



Foundation Scotland

Scotland's Community Foundation

Participatory Budgeting – a funder's perspective

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Who is Foundation Scotland?

- Independent funder
- Part of a network of community foundations
- Steward funds on behalf others
- Distributed £23m in 2022-2023
- Three teams - social investment, philanthropy and communities

What drives us?

Supporting people and places to thrive	Acting fairly	Protecting our planet
Supporting resilient, thriving and empowered communities	Ensuring Economic Security	Acting on climate and the natural environment
Improving physical and mental health and wellbeing	Increasing access to education, learning and employment	Fostering and building places that are safe, fair and support a good quality of life
Promoting equity and tackling inequalities		



Behind the scenes

- **Multiple** donor funds
- **Different** funding programmes
- **Range of** decision-making arrangements

Community-led fund distribution

- **Spirit of 2012 Trust** Fourteen Programme
- **70+** community benefit funds linked to renewable energy /infrastructure
- **300+** communities
- **£7M+** p.a. community benefit distribution
- **400+** volunteer Panel or Board members
- **PB as an option** for fund distribution

PB within community benefit funds

- Widens established practice of community decision making
- Some piecemeal practice to date
- More participatory grantmaking – less budgeting
- Less pitching, more marketplaces
- Focus on community connecting & celebrating

Familiar challenges

- Resource intensive
- Complex and uncertain
- Potential for conflict
- Capacity challenges
- Risk of capture by most heard/visible

Opportunities

- Builds confidence, ownership & agency
- Enhances fund's reputation and credibility
- From PG to PB, linked to local plans & fund strategies

Wider challenges

- **Which funding** – which/whose money is the target for PB?
- **Purpose** – strategic decisions or a taster of widening democracy in funding decisions?
- **Language** – PG or PB?
- **Frequency & Impact** – how PG or PB makes a difference