

# GLASGOW DECIDES COMMUNITY BUDGETING



GLASGOW COMMUNITY  
PLANNING PARTNERSHIP  
[www.glasgowcpp.org.uk](http://www.glasgowcpp.org.uk)



# Glasgow Decides

community budgeting



**21**  
events held  
between 3rd and  
28th April 2016



**217**  
funding  
applications  
received



**£476,615**  
value of received  
applications



**59**  
people undertook  
capacity building  
to participate in  
funding process



projects which were  
successful awarded  
total funding of :  
**£209,572**



successful projects:  
**119**



**1,011**  
number of  
attendees at  
events



**56**  
people undertook  
capacity building  
to facilitate  
community  
budgeting process



**2,000**  
digital  
participation  
website views



**1 out of 6**  
successful  
applicants were  
new to Area  
Partnership  
funding



This document provides a report on the recent community budgeting exercise in Glasgow, evaluating the impacts and reflecting on options for further development.

## **1. Background**

Community or participatory budgeting is a democratic process in which community members help to decide how to spend part of a public budget.

Glasgow City Council is committed to rolling out community budgeting to local areas and has been managing a series of pilot projects with its partners across the city since 2013. In parallel with this, the Scottish Government is also focussed on developing a process of empowering communities across Scotland by supporting community or participatory budgeting approaches.

In late 2015, the City Council and Scottish Government agreed to work together to deliver a community budgeting process in Glasgow. The Government provided funds to the Council to conduct a community budgeting process by June 2016 and to capture the learning from this. Each of the city's 21 Area Partnerships also agreed to contribute monies to be used for a community budgeting exercise.

## **2. Support**

Each CPP local Area Partnership agreed to provide funding and assistance in delivering their local community budgeting events. Officers from Partnership & Development in the City Council provided practical support and facilitation to Area Partnership members in organising and delivering each of the events. A project group was formed to manage the development and delivery process.

Consultants from PB Partners (an external consultancy which advises on how participatory budgeting is delivered across the world) provided training and advice on community budgeting processes to members of Area Partnerships through a number of events in March and April 2016. In addition, external support was provided to applicants for funding by IBP Strategy & Research, focusing on how applicants might best present their bids at their local events.

After taking advice from external consultants and Area Partnership members, Partnership & Development staff developed the details of the community budgeting process for the 21 Area Partnerships in April 2016. This covered:

- Designing the application process including guidance and screening
- Scheduling, managing and marketing the 21 Area Partnership events
- Planning and facilitating the process to be used at the events; and
- Evaluating the process and reflecting on the learning

## **3. Reporting Requirements**

As a key funding partner, the Scottish Government asked Glasgow City Council to provide a report on the overall process by 30 June 2016, to include the following details:

### **Spend**

- o How the community budgeting fund was spent

### **Participants**

- o The number of projects and participants,

### Impact

- o The impact the community budgeting fund has had
- o Future plans to promote and support community budgeting in Glasgow

## 4. Report Back from Events

### Spend

Each of Glasgow's 21 Area Partnerships match funded the Scottish Government's allocation of £100,000 to create a pot of £210,000 for disbursement using community budgeting as the method. £10,000 was allocated to each Area Partnership who called for funding applications, eligible applicants were then invited to attend a community budgeting event in their Ward to present their proposal to the general public. Members of the public in attendance were asked to score each proposal with marks out of 5. The projects with the highest score/s were awarded funding until the £10,000 was fully allocated. Details of the 119 successful projects, and their individual awards can be found online here: [link](#)

In addition to the funding allocated specifically for community budgeting, Glasgow City Council committed a further £9,000 revenue funding for the implementation and support costs associated with this development. This equates to just over 3% of the community budgeting funding allocation used for implementation costs.

### Participants

Across the 21 events (held on different days, times, and location settings – see appendix one) 1,011 people attended to participate in the community budgeting in Glasgow. 589 local residents were active participants in the voting process to determine the projects which would receive funding

Eligibility criteria for voters was deliberately unobtrusive:

- Had to identify as living in the local area
- Had to be over 16 years of age

A breakdown of attendance and how many people voted at each event is provided at Table 1.

### Impact

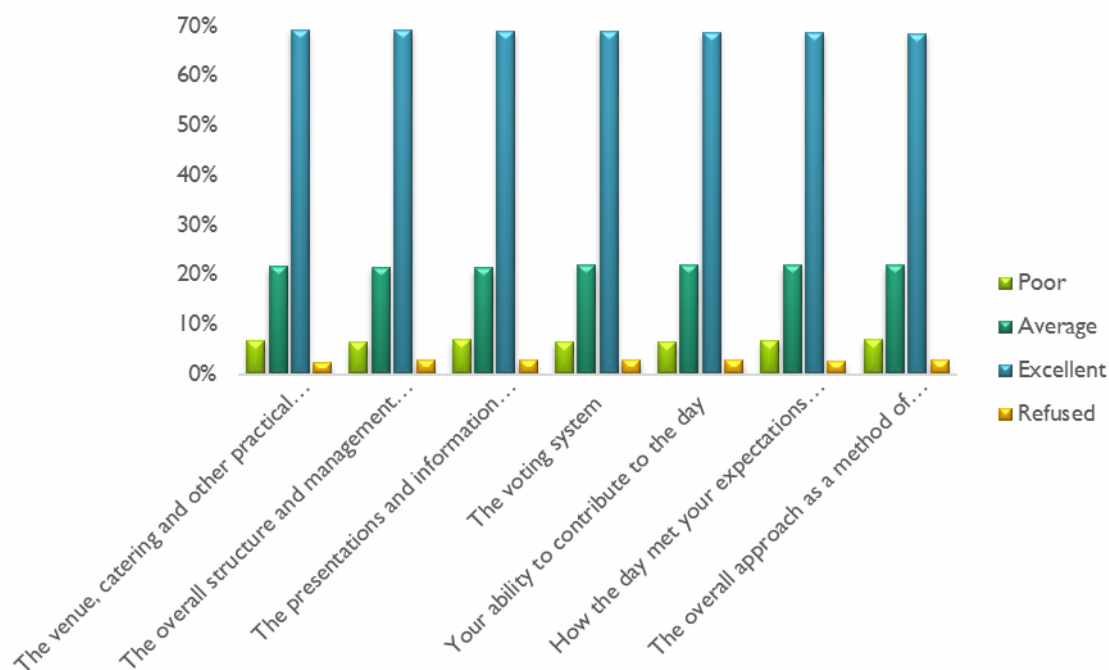
- 1,011 people attending 21 community budgeting events quadrupled the amount of people who normally engage in the Area Partnership funding process.
- The on-line participation tool received over 2,000 hits and involved people viewing the details of the project applications and the outcomes from each event.

Table 1

Area Partnership	Attendees	Voters
Linn	30	17
Greater Pollok	33	20
Shettleston	25	17
Craigton	30	17
Garscadden/Scotstounhill	50	38
Hillhead	35	14
Springburn	80	58
Canal	42	16
Newlands/Auldburn	30	17
North East	55	37
Govan	75	55
Partick West	40	30
Baillieston	65	39
Anderston/City	60	42
Maryhill/Kelvin	68	31
Southside Central	100	30
Calton	59	25
East Centre	38	26
Langside	31	16
Pollokshields	25	16
Drumchapel/Anniesland	40	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>589</b>

## Feedback from participants

Of the 457 people who returned an evaluation form after attending a community budgeting event, just under 70% rated the event as excellent. The diagram below details how participants rated the events.



## 5. Tackling Inequality

Evidence from the events suggests that the process caught the attention of a diverse range of applicants and participants, some of whom were new to engaging with Area Partnerships. E.g.

- An increased number of new funding applications to the Area Partnerships. 17% of proposals had never previously applied for GCC/Area Partnership or Community Planning Partnership funding.
- Glasgow Equalities Forum and Equality Network distributed information calling for applications and promoted the events to all their members and equalities groups.
- A number of groups considered hard to reach were successful with their applications, such as the After Recovery Community (ARC), Men's Health Group (St Matthews Centre) and Flourish House (see attached link for example): [video link](#)
- We used community based accessible facilities and held a range of events across the city at staggered times during the day, in the evenings and at weekends. We offered childcare, travel and support arrangements for people who required assistance to attend the events.
- There were a diverse range of successful applications with the 36% of awards going to groups providing services to young people, including Education. The chart below details the number of successful projects funded by category:

## PROJECTS BY CATEGORY



### 6. Building Capacity & Workforce Development

To support the overall delivery of the process, external help and advice was provided to members of Area Partnerships, staff from Partnership & Development who facilitated the events, and also to applicants themselves. This assistance was of key importance to the success of the process.

- For all applicants, capacity building support was offered by external consultants (IBP Strategy & Research) to help them present their projects at the community budgeting events. The support came in the form of a workshop for applicants with follow ups via e- mail and telephone where required. Of the 44 groups/organisations who received capacity building support, 31 of them were successful in at least one bid (70% success rate). A higher proportion of those who took up the offer of capacity building support were successful in accessing funding than those who did not.
- PB Partners (funded by Scottish Government) delivered training during April on the principles and tools / techniques of Participatory Budgeting – 44 Area Partnership members and 12 GCC staff attended training sessions with PB Partners. This training took the form of:
  - 3 x 1 day sessions to provide training in event planning for each sector; and
  - 10 x 2.5 hour surgeries to provide support to staff and Area Partnership members to help them prepare for the community budgeting events

The 21 events provided an opportunity for workforce development as staff and volunteers supported a new process being undertaken in the city. 24 members of Council staff and 106 Area Partnership members from other Community Planning Partners helped to facilitate a community budgeting process of this type for the first time. The tight timeframe and large scale nature of the delivery made it challenging to deliver. The success of the process was attributed to:

- Strong commitment from wide range of staff and volunteers willing to contribute time and energy to the process
- Careful planning and precise scheduling
- Detailed briefings and regular meetings
- The enthusiasm and interest of applicants; and

- Support from Elected Members and senior leaders

## **7. Future plans to promote and support community budgeting**

An in-depth evaluation of staff and Area Partnership members' experience of delivering community budgeting is being undertaken to identify areas for development and future support needs to help sustain and develop community budgeting in Glasgow. In particular, the evaluation will reflect on those aspects of the process that didn't work as well as expected or could be improved upon as well as those that did.

At the recent Area Partnership meetings, 18 of the 21 Area Partnerships agreed to commit at least 10% of their budget to sustaining community budgeting as a process for disbursing funding in 2016/17.

Over the next year we will identify further support and resources for community budgeting and implement this approach incrementally.

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## Appendix One: Schedule of community budgeting Events April 2016

Area Partnership	Date	Time	Venue
Drumchapel / Anniesland	03/04/16	2pm – 4pm	St Andrew's Church Hall
Linn	18/04/16	2pm – 5pm	Birgisdale Complex
Greater Pollok	18/04/16	2pm – 5pm	Pollok Community Centre
Shettleston	20/04/16	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Shettleston Community Centre
Craigton	20/04/16	5.30pm – 8.30pm	Rosshall Academy
Springburn	21/04/16	6.30pm – 8.30pm	Rainbow Hall, Royston
Hillhead	21/04/16	6.30pm – 9pm	The Albany Centre
Garscadden / Scotstounhill	21/04/16	6.30pm – 8.30pm	Yoker Resource Centre
Newlands / Auldburn	23/04/16	11am – 2pm	Pollokshaws Burgh Hall
Canal	23/04/16	12pm – 3pm	Possilpoint Community Centre
North East	25/04/16	6.30pm – 8.30pm	Avenue End Primary School
Govan	25/04/16	6pm – 9pm	Pearce Institute
Partick West	26/04/16	6pm – 8.30pm	Partick Burgh Halls
Baillieston	27/04/16	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Barlanark Community Centre
Southside Central	27/04/16	12pm – 3pm	St Francis Centre
Anderston / City	27/04/16	6.30pm – 9pm	Cowcaddens Fire Station Appliance Room
Maryhill / Kelvin	27/04/16	6.30pm – 9pm	Maryhill Burgh Halls
East Centre	28/04/16	6.30pm – 8.30pm	Haghill Park Primary School
Calton	28/04/16	3pm – 5pm	Bridgeton Community Learning Campus
Pollokshields	28/04/16	5.30pm – 8.30pm	Shawlands Academy
Langside	28/04/16	2pm – 5pm	The Space, Glasgow Clyde College Langside Campus