

# PKC Locality PB Fund 24/25

## Evaluative Report

### Overview

A total amount of £100,000 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 the cost-of-living.

The fund would be used in four targeted localities based on data analysis from ACORN and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). These local localities were Central & North Perth; Rattray; South Crieff and Coupar Angus, Meigle & Alyth. Allocations were divided across the localities based on income-deprived population ratio from SIMD data.

The Locality PB fund project was delivered in partnership between PKC Community Planning, Community Learning and Development (CLD) Team, PKC Communications Team and a PKC Poverty Taskforce representative.



### Funding amount per locality:

Perth City, North & South

£47,837.22

South Crieff

£18,846.76

Coupar Angus, Alyth & Meigle

£18,846.76

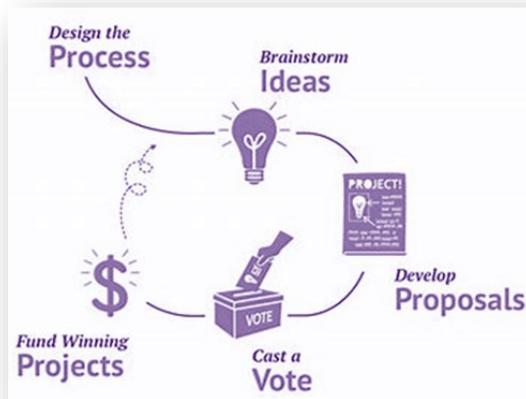
Rattray

£16,625.41

## The PB Process

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

The Locality PB Fund opened for applications from 2nd December 2024 to 7th February 2024. Applications went to the public vote on 17th February and closed 7th March 2025.



## Increasing Community Participation

Following the previous years on-line voting only option, which created some barriers for people wishing to vote, CLD staff organised voting events within each PB locality where individuals could take part using a paper vote. Applicant groups were invited to attend to help promote their application projects and their group/organisation.

Additionally, in the three rural localities, CLD staff attended Warm Spaces and local groups to inform local people and offer the opportunity for attendees vote. Ballot boxes were also placed in designated community hubs or shops to help remove barriers of digital skills and transport to voting events.

53

community groups applied

28

projects received funding

2516

individuals in all 4 localities voted

37%

of individuals voted online

63%

of individuals used paper vote

5

voting events

10

schools took part in voting

639

primary school pupils voted

160

high school pupils voted

## What has gone well?

- ⇒ Increased awareness of PB in priority area schools. Head teachers fed back it was a positive experience for pupils.
- ⇒ Fund worked well in targeted areas with an increase in the number of individuals taking part in voting.
- ⇒ There was an increase of around 800 children and young people participating in voting compared to the previous year.
- ⇒ Applicants creating promotional methods using unique engagement tools to increase awareness and generate votes.
- ⇒ Partners, campuses and schools were highly committed and invested in promoting community participation.
- ⇒ Applicants fed back they enjoyed networking opportunities at events, creating new connections and collaborations.
- ⇒ Partnership working with community groups, volunteers and schools to deliver community voting events.
- ⇒ Outreach increased awareness of the projects and knowledge of PB process.
- ⇒ Availability of paper voting alongside online voting increased participation.
- ⇒ Ballot boxes well utilised in some rural areas.

## What were the challenges/barriers?

- ⇒ In person voting was lower than expected in three of the five voting events.
- ⇒ Applicants fed back they would have liked some time to collaborate with others to create better partnership projects prior to submitting applications.
- ⇒ Requirement of voters to register using their personal details with MyScot.gov, was reported as a barrier by many.
- ⇒ PKC promotion was described as less visible in some communities compared to promotion led by applicants themselves.
- ⇒ Some smaller groups did not have the resources to promote their projects, relying instead on staff or PKC promotions.
- ⇒ Some communities experienced confusion due to the fund's criteria closely resembling the PKC Community Investment Fund.



## What Have We Learned?

- ⇒ Increase opportunities for community groups to collaborate prior to the application process.
- ⇒ Consolidate funding into a single pot to reduce confusion and improve smaller groups' chances of securing project funding.
- ⇒ Use a more simplified online platform that limits barriers to both applicants and voters.
- ⇒ Consider using the straightforward 3 or 5 votes process.
- ⇒ Continue to increase participation from schools, campuses, and partners.
- ⇒ Have promotional material ready prior to process for shaping to localities and for community use.
- ⇒ Support applicants to work together to create publicity and events to increase buy-in from communities.
- ⇒ Set timescales that avoid financial year end.
- ⇒ Events should be scheduled alongside other community activities for better engagement.



*“On behalf of Rattray Primary School and our Parent Council I would like to thank Perth and Kinross Council for the opportunity to apply for the PB funding. We are delighted to have been successful and look forward to hearing about the experiences the children will have as a result of this funding boost. Thank you also for helping us through the process, it was much appreciated.”*

*“We’ve linked up with Nest [Creative Spaces] who will create a banner for us. And we will link up for future crafting activities for children”*

*“Its great to have a face to face opportunity to speak to the community and connect with other groups”*

*“Well done for running this, I feel it is important that the team get recognised for the work they have done.”*