Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Participatory Budgeting

ULab

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

- Passed by the Scottish Parliament in June 2015 & received Royal Assent on 24 July 2015.

- Provides a legal framework that will promote and encourage community empowerment and participation

- Creates new rights for community bodies and places new duties on public authorities.

- 11 topics in the Act

Community Empowerment (Scotland)
Act 2015

The Act covers new legislation on:

1. National Outcomes
2. **Community Planning**
3. **Participation Requests**
4. Community Rights to Buy Land
5. **Asset Transfer Requests**
6. Delegation of Forestry Commissioners' Functions
7. Football Clubs
8. Common Good Property
9. Allotments
10. **Participation in Public Decision-Making**
11. Non-Domestic Rates

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

The Scottish Government is developing the necessary secondary legislation and guidance, working with stakeholders, to implement the individual parts of the Act.

- Parts 1, 11 and some of 4 already in force

- Parts 2, 3, 5 & 6 - regulations to be laid shortly, all to be in force by early 2017

- Remainder of part 4 to be in force by July 2017

- Part 10 – no appropriate topics yet identified

- Allotments / Football – work continuing

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Asset Transfer Requests

- provides community bodies with a right to request to **purchase, lease, manage or use** land and buildings belonging to local authorities, Scottish public bodies or Scottish Ministers.

- Working with a Steering Group to develop the detailed procedures that will be set out in Regulations.

- Working with a short life working group looking at issues around the price to be paid and how to assess and compare the social benefits provided by community projects or alternative proposals.

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Frequently Asked Questions about the Act is available at:

http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage/CommunityEmpowermentBillFAQs

SCDC Briefing:

http://www.scdc.org.uk/media/resources/policy-and-practice/SCDC%20briefing%202_15_CE_Act.pdf

What is participatory budgeting?

- Began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1980s – city of 1.5m people.

- Used in around 3,000 places around the world & 200 in the UK.

- PB directly involves local people in making decisions about public budgets.

- Or in other words: **"If it feels like we've decided, its PB, if it feels like someone else decided, it's not".**

What is the Scottish Government's Role?

- Supports PB as a **tool for community engagement** and as a **resource to widen participatory democracy**.

- Marco Biagi, Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment states: *"we are putting our money where our mouth is on community empowerment" and "We want to see more decision-making handed to local people – especially in choosing local spending priorities."*

Story so far

➢ Workshops, Survey and Learning Event

➢ Introduction to PB for Councils

➢ Consultancy Support

➢ Elected Members Briefing, Reports and Leaflets

➢ PB Website

➢ Digital Support

➢ Evaluating impact - Communities, Services & Democracy

➢ Link to the participation duty in the CE Act

So who's on board?

Local Authorities – PB in Action

- Aberdeen City
- Aberdeenshire
- Angus
- Argyll & Bute
- Ayrshire – East
- Ayrshire – North
- Ayrshire – South
- Fife
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow

- Highlands
- Midlothian
- Moray
- Orkney
- Perth & Kinross
- Shetlands
- South Lanarkshire
- West Dunbartonshire
- West Lothian
- Western Isles

Match Funding & Support

Aberdeen City
Aberdeenshire
Angus
Argyll & Bute
Ayrshire – East
Ayrshire – North
Ayrshire – South
Fife
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Highlands
Midlothian
Moray
Orkney
Perth & Kinross
Shetlands
South Lanarkshire
West Dunbartonshire
West Lothian
Western Isles

- January 2016 – Offer of Match Funding & Support to 20 Councils to help build on PB activity

- 14 Councils – Total SG fund £530,000

- More than 50 PB events in 2016

PB in Action in Scotland

- **Aberdeenshire** - £200,000 for two areas to fund projects to improve the health and wellbeing across the local community.

- **Western Isles** – £500,000 for a bus service to be decided on by local people (Uist and Barra)

- **Perth & Kinross:** *Carer's Voice, Carer's Choice* working with unpaid carers for them to decide how money is spent to benefit them (£20,000).

PB in Action in Scotland

- **Edinburgh:** working with young people at risk of leaving school early to choose the activity they would like the PB fund to do, whether its street soccer or make-up academies (£40,000)

- **South Lanarkshire:** ran a community safety event *My Vote, My Community* event with Youth Trust, Universal Connections, Healthy & Happy Community Development Trust and Community Links (£72,000)

Community Choices Fund

- Two millions pounds for PB in 2016/17 open to Public Authorities and Community Anchor Groups

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Participatory Budgeting Website/Blog

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The Scottish Government

ULab

- What is it?
- Global prog by MIT
- Runs annually every sep for 8 weeks
- For anyone + free
- Framework for seeing and talking about our experience; methodology for shifting place we're come from as we work in world and for operating from deeper levels; part of a global movement
- It uses lots of tools that we already know about or use and also gives new tools, but puts them all together in a different way.
- Way of getting ideas into action for bigger things where incremental change isn't enough
- Learning not only from past but also what is emerging.

ULab Scot

- Brought together public, third and business sectors together in a collaborative way
- Different role of government – bring your own issue
- Sep 2015 – 55K worldwide registered from over 190 countries
- Over 900 in Scotland, 70 self org hubs
- Difference online course can make – coaching circles; hubs; connections, networks, self organising
- Prototype examples – some just ways of working – using coaching circles, dialogue walks; others more practical – social innovation labs; using with self-reliant groups; hub around climate change.