

Big Society

Developing the vision



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Summary

- A brief history of Participatory Budgeting
- World-wide examples
- Your Local Budgets in the UK

What is Participatory Budgeting

- *Participatory budgeting* is the process of allocating funds by citizen choices
- It is a way for local authorities to enable citizens to *prioritize spending*
- It can also provide space for innovation in *service delivery by community groups*

Global links in policy-making

- World Bank champions use of PB to reduce corruption
- Council of Europe Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation recommends levels of engagement
- International focus on role of civil society in building democracy

Participatory Budgeting: a brief history

- Brazil 1989, led by civil society as reaction to military rule & legacy of social exclusion
- First case Porto Alegre
- Adopted in over 150 cities in Brazil
- After PT came to power at national level (2002), put into law across Brazil for any city over 200,000 inhabitants

Participatory Budgeting: a brief history

- Brought to Europe since early 2000s, example of democratic innovation from global South
- Uses in local areas in Spain, France, Germany
- Most recently (since 2009) spread through USA (Chicago), Canada
- Also employed as part of development programmes in Asia, Africa

Brazil Case - Impact

- Brazil decentralised decision-making on wide range of issues, eg. health, education, transport
- Involvement of citizens in long term planning: yearly cycle with regular workshops
- Identification of target groups: BME, disability, youth
- Local involvement by organisations to develop priorities
- Major cities and major budgets involved, eg. Sao Paulo: over 80,000 people involved with budget of over 1 Billion Reais (80% of total)
- Use in sustainability strategy for the Amazon

PB in the UK

- First cases in UK included Bradford, Salford and Newcastle
- Since 2007, support from central government, Dept for Communities & Local Government
- Aim to be included across mainstream budgets within 5 years
- New wave of Pioneers, led by Big Society Network under Coalition Government

UK overview

- Now over 50 national pilots
 - Urban: Liverpool, Sheffield, Stockport, Newcastle
 - County: Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Leicestershire, Buckinghamshire
 - Rural: Herefordshire, Somerset
 - Neighbourhood Management: Tower Hamlets, Manton, Lancaster, Birmingham
 - Health: Norfolk, Southampton
 - Youth: Tower Hamlets, Newcastle
 - Budget-wide deliberation: Harrow

Your Local Budget

- Participatory Budgeting on mainstream services
- Better decisions and resources more accurately aligned to local people's needs
- Developing innovation in service delivery and decision making



Pioneering Localities

- 9 pioneer areas selected
- Learning Network including over 30 localities
- Events:
 - 28th Jan, Liverpool City Council
 - 25th Feb, Bristol City Council
 - 8th April, Leicester County Council

Types of PB approach

1. Total budget: Sao Paulo
2. Specific service level budget: Youth, Health
3. Neighbourhood devolved budget: Liverpool, Sheffield, Stockport, Windsor & Maidenhead
4. Rural parish budget: Herefordshire, Dulverton (Somerset)

Benefits of use in decision-making

- Reinforces fundamental principles of democracy
- Not party political but built on cooperation
- Builds engagement for civil society in each part of decision-making
- Provides practical results for local residents
- Ownership by citizens, changing expectations
- Recognition of trade-offs in decisions

Challenges of use in decision-making

- Balance between representative and participatory democracy
- Need for basis of trust to ensure cooperation
- Importance of inclusion of all parts of community
- Requires commitment of funds and recognition of shared responsibility
- Results may take time to emerge

Wider Partnership

We will provide best practice and online services with *Izwe*, to:

- Build capacity of local authorities for service delivery in partnership
- Build capacity of civil society organisations for new models of partnership

www.yourlocalbudget.org

Your Local Budget

In partnership
with...

NESTA Making
Innovation
Flourish

With support
from...



Thank you

For more information contact

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