



GLASGOW COMMUNITY
PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Glasgow ^{2016/17} Decides

community
budgeting



29
events held
in 2016/2017



307
funding
applications
received



£693,088
value of received
applications



projects which were
successful awarded
total funding of :
£320,800



successful projects:
192



1,737
number of
attendees at
events



Introduction

Glasgow City Council's Strategic plan for 2012 -2017 stated "As part of our approach to community planning and devolving responsibility for how services are developed locally, we will roll out community budgeting to local areas so local people have greater influence over, and input into, how services are developed and delivered."

Background

In late 2015, Glasgow 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 contributed match funding to be used for the phase one community budgeting exercise.

As a follow up to this pilot phase, eight Area Partnerships allocated additional funding to a second phase of community budgeting events in late 2016 and early 2017.

A summary of the outcomes from both phases is detailed below:

Quantitative Information	Phase 1 April 2016	Phase 2 January 2017 *	Total
Value of applications received	£476,615	£216,473	£693,088
Amount of funding allocated	£209,572	£111,228	£320,800
Number of funding applications received	217	90	307
Number of successful applications	119	73	192
Number of Area Partnerships/Events	21	8	29
Total number of people attending	1,011	726	1,737
Ave. number of people attending per event	48	91	N/A
Number of people voting	589	439	1,028
Ave. number of people voting per event	28	55	N/A

*One event was held in Partick West in November 2016

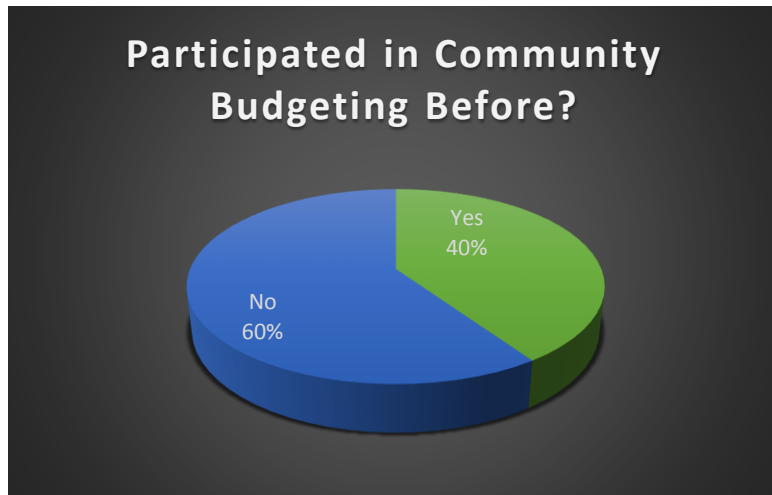
Phase two recorded an increase of almost 100% in the average amount of people attending and voting at each of the events in comparison to phase one. This suggests many more people were aware of the community budgeting events in their Ward area. Early analysis suggest this was achieved through word of mouth from phase one participants; the enhanced marketing campaign carried out and people gaining confidence in the community budgeting process.

Phase One Evaluation

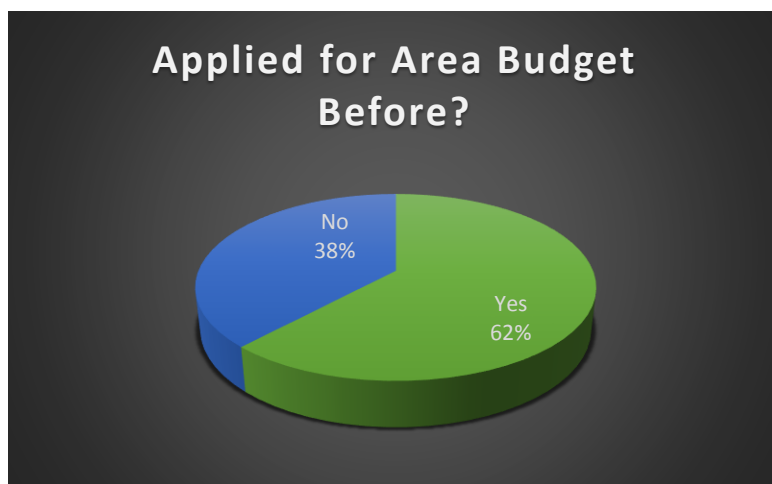
A report was submitted to the Scottish Government summarising the outcomes of the pilot phase one community budgeting events. This report highlighted of all the people who returned an evaluation in phase one, just under 70% rated the events as good. The report can be found at the following link: [Community Budgeting Evaluation Report](#)

Phase Two Evaluation – Assessing the Impact.

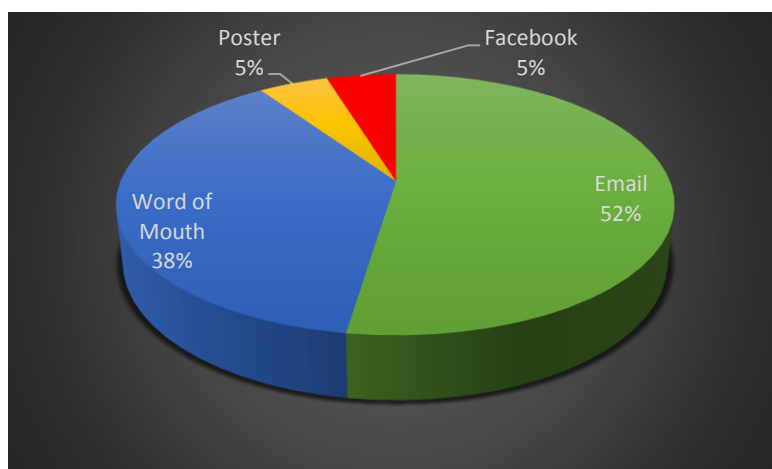
73 applicants who were awarded funding in phase two of the 2016/17 community budgeting programme, were asked to participate in an evaluation to help determine the impact of community budgeting. 58% of applicants completed and returned an evaluation questionnaire.



To monitor how many applicants are new to the community budgeting process we asked applicants if they had participated in an event before. Over half (60%) of the applicants who responded reported they hadn't participated in a community budgeting event before this one.



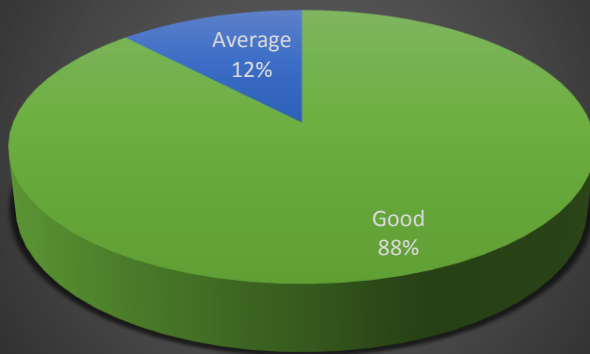
Applicants were asked if they had ever applied to the Area Budget before. 38% of applicants had never accessed Area Partnership funding before. This shows a significant increase in the number of new applicants applying to Area Partnership budgets from phase one of the 2016/17 community budgeting programme.



When asked how they found out about the community budgeting events, 52% of applicants stated they found out about the events by Email. This confirms there are good relationships established from previous connections with local Area Partnerships being made in communities. The second most common method was by word of mouth (38%), this tells

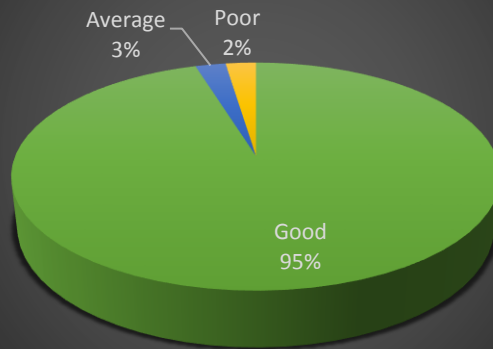
us a key message is to get out and about and speak to people about community budgeting. Traditional methods made very little impact (10%) informing applicants of the community budgeting events.

Rate Overall Running of Event



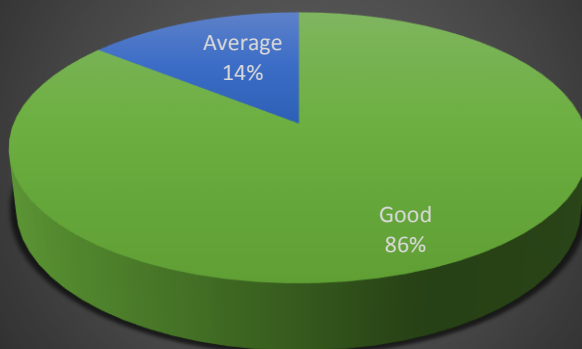
Applicants were asked to rate the overall running of the community budgeting events either good, average or poor. 88% of applicants stated the overall running of the events was good and only a small minority (4) of all applicants thought the overall running of the event was average. One of the reasons cited from a Langside applicant was “the venue was too samll for the number of people”.

Rate Information Prior to the Event



Applicants were asked to rate the inforamtion they received prior to the event to help us identify if we need to provide more information. Over 90% stated the information was good with a small amount stating average of poor. One applicant from Langside stated “*the lack of information before the event made it difficult to know what was required.*”

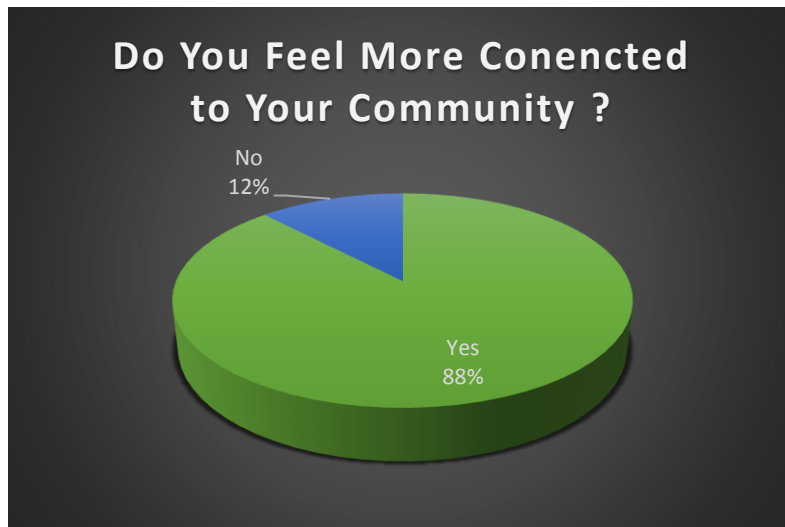
Rate Overall Experience



Most applicants rated their overall experience of community budgeting as good. 14% (6) applicants reported their experience as average. One of the applicants from the Newlands/Auldburn event thought the events would have benefitted from more fun activities and felt like ‘*grab a grant*’. They also suggested information stalls and more support for groups at future community budgeting events.

A few applicants reported the timing of the events didn’t work for them. The reasons cited are some events were was held in the evening in the winter. This proved diffcult to attend particularly for Senior Citizens.

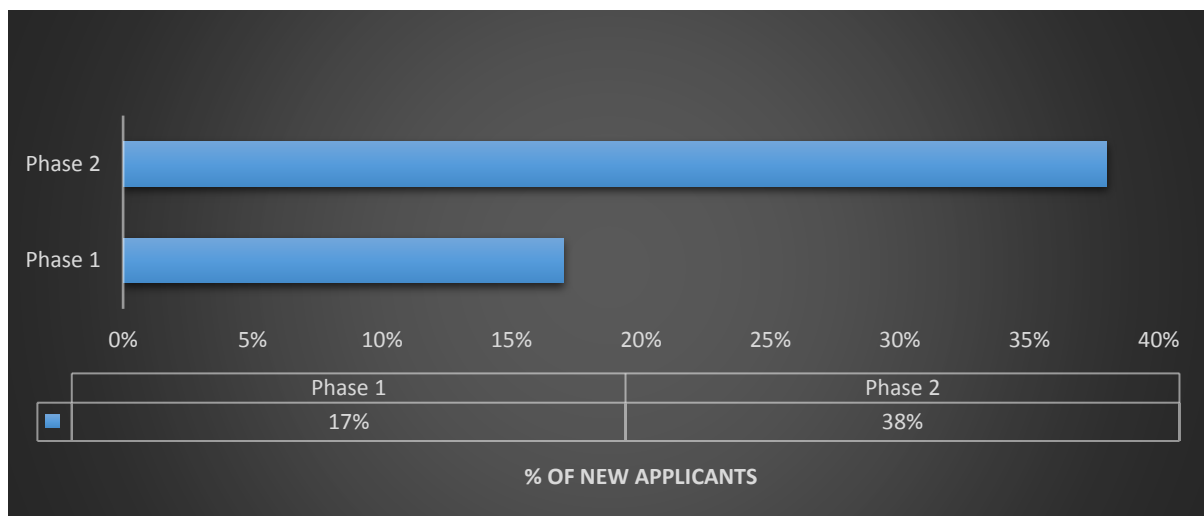
Community Cohesion



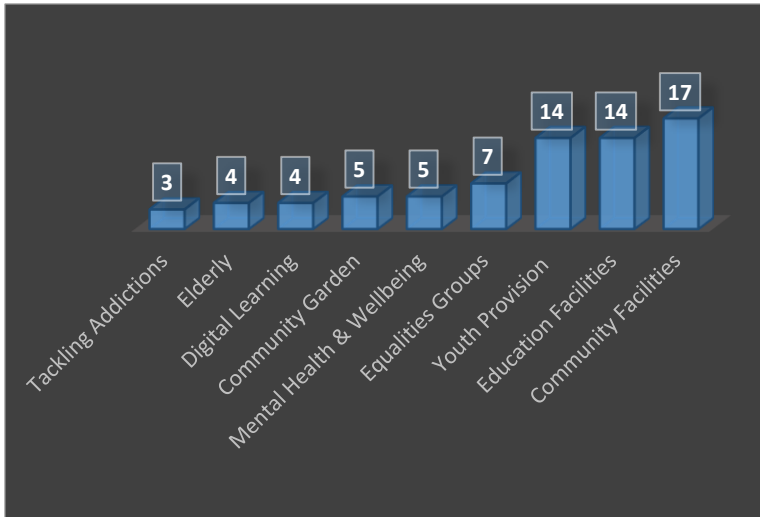
Most applicants reported they felt more connected to their community as a result in taking part in the community budgeting event. An applicant from the East Centre Area Partnership event stated *“I feel this type of event helps bring community groups together and makes the local community aware of the work that goes on supporting community groups.”*

Evidence from the events suggests the process caught the attention of a diverse range of applicants as just under half of all applicants were new to engaging with Area Partnerships. 38% of proposals had never applied for Area Partnership for funding before.

The chart below shows an increase in the number of new applications submitted for the first time in phase two community budgeting compared to the first phase.



When asked if they felt more connected to the community as a result of participating in the community budgeting event, St Pauls Youth Forum in the East Centre Ward reported; *“It is great to be able to see the support that people in the community have for the young people and their ideas... “They felt empowered and listened to. The young people enjoyed pitching their ideas and planning and delivering the programme. This was an opportunity for funding that would be more difficult, but by being able to explain the concept the young people were able to put their ideas across well.*



This chart details the number of successful projects funded by category. There were a diverse range of successful applications with 38% of the awards selected providing services to young people, including schools. Community facilities and community gardens combined were awarded 32% of the funding with a diverse range of activities for vulnerable and equalities groups being awarded the remaining 30%.

Of all the groups who returned an evaluation questionnaire, all reported their beneficiaries were from diverse groups. 52% of the beneficiaries were young people, 31% were vulnerable citizens, such as adults with learning disabilities, and 10% were senior citizens. The remaining 7% did not specify any particular grouping. One of the groups reported: *“Many of the participants are vulnerable because of their age or physical/mental health and this group provides a lifeline, in terms of support and social contact.”*



The Aftercare Recovery Community received funding to provide therapy training for volunteers, therapy equipment and fishing trips. They reported *“Our service users benefited from massage therapy at the ARC which improves relaxation and mental well-being and is an important part of the recovery journey. They also enjoyed the fishing trips - better physical health, influences mental health for the better, and offers diversionary activity to help prevent relapse.”*

Finns Place received funding from the Govan Area Partnership community budgeting event to provide classes to help people to deal with trauma, stress and anxiety. They reported *“it was encouraging to us to receive the funding because of the votes of the community. We feel that this was an endorsement of what we offer at Finns Place and being recognised as a valuable community asset and contributing to the wellbeing of the whole community.”*



Case Studies

Feedback received from people who attended **Finns Place**:

"I have found this activity very helpful as I am very nervous and anxious. Finding Finn's Place has been great and helps me relax and find a place of peace."

"As someone who has to manage a mental health condition (bipolar disorder) there are several activities on offer at Finn's Place which help me maintain wellbeing and to enjoy relaxation. I have actually included some in the wellness recovery action plan (WRAP) I put together with the help of my occupational therapist. This specific session I enjoyed the physical relaxation which helps me immediately and also Susan's very calming voice when speaking the relaxation exercise. I appreciate the thought and care put into research new poems and exercise to keep the class varied and interesting."

"I particularly like the Tai Chi and meditation bits. It has helped reduce my anxiety levels. I've also made new friends - and ones on a similar wavelength. The social contact is important and even better when combined with a wellbeing activity."

"At a stressful time of life I have found it comforting, relaxing, yet energising at the same time."

"Helps me relax after work. Helps me make friends over tea afterwards. Teaches me to slow down and calm down. Makes me more aware of my body. Makes me belong to a group. Helps me keep a stable routine in my week which I really need. Give me new positive ideas."

Whiteinch Transformation secured £3,375 from the Partick West Community Budget to provide funding toward a family worker to work with people who are vulnerable. Whiteinch Transformation reported: "Our family support worker connected with JB through Foodbank. She had two children and one on the way. They arranged a home visit and during that visit JB shared the problems she'd been having with the energy suppliers. Her heating and electricity account had been moved in error, causing considerable stress over the winter months. Because of the changes, JB had received multiple letters from the 2 different energy companies and had missed getting her warm home discount. Our family support worker worked through the problem with JB and they contacted her original energy supplier. Through this conversation they were able to get the debt on the gas meter cleared, an extra £10 added and a back payment of the warm home discount (£140). After months of stress this mum, whose baby was due 6 weeks later, was overjoyed and relieved saying she couldn't have done this without help."

The Southside Boxing Academy took part in the Langside community budgeting event. They were asked if they felt any more connected to their community as a result of participating in the community budgeting event. They replied:

"Yes absolutely as a club we have been able to make links with local active school coordinators, schools and more importantly with school teachers, staff and the children themselves. The project has helped the club to build relationships with the local schools and trust between our coaches and the school staff. We have also been able to change some of the negative stigma about boxing. More importantly we have been able to get children and young people more active and fitter as a result, this is reflected in the feedback provided to date. Our coaches also asked the children to do some homework which involved doing some

simple exercises at home they can do with their friends and family and some of the teachers have commented on the positive impact this is having on their fitness. Also the budgeting event was a great chance for the club to showcase what we are about and to meet local people and councillors, and make them aware of who we are and what we do at the club. It was also good to meet and chat with some of other groups and applicants, and learn about other groups in the community. The process is a different approach to what we are used to at the club, as a club we did however embrace the process and new ways of presenting ourselves. This has made us feel more confident about presenting ourselves to partners and it will make it easier for us to do this and other events like this in future.”

Conclusion

The majority of applicants reported they found the community budgeting events to be a positive experience for their organisation/project and most importantly, their customers. The impact on community cohesion was significant and participating in the community budgeting events undoubtedly helped organisations who deliver services to diverse groups feel more connected to their community.

In terms of progress from phase one, the number of people participating in community budgeting for the first time has increased and the number of people applying to the Area Partnership for funding for the first time has increased significantly. Almost half of all the successful applications were new to the Area Partnership. The number of people who took part in the decision making process (voting) quadrupled compared to the original Area Partnership decision making process. This highlights the many ways participatory budgeting brings new perspectives to the democratic process at a local level.

The second phase of events saw an average increase of almost 100% in the amount of people attending and voting at the events, highlighting people’s awareness of and confidence in the process is growing. The amount of people who reported the events were good increased from under 70% in phase one to 88% in phase two.

The format of the events didn’t work for everyone. A few applicants and participants reported they found it quite onerous having to stay for the entire duration of all of the presentations before they could vote then leave. Particularly parents with young children who came along to support their local group or school. This suggests we need to consider adopting more deliberative and participative engagement methods within our PB processes and find ways to deliver PB both offline (face to face) and online (digital) in a variety of ways that are compatible with all of our citizen’s needs.

Evelyn O’Donnell

Glasgow City Council

March 2017