Item 6

24th February 2016

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Calton Area Partnership

Report by Acting Executive Director of Corporate Services

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COMMUNITY BUDGETING PILOT PROJECTS 2016

Purpose of Report:

To update Area Partnerships on progress with implementing community budgeting in Glasgow and request their participation in a Scottish Government funded community budgeting pilot.

Recommendations:

Area Partnerships are asked to

(1) consider allocating a proportion of their Area Budgets to pilot a match-funded community budgeting event to be delivered by May 2016;

(2) agree to all members participating in the training and development provided by PB Partners to support this initiative;

(3) agree all members of the Area Partnership will contribute to the development, facilitation and delivery of a community budgeting process (including identifying how proposals should be secured) and an event(s); and

(4) agree to the recommended form of consultation process outlined in paragraphs 5-7 of this report.

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership priorities: Specify which priorities this report is in relation to and which underlying principles support the development activity.			
SOA | *Alcohol*	Yes / No ☐ / ☐	SOA | Principle *Early Intervention*	Yes / No ☐ / ☐
SOA | *Vulnerable People; Preventing Homelessness*	Yes / No ☐ / ☐	SOA | Principle *Equality*	Yes / No ☐ / ☐
SOA | *Vulnerable People; In-Work Poverty*	Yes / No ☐ / ☐	SOA | Principle *Sustainable Change*	Yes / No ☒ / ☐
SOA | *Youth Employment*	Yes / No ☐ / ☐	**If other priority, please provide details here:**	
SOA | *Thriving Places*	Yes / No ☐ / ☐		
Other Priority	Yes / No ☐ / ☐		

1. Introduction

1.1 This report outlines progress with implementing community budgeting in Glasgow and offers Area Partnerships an opportunity to participate in a Scottish Government match-funded participatory budgeting (PB) programme.

1.2 The Scottish Government's Programme for Scotland 2015/16 includes a commitment to maintain the momentum to increase participation and involvement in decision making at a local level and states:

"To make this happen we will work with local authorities to develop and pilot council-wide participatory budgeting processes. This will mean that local people will take more decisions about a larger proportion of available budgets".

1.3 To continue to support our efforts to build and maintain momentum in PB, the Scottish Government has provided £100,000 to match-fund any funding earmarked for allocating through community budgeting direct to communities.

2. Background

2.1 Glasgow City Council's Strategic plan for 2012 -2017 states "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."

2.2 Community budgeting is a generic term which covers a range of initiatives and approaches. They have in common enhanced engagement with communities in decision making about resource allocation. Community budgeting offers a new way for local public service providers to work together to meet local needs.

2.3 One of the most common approaches to community budgeting is known as participatory budgeting. Participatory budgeting is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget and is described in the following terms:

Participatory budgeting directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending priorities for a defined public budget. This means engaging residents and community groups representative of all parts of the community to discuss spending priorities, making specific proposals and vote on them, as well as giving local people a role in the scrutiny and monitoring process.

2.4 To an extent, Glasgow has begun to introduce such an approach with the decision to allow all members of Area Partnership an equal say and a vote on grant awards as set out below.

2.5 Glasgow City Council's Executive Group meeting on 12th June 2014 agreed a report on the IGF review which included the recommendation that the new framework for IGF grants should include an element of community budgeting.

2.6 This followed a consultation exercise carried out in March to May 2015. It included the option of undertaking community consultation on investment strategies for Area Partnerships and also exploring how to influence both allocations of Area Budgets and other partner resources.

2.7 This was followed up by a report to Area Partnerships in August 2015. This report cross referenced the above consultation exercise and Executive Committee decisions which included an agreement to support a "small number of pilot community budgeting initiatives with a commitment to reviewing lessons learned".

3. Area Partnerships role in Community Budgeting

3.1 Area Partnerships are the natural platform for community budgeting at a local level.

3.2 Evidence from successful community budgeting initiatives elsewhere suggests that such an approach can bring greater efficiencies in service delivery. By means of effective engagement, it can promote a sense of shared responsibility between residents and service users, and the service providers. This process should lead to greater community empowerment and at the same time more efficient use of budgets and staff.

4. The opportunity to pilot Community Budgeting approaches in Area Partnerships

4.1 Area Partnerships have already agreed to adopt an approach which will incorporate elements of community budgeting into their process for allocating a proportion of their Area Budgets.

4.2 To assist with developing this approach, match-funding will be provided to funding allocated by Area Partnerships for community (participatory) budgeting pilot projects to be delivered by end May 2016.

4.3 £100,000 of this match funding is being made available by the Scottish Government who wrote to all local authorities in October 2015, inviting them to bid for funds to help take forward participatory budget pilots with Scottish Government funds to be spent by end of May 2016. Given Glasgow's policy commitment set out above, and participation in on-going capacity building training (see Appendix 1 attached for details), the Scottish Government encouraged Glasgow to apply. In late December 2015, we were advised that we had been successful and were awarded £100,000 match funding as above.

4.4 The Scottish Government also provided financial support to local authorities to access more in depth and tailored in-house training, delivered by PB Partners. Glasgow City Council match funded a 10 day training package of work, looking at embedding citizen led decision making into the fabric of Glasgow's Community Planning Partnerships.

4.5 This package includes support which will evolve based on the needs of each of the sector Area Partnerships who agree to participate in this community budgeting pilot.

4.6 The intention is to utilise this training support from PB Partners to help Area Partnerships develop a community budgeting programme.

5. The mechanism and process for the pilots

5.1 In order to participate in this pilot, each Area Partnership is required to agree the following:

(a) Identify funds which it can allocate to this pilot. The funds should be at least £5,000 which will be matched with the equivalent from the Scottish Government funding. This would give each participating Area Partnership at least £10,000 for its Community Budgeting pilot.

(b) Further capacity building training will be provided to Area Partnerships in March and April 2016 to support this development.

(c) Each Area Partnership who agrees to participate, will make an award of at least £5,000 to GCC Corporate Services to match the equivalent from the Scottish Government (Corporate Services is holding the Scottish Government Grant award).

(d) Each participating Area Partnership will be required to agree a mechanism for securing proposals to the value of this £10,000 and organise a PB consultation event or events which will be made up of local residents invited to consider proposals identified as suitable (i.e. meeting normal Area Grant conditions and deliverable by the end of May 2016). It will be at these events or equivalent that decisions on awards will be made e.g. via a voting system.

(e) In order to ensure successful applicants have adequate time to spend the PB award, these events need to be completed by the end of April 2016. All local residents on the Electoral Roll for the Scottish Parliament Elections 2016, as at 28th February 2016, will be entitled to fully participate and vote, this allows 16 and 17 year olds to vote. Guidance on how to run consultation events will be provided. Examples of good practise are attached at Appendix 2.

(f) All funds from the Scottish Government need to be utilised and fully spent by 31st May 2016.

6. Role of Area Partnerships in the process for Community Budgeting pilots

6.1 All Area Partnership members who are local residents on the Electoral Roll for the Scottish Parliament Elections 2016, as at 28th February 2016 will be entitled to fully participate and vote.

6.2 All other Area Partnership members will be invited to attend as facilitators and/or observers.

7. Voting at events

7.1 As above, residents will be asked to register at the beginning of the event so that their identity can be confirmed from the Electoral Roll. Corporate Services staff will organise a secret ballot on the funding options.

7.2 The Area Partnership Chair will announce the result to the event.

7.3 An offer of grant will be made to the successful applicant(s). This will be subject to the normal conditions of grant applicable to an Area Budget. In addition, the applicant will be asked to confirm expenditure of all funds by 31st May 2016 as above.

8. Evaluation

8.1 What Works Scotland is working with a team of Community Planning Partners to develop a community budgeting evaluation framework for Glasgow. It is expected this framework will be available to support the evaluation of the community budgeting programme.

8.2 Glasgow Caledonian University were appointed by the Scottish Government to evaluate the impacts of participatory (community) budgeting in Scotland. Glasgow was selected as a case study area and staff from GCU will be working with us to evaluate current approaches to Participatory Budgeting (PB).

8.3 The Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) is currently looking to update the PB website http://pbscotland.scot/ with event information and decide which events to attend to write up articles on the process. This would involve SCDC attending some community budgeting events and doing a couple of short interviews on the day, taking photos (and maybe videos) and then writing up a report to put on the PB Scotland website that captured the energy and some of the learning from the events.

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Area Partnership is asked to

(1) consider allocating a proportion of their Area Budget to pilot a match funded community budgeting programme to be delivered by 31st May 2016;

(2) agree to all members participating in the training and development provided by PB Partners to support this initiative;

(3) agree all members of the Area Partnership will contribute to the development, facilitation and delivery of a community budgeting process (including how proposals should be secured) and an event(s); and

(4) agree to the recommended form of consultation process outlined in paragraphs 5-7 of this report.

Appendix 1 – Previous Capacity Building and Training

To assist Area Partnership members to develop a better understanding of community budgeting, a joint half day workshop was offered to all Community Planning Partnerships members and substitutes in each of the three sectors in 2014.

These workshops introduced Community Planning Sector and Area Partnerships to the principles and practices of community budgeting and provided case examples of participatory/community budgeting that have proved to be transformative in developing community empowerment, and involving citizens in making decisions on complex issues and in tackling social inequalities.

This approach aimed to consistently help prepare and support community planning partners and Area Partnership members to develop new skills and approaches to identifying local needs and offered opportunities to go beyond traditional community engagement methods and promote the active participation of communities in the issues and interventions that shape their lives.

The majority of participants agreed strongly when asked how they felt about enabling communities to decide on the allocation of public expenditure using a community budgeting approach. The table below summarises the percentage of responses by sector.

Sector	Agree	Disagree	Neither
North West	**87%**	**8%**	**5%**
North East	**98%**	**0%**	**2%**
South	**75%**	**16%**	**9%**

As a follow on to the introductory workshops, a 1-day training course was offered to those workshop participants who wanted to develop the skills needed to adapt these new innovations into a local Area Partnership context and focus on how to develop the skills needed to facilitate community budgeting processes. 50 community planning partners undertook this training to help further develop the skills and insights needed to progress community budgeting in their localities.

Appendix 2 – Examples of Good Practice

1. A good example of how this can be done is £eith Decides which is an approach used by Leith Neighbourhood Partnership in Edinburgh to allocate 50% of its Community Grants Fund. This type of Participatory Budgeting (PB) approach allows residents to decide about issues that matter to them. Further information on £eith Decides can be found at the following link:

   http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/leith/about/%C2%A3eith-decides/faqs/

2. A video of a participatory budgeting event called "Your Voice Your Choice", which allocated £30,000 of community safety funding in Blaenau Gwent in Wales, can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWsouNScWqs