Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community, and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee

Report by Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council

Contact: Evelyn O'Donnell Ext: 39901

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB)

Purpose of Report:

To note the co-production of Glasgow's Participatory Budgeting (PB) framework and develop four Ward-based PB pilots in 2018/19.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the report;
- Agree the establishment of a city-wide PB Working Group to oversee the co-production of Glasgow's PB framework; and
- Note the development of four Ward-based PB pilots to devolve the £1 million made available for PB in the 2018/19 budget.

Ward No(s): 3, 6, 9 and 16

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ✓
consulted: Yes ✓

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1.0 Summary

1.1 In October 2017, Council Leaders from every local authority in Scotland agreed that at least 1% of local government budgets will be subject to Participatory Budgeting (PB) by 2021. As a result, the council family is tasked with implementing mainstream PB in Glasgow.

1.2 As part of the budget setting process for 2018/19, £1 million was made available for PB. This comprises £500,000 capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding.

1.3 The purpose of this paper is to consider the recommendations for co-producing Glasgow’s mainstream PB framework and developing four PB pilots.

2.0 Glasgow’s Participatory Budgeting (PB) Framework

2.1 PB is a community engagement method which will assist the Council in its aim to empower communities and reduce poverty and inequality. PB 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, make spending proposals and vote on them. PB empowers local people to play a key role in deciding how public money is spent on projects and services in their neighbourhoods.

2.2 Glasgow City Council’s Elected Members will work in partnership with the community; Third Sector organisations and officers to co-produce Glasgow’s PB framework.

2.3 To support this development, Glasgow City Council secured funding from the Scottish Governments Community Choices Fund to:

- Establish a city-wide steering group to oversee the co-production of Glasgow’s PB model;
- Engage residents and community groups representative of all parts of the community to discuss spending priorities and make specific proposals for the development of the PB process in Glasgow;
- Provide appropriate support and capacity building for all participants across this pilot;
- Develop a role for local residents in the scrutiny and monitoring of the PB process;
- Create a video to document Glasgow’s approach to mainstreaming PB.

2.4 This programme will involve our local communities and Third Sector partners in the co-production of our long term PB approach. This will ensure that Glaswegians can participate in decision making, not only on the issue for which PB is being adopted, but on establishing the criteria for the process itself. This will improve the democratic process, in the short and medium term, for those involved in the project. It will also have an impact in the longer term for all residents, with the introduction of our agreed approach.

2.5 The involvement of communities will ensure that we build on our experience to date and the skills that were developed as part of our earlier capacity building programmes. Previous programmes undertook evaluations to ensure that we identified the learning points and these, alongside the evaluation for these pilots, will ensure that Glasgow’s long term approach can be evidenced as one that has evolved
from our experience; from the lessons learned and from the expertise of those that have participated.

3.0 City-Wide Working Group

3.1 A briefing was provided to Opposition spokespersons.

3.2 To further develop PB, it is recommended a city-wide PB working group is established including partner organisations with experience of PB. Suggestions for the composition of the working group are Third Sector representatives, Community Members, Elected Members (including representatives of the WEC CECP Committee) and Glasgow City Council Officers. In addition, we need to identify representatives from women’s, older people’s and north east community networks.

3.3 In the early stages the working group will agree the aims of the PB programme; the terms of reference of the group and identify any boundaries or organisational/external pressures they may encounter in facilitating this process. It is essential any participants on the working group agree to act as a conduit to facilitate their networks, with support, to ensure the collaboration of their communities and networks in the development of Glasgow’s PB framework.

3.4 Although GCC is the lead partner in the process as the budget holder, it is important that a city ‘vision’ for PB is co-developed and well-articulated. The vision should set out the purpose of PB in Glasgow (why), and the outcomes it seeks to achieve. The framework should co-produce how the pilot PB models will be implemented, and by whom.

3.5 Support will supplied by Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) for the first phase of the co-production process, this will bring partners together to begin the process of developing the PB framework, on which to consult more widely. SCDC will work with GCC and Community Planning Partnership to identify partners that could be involved in supporting the working group; facilitate and record an initial meeting with partners to establish the vision and intended outcomes to agree a framework (vision only at this stage) on which to consult.

4.0 PB Ward based pilots

4.1 In addition to the city-wide PB steering group, 4 local Ward-based residents steering groups will be established to oversee the co-production of the PB criteria and process in the four Wards based thematic pilots. The overarching aim of PB in Glasgow is to reduce poverty and inequality. The four Wards with the highest incidence of poverty and inequality in the city for the pilots in 2018-19 are identified as:

- Calton (Ward 9) – Child poverty
- Canal (Ward 16) – Income & employment deprivation
- Pollokshields (Ward 6) – Black & Minority Ethnic
- Greater Pollok (Ward 3) – Young People

4.2 A community anchor organisation will be identified in each of the Wards to undertake the community engagement required to establish the residents steering groups.
4.3 Capacity building, training and support will be provided for community members in the four pilot areas developing Glasgow’s PB framework. Support will be provided to enable community members of the residents steering groups to:

- Gain an understanding of PB; what it is, what it means for communities and how it will be implemented in the future;
- Gain an understanding on the theory of PB, which will allow participants to engage with the full process;
- Gain an understanding of the various stages of the cycle and how to PB engage with the process at each stage;
- Recognise the vocabulary, giving them confidence to engage in conversations and debate around PB; and
- Gain an understanding around practical participation and how to connect with their local community.

5.0 Measuring Impact

5.1 The University of Glasgow will provide support to the local residents’ steering committees to work carry out collaboration action research with young people; BME communities and people who are affected by income/employment deprivation and child poverty and to determine how to measure the impact. It is important communities determine ‘what good PB looks like’ and establish the baseline for what is to be measured.

5.2 The organisation, What Works Scotland, will support the city-wide working group to develop an evaluation process and agree the baseline for measuring impact when agreed with the collaborative action research outlined above.

5.3 Discussions with COSLA’s PB Officers group members and Audit Scotland, regarding measuring PB at national level, are underway and it is expected that the collaborative action research undertaken in Glasgow will contribute to this discussion.

5.4 Discussions are planned with staff within Glasgow City Council regarding the PB measures for Glasgow’s Strategic Plan and establish Glasgow’s baseline.

6.0 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: As part of the budget setting process for 2018/19, £1 million was made available for PB. This was agreed as £500,000 capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding.

Legal: None

Personnel: To be confirmed

Procurement: None

Council Strategic Plan: 1. A Thriving Economy - the city and its citizens benefit from inclusive economic growth and
are involved in economic decision making through participatory budgeting

2. Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods—citizens and neighbourhoods can influence how services are developed and budgets spent

Equality Impacts:

*Does the proposal support the Council’s Equality Outcomes 2017-22*

Yes

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

Positive impacts

Sustainability Impacts:

*Environmental:*

None

*Social:*

None

*Economic:*

None

Privacy and Data Protection impacts: None

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the report;
- Agree the establishment of a city-wide PB Working Group to oversee the co-production of Glasgow’s PB framework; and
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