



PKC Green Living Fund 23/24

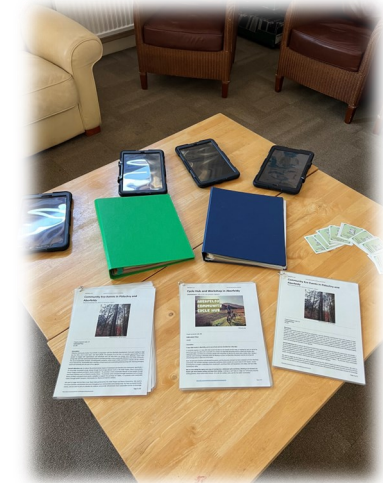
CLD Evaluative Report

Overview

A total amount of £226,505 was made available to communities of Perth and Kinross-shire through a Participatory Budgeting (PB) process, transferring the decision-making of how public money is spent to local people. The fund was themed to support projects that tackle both the Cost-of-Living crisis and Climate Change.

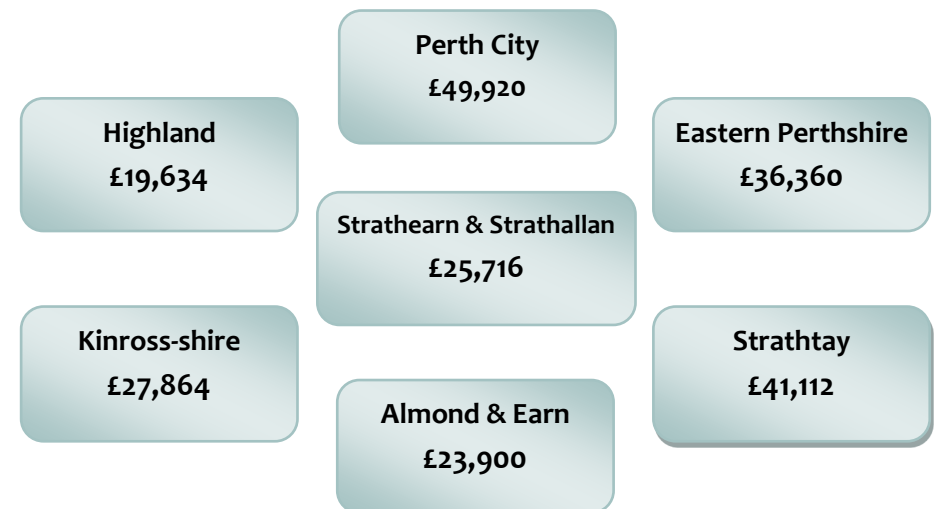
The Green Living Fund was delivered in partnership between PKC Community Planning, Community Learning and Development (CLD) Team and PKC Climate Change Team.

The Fund, which was divided into 7 local Action Partnership areas, opened 30th October 2023 and closed on 15th December 2023. Screening of applications took place before projects went to the public vote on 12th February 2024 to 1st March 2024.



Funding per Action Partnership area

Funding was divided into 7 Action Partnership areas by population:



46 Community groups applied

38 Community groups received funding

32 Voting pop-up locations over Perth and Kinross



The Participatory Budget Process

CONSUL was selected as the online platform used throughout the process, from applications to public voting. CLD staff delivered an online and several face to face workshops to inform community groups about the application process and criteria of the fund.

12 community groups that had applied responded to a questionnaire providing feedback on the CONSUL platform. 58% of groups said they thought the experience of registering on the platform was good.

What has gone well?

- ⇒ Communities were able to see whole process online from submitted applications to awards
- ⇒ Ability to amend the application form
- ⇒ Groups told us that an online recorded workshop was beneficial for understanding the application process and criteria. It could also be watched at applicants convenience
- ⇒ Voters said they liked the “wallet” method of voting as it was a more focused and engaging way to make decisions around spending public money, being given a total amount to spend and select their favourite projects until their wallet was empty

What were the challenges/barriers?

- ⇒ Applicants were required to download and complete a separate part to the application form
- ⇒ Applicants and voters were required to register using their details with MyScot.gov or with CONSUL
- ⇒ Some Action Partnership members unclear of role within the process
- ⇒ Young people ineligible to vote due to registration age
- ⇒ Digital inclusion limited individuals participating in voting

Removing Barriers to Participation

To increase participation of those digitally excluded, Community Learning and Development (CLD) staff organised voting pop-ups throughout Perth and Kinross, particularly in the most rural areas to help reduce transport challenges. Many voting pop-ups were organised alongside community activities, such as Warm Spaces. A few were stand-alone pop-ups in local community halls.

2050 individuals over Perth and Kinross placed their votes.

479 (23%) of these individuals' attended pop-up events and using a pre-registered 'dummy' account.



What has gone well?

- ⇒ Increase in participants that voted from CLD staff attending community-led events
- ⇒ Outreach increased awareness of the project and knowledge of PB process
- ⇒ CLD staff adaptability to carry out hybrid format of voting to reduce individual anxieties of the online voting process
- ⇒ Brief summary sheets of projects or display boards simplified information and voting time
- ⇒ Library drop-ins increased opportunities for voting

What were the challenges/barriers?

- ⇒ Few or no voters at stand-alone pop ups
- ⇒ Libraries had few participants drop in
- ⇒ Promotion for voting delayed due to duration of panel sifting, providing no time prior to voting period for groups to publicise
- ⇒ Applicants say they missed the opportunity to showcase their project at a local event
- ⇒ People reported difficulties in registering with or signing in with MyGov.Scot

What Have We Learned?

- ⇒ Outreach to local community-led groups increased participation and awareness of the Fund and process.
- ⇒ Recorded workshops available online for future use is beneficial to groups.
- ⇒ Community groups generally liked the online application process.
- ⇒ A hybrid (paper copy) option would increase participation of those digitally excluded or time limited.
- ⇒ An alternative age-appropriate online option would increase participation of young people.
- ⇒ A shorter 50 word project summary question on application would reduce reading material and encourage voters to fully engage with all applications.
- ⇒ Action Partnership members would benefit from having the opportunity to join the main application sifting panel to help define their role.
- ⇒ Local PB events would increase community involvement by building awareness and increase community spirit encouraged by applicants.



**Green Living
Fund**

“Thank you for coming along and talking to our lunch club members and volunteers as this gave them the opportunity to hear about all the projects and encouraged them to get involved and not only support our project but decide on their other preferred projects.”

“We wouldn’t have done this at home, thanks for giving us the opportunity”

“Not everyone can or wants to use technology. So having more voting stations for paper votes. e.g. there were none in our parish, may have encouraged more participation. And as we know the bigger population centres have an in-built advantage on numbers of votes over the rural areas.”

“Thank you for doing this, it has been useful to allow people to be able to vote for their preferred projects, to help them show their support to projects in the area.”