

Agenda Item	9
Report No	SR/14/16

Your Island Your Cash Your Choice - Participatory Budgeting Update and Next Steps

Report by Acting Head of Policy

Summary

This report updates Members on the recent Your Island, Your Cash, Your Choice Participatory Budgeting process and asks Members to comment on the process and the partnership that delivered it. It asks Members to consider how the process is developed in the future in terms of the mechanism used, the services potentially in scope, the focus of future activity and the resource that could be utilised. Members are asked to note the feedback on the process and comment on potential future developments.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 requires public sector partners to engage with communities and support them to participate in decision-making including how resources are utilised.
- 1.2 Members previously agreed to work with partners to design and deliver a participatory budgeting event for Skye and Raasay in February 2016 utilising £15k of Scottish Government funding. The event would allow community groups to bid for a small grant, with a public vote deciding how to allocate the available funding.
- 1.3 In addition to allocating funding, Members were keen to explore the potential the process had for developing a network of community groups, building their capacity, broadening the range of people engaged in decision-making, and developing the partnership approach required to more effectively focus services and resources on improving outcomes.

2. Your Island Your Cash Your Choice

- 2.1 The event design and planning was undertaken by a local partnership group. The group's membership was structured to ensure that the process reached key sectors in the community including youth, sport, and arts organisations.
- 2.2 The group felt that to give the event the best chance of success it was sensible to design a process that was straightforward for groups to apply and attend whilst passing as much decision-making to the community as possible.
- 2.3 In total the Your Island Your Cash Your Choice fund received 56 applications from organisations with projects totalling approximately £70,000. Following a

screening process to confirm eligibility, along with some withdrawals, 41 organisations presented their projects at the community event.

- 2.4 The event was held in The Fingal Centre on Saturday 28th of May 2016. 99 residents from the Eilean a' Cheò Ward area attended the event and registered to vote. 94 residents each cast ten votes to decide which projects they thought should receive funding. Subsequently 15 projects were fully funded. (Details at appendix 1)

3 Evaluation and Feedback

- 3.1 To help develop future Participatory Budgeting processes, attendees were asked to complete an evaluation form. 57 responses were received. Key respondent information to note included:

- 98% of respondents indicated that the event was well organised
- 95% of respondents indicated that they could hear everything
- 100% of respondents indicated they could see everything
- 2% of respondents indicated that the event was not in a good location
- 82% of respondents indicated that they liked the presentations
- 93% of respondents thought voting instructions were clear
- 84% of respondents thought everything was done fairly
- 81% of respondents thought the event was good for their area
- 2% of respondents indicated that they would not take part in future events
- 11% of respondents thought the process was not a good way to distribute money
- 63% of respondents indicated that they have made new connections in their local area
- 88% of respondents indicated that they found out about new projects in their local area

Overall, the feedback from the event is positive and encouraging.

- 3.2 There were also a small number of comments received about how the process could be improved. These included feedback regarding-

- Funding: A number of respondents highlighted that the £15,000 that was on offer was not in proportion to the amount of applications received. There were separate comments suggesting more money should be made available or that the number of applications presenting at an event should be limited.
- Promotion/Communication: A number of respondents highlighted that it would be beneficial to clearly outline the requirements of the process from the beginning.
- Voting system: A respondent highlighted that a more sophisticated voting system should be used; they highlighted that ranking projects would be a more suitable way to vote for projects.
- One respondent commented that the event was not accessible due to transport/cost/time. A respondent highlighted that they thought Raasay was underrepresented by people attending and projects who had applied.

- Catering: There were a number of comments with suggestions about how to improve catering provision
- Location: There were a number of comments suggesting that the location was not suitable. Respondents highlighted that this may lead to an unfair advantage for groups located in Portree.
- Time of the year: A respondent highlighted that future events should be held in March or November

All this information and Members views on future participatory processes will be used by the partnership group to develop and improve the process.

4. Future Developments

4.1 In considering how to develop the process Members may want to consider and comment on a number of issues-

- How should we continue to develop a partnership to design and deliver participatory budgeting and other participatory activity?
- What areas of service might benefit from applying a participatory process to?
- Is there scope to develop a digital element to engagement whilst retaining the value created from a live deliberative process?

5. Implications

5.1 Resource Implications: There are no direct resource implications arising from the paper however there is future potential for Ward Budgets and Service Budgets to be committed for participatory activity.

Legal Implications: Participatory budgeting will assist us in meeting the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act.

Equalities Implications: The Participatory Budgeting process assists us to better engage with people with protected characteristics.

Climate Change/Carbon Clever; Gaelic, Risk and Rural implications: None identified

6 Recommendation

6.1 Members are asked to note the feedback on the process and comment on potential future developments.

Designation: Community and Democratic Engagement Manager

Date: 7/6/16

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Appendix 1**Successful Bidding Organisations**

Name	Project	Requested £
The Skye Youth Pipe Band	Pipe Band drumming	1360
Skye Stroke Friends	Skye Stroke Friends Outings	1500
Isle of Skye Pipe Band	Isle of Skye Pipe Band	1500
Staffin Lunch Club	Enhancement of Activities for Lunch Club Members	500
Dannsairean an Eilen Sgitheanaich	Strictly Skye 2016	1500
Clann Thronairnis	After school Gaelic Club focusing on Gaelic singing/drama/music.	1000
Skye and Lochalsh Gymnastics Club (SLGC)	Growing SLGC with coach development	1406
Way Forward Group	Way Forward Group To Meet Fortnightly To Reduce Isolation	600
Tarskavaig Communities Hall Association	Save Energy & Save an Accident	240
Crossroads Care – Skye and Lochalsh	Crossroads Connecting Communities	1500
Isle of Skye YMCA	YMCA Skye Outdoors	1500
Viewfield Garden Collective (VGC)	Therapy Through Gardening	800
Broadford Youth Club	Summer Trip	895
St Columba's Church	Bread Basket	500
Friends of An Acarsaid Care Home	Otago exercise sessions	1500