration areas.

The bidding application form and guidance was developed by the two teams and distributed to potential youth work providers via a number of community networks and included ACVO and Fairer Fund Aberdeen. Groups did not need to be formally constituted to apply for the funding. The process was also advertised on social media.

Northfield Total Place required video submissions for all bid submissions which was also latterly adopted by the rest of the regeneration areas. Additional support to develop the videos was provided by the Capacity Building Officers for the areas out-with Total Northfield Place

5.3 Voting & Bid submission

There were 59 bids voted on across all the areas totalling £440,000

A total of 15 PB events were held across all areas between November 2015 and January 2016 with 3755 young people voting. This represents one of the highest votes of PB across Scotland.

Northfield Total Place delivered 8 PB events (7 primary schools and 1 Secondary school) on Friday 20th of November and the rest of the Regeneration areas delivered 7 events (5 primary schools and 2 secondary schools) during January 2016.

The PB events were introduced by key members of staff and teachers and the bids were presented by video clips in the schools to groups of pupils, giving them an opportunity to vote immediately at the end of the session.

The voting methodology at Northfield Total Place used an electronic system via ipads and the rest of the regeneration areas used traditional voting methods via manual ballots.

5.4 Winning Bids

There were 28 winning bids across all the areas categorised as follows:

DigitalMedia & Technology	12	43%	£36,000
Fitness & Health	6	21%	£37,000
Arts	1	4%	£165
Environment	3	11%	£6,500
Trips	4	14%	£12,000
Citizenship	2	7%	£8,750

Detailed breakdown of winning bids:

Area	Project Name	Organisation	Requested	Awarded
Seaton - Over 12	Football/Fun Tea	Aberdeen FC Community Trust	£5,900.00	£5,900.00
	Young People Call the Shots	SHMU	£2,000.00	£100.00
Seaton - Under 12	Awesome Tech Stuff	GRA Design	£3,835.00	£3,853.00
	After School Drama	Seaton Primary School	£2,500	£165.00
				£10,018.00
Tillydrone - Over 12	Awesome Tech Stuff	GRA Design	£3,835.00	£2,657.00
	Senior Youth Club Activities	Aberdeen Lads Club - Senior Youth Club	£3,342.99	£3,343.00
Tillydrone - Under 12	Under 12s Junior Youth Club	Aberdeen Lads Club Under 12s	£3,493.80	£3,494.00
	"Getting Active" at Riverbank PS	Active Schools (St Machar ASG)	£1,709.90	£506.00
				£10,000.00
Woodside - Over 12	Random Acts of Kindness Programe (RAK)	Printfield Community Centre	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
	Awesome Tech Stuff	GRA Design	£3,835.00	£1,178.00
	Young People Call the Shots	SHMU	£2,000.00	£400.00
	Youth Trip of a Lifetime to the Lecht	Fersands and Fountain Community Project	£1,512.40	£1,512.40
Woodside - Under 12	Woodside Juniors Group Away Days	Woodside Juniors Group	£4,000.00	£4,000.00
				£10,090.40
Torry - Over 12	Awesome Tech Stuff	GRA Design	£3,835.00	£3,835.00
	Football/Fun Tea	Aberdeen FC Community Trust	£5,900.00	£5,900.00
	Young People Call the Shots	SHMU	£4,000.00	£2,265.00
Torry - Under 12	Awesome Tech Stuff	GRA Design	£3,835.00	£3,835.00
	Football/Fun Tea	Aberdeen FC Community Trust	£5,900.00	£4,165.00
				£20,000.00
Northfield - Under 12	School of Football	AFC Community Trust	£16,060.00	£16,060.00
	Young People Call the Shots	SHMU	£7,500.00	£7,000.00
	Litter Reduction & Clean Up	Police Scotland	£4,000.00	£2,000.00
	Fitness Classes	Byron Boxing Club	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Northfield - Over 12	Awesome Tech Stuff	GRA Design	£4,470.00	£4,470.00
	iPad Project	Middlefield Community Project	£280.00	£280.00
	Litter Reduction & Clean Up	Police Scotland	£4,000.00	£2,000.00
	The Kids of Northfield	Northfield CLA	£20,000.00	£5,750.00
	Fitness Classes	Byron Boxing Club	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
	Cummings Park Garden Project	Bramble Brae Primary School	£2,500.00	£2,500.00

The bidding process allowed for new groups and projects to come forward for consideration. One of the winning groups “Awesome Tech” is now looking towards developing a national offering given their success in this process.

Additional funding was allocated via CLD budgets for the small budget over-run and additional projects identified through the process benefited from alternative mainstream budgets.as well as the young people being highly engaged in the projects.

5.5 Media Coverage

The PB Process has attracted a large amount of coverage and positive area profiling through a range of outlets including a range of social media sites, the council website, evening express, press and journal, PB network website, SHMU radio and local community magazines. Follow Up press is still be targeted.

5.6 Evaluation and PB Partners Support

During 2015 Community Planning Aberdeen was awarded a package of consultancy support from the Scottish Government from PB partners, a nationally recognised expert in the PB field and part of this support was used to conduct a joint evaluation of the process, the key findings were as follows:

Several positives were noted on the process, these included:

1. This was a genuine PB process with a high number of voters
2. ACC demonstrated significant investment in developing innovative community engagement methods and responding to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
3. Projects have benefited from profile and additional leveraged funding
4. The process was delivered efficiently within given timescales supported by a well organised workforce
5. A wide range of bids were received
6. Media coverage was impressive and created a positive profile of the regeneration areas.

Future PB projects would benefit from considering the following:

1. Longer lead in times for event planning
2. Stronger involvement of communities and stakeholders in the initial criteria setting and delivery decisions, this process can act as a catalyst for new network groups to be established in the community.
3. Factored time for deliberation in the voting process
4. Planned evaluative methodology with stronger feedback from voters
5. A review of how technology is further utilised in the process
6. Increased focus on the sustainability of projects or an annual commitment to a PB process
7. Access to training for facilitators of the process.

The outcomes from the evaluation will be integrated into future PB processes.

6.7 Follow on Actions

Following the initial success of PB and taking into account the recommendations from the initial evaluation, the following actions are being delivered:

1. ACC Officers are working towards identifying opportunities and funding to deliver future PB events with a view to amalgamate learning and develop a Corporate Policy for PB.
2. PB Partners have delivered a training and awareness session to a range of partners in Aberdeen City to support future delivery, responding to one of the recommendations in the external evaluation.
3. ACC Officers, with support from PB partners, are delivering a PB approach with respect to environmental improvements and increased residential engagement at Linksfield Multi's with an allocation from the existing HRA account. This would act as exemplar with a view to rolling out the model across the City.
4. ACC Officers will work with Community Planning Aberdeen to look at opportunities to share learning and develop opportunities and policy around PB.
5. Fairer Aberdeen Fund have agreed in principle, subject to match funding from the Scottish Government, to allocate £20,000 towards a PB process. This will be supported by ACC officers and PB Partners.
6. ACC Officers will apply for a share of the £2 million pounds made available by the Scottish Government for the advancement of PB activities within Local Authorities (Guidance is pending)

6 IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience

This report will positively impact on customers as they will have a direct input into choices on service delivery

Improving Staff Experience

This report will provide Staff with a wider range of experiences and training, including more inter-agency working and direct engagement with customers.

Improving our use of Resources

This report will provide customers with a direct say on allocation of resources

Corporate

This Report contributes to all aspects of Aberdeen: The Smarter City. With a particular emphasis on Smarter Governance, Smarter Living

Public

This proposal will be of interest to the public given their opportunity to have a vote on funding allocation and service delivery.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There are no identified risks associated with this report

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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