

Evaluation of the SCF Participatory Budgeting Pilot

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Background

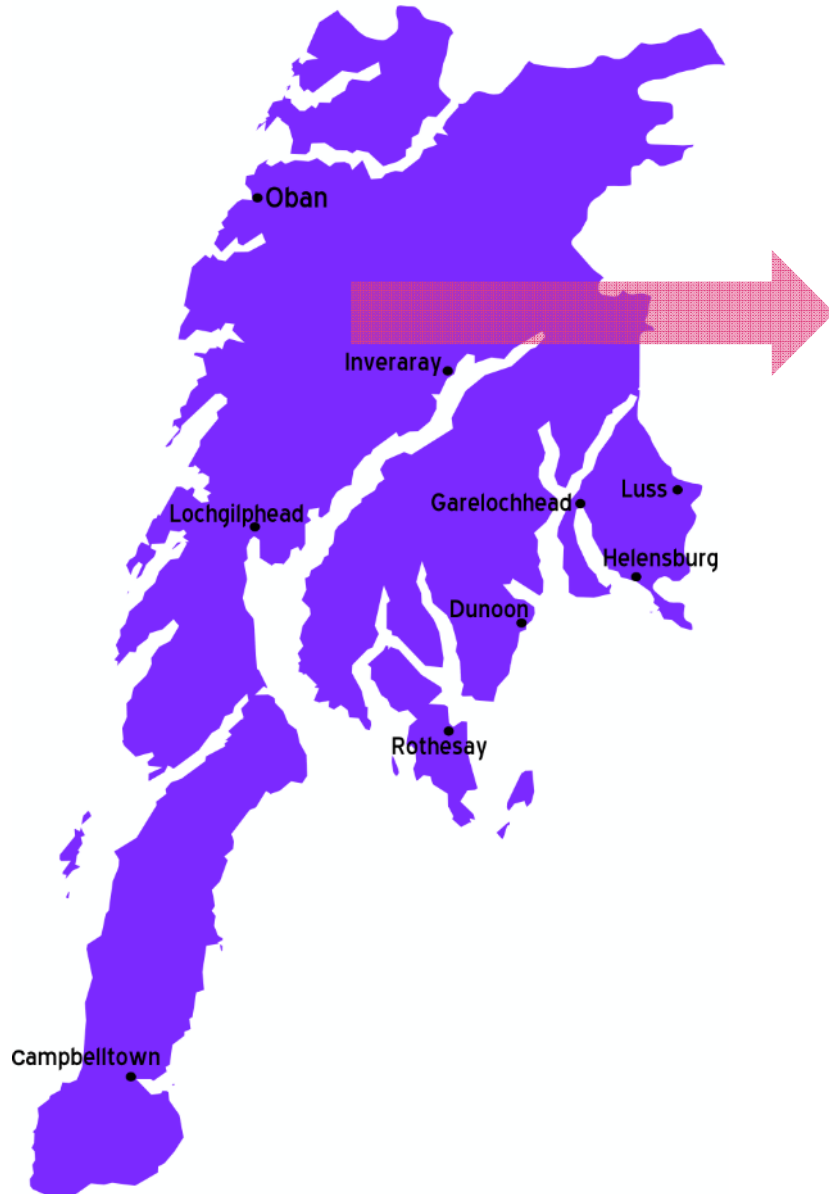
Background:

- *SG aim: 1% LA budget through Community Choices by 2020/21 (PB is a tool for this)*
- *First time PB on a LA-wide scale with 4 area budgets*
- *Digital delivery*

Method:

1. *Desk Research*
 2. *Focus Groups*
 3. *Surveys*
 4. *Telephone interviews*
- *Limitations*

The PB-pilot in Argyll and Bute



- **Voter turnout: 4,686 voters**
→ 6.4% population
- **Young people and elderly people underrepresented**
- **Half voters voted in the first weekend**
- **<25% voted for maximum projects**
- **47% voted for only 1 project**
- **£51k additional cost to deliver £110k funding – higher costs trialling variety of marketing, and learning as pilot**

Views on the Process

- *Application was straightforward, voting was easy*
- *Website worked well → small improvements*
- *Promotion*
 - *Face to face took lot of resources*
 - *Word of mouth (includes e-mail)*
 - *Is this role Council or projects?*

Views on the Process

- *Involvement of Elected Members in deciding which projects went forward to voting was questioned*
- *Applicants mobilised people known to them, rather than engaged wider public*
- *Perception: small communities cannot compete with larger population centres → evidence shows otherwise*

Views on the Principle

- *Satisfaction with outcome*
- *Widespread satisfaction with role Council and support of Council staff*
- *Location and reputation was leading, rather than quality of project*
- *Some evidence of strategic voting, but also lack of understanding*
- *Some evidence of positive community engagement (online) and empowerment*

Views on the Principle

- *Most consultees support SCF delivery through PB in future*
- *But: concerns cost leads to less funding available for community groups*
- *Minority: principle objections against PB*
- *Little appetite to introduce PB for mainstream Council budgets*

A photograph of five classic red telephone booths lined up against a grey stone building. Each booth has a crown on top and the word 'TELEPHONE' on a sign above the door. The booths are connected by a thin metal line. The ground in front is paved with light-colored tiles.

Thank you!

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