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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Alliance Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 June 2018</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Miriam McKenna</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Miriam McKenna</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>712042</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Participatory Budgeting/Community Choices Responses</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present responses received from partners regarding opportunities for Participatory Budgeting (PB) in Inverclyde. It also sets out suggestions for taking forward PB in Inverclyde.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Alliance Board on 11 December 2017, a report on the Community Choices Framework was discussed

- 2.2 Community Choices is defined as:

‘Community Choices budgeting supports a democratic and engaged citizenship by enabling local people to have a direct say in how a defined public budget can be used to address their priorities. It is one method of community engagement that can be used alongside other models of empowerment as part of a wider approach to advancing participatory democracy.’

- 2.3 It was agreed at the meeting of the Alliance Board on 19 March that Alliance Board members be asked to identify opportunities for participatory budgeting in Inverclyde. In addition, it was also agreed that the Alliance Board be asked to identify any resources which could be used to develop participatory budgeting locally.
- 2.4 Responses were received from CVS Inverclyde, West College Scotland and Councillor Robertson and these are summarised at paragraph 4.
- 2.5 Inverclyde Council has agreed to provide £50,000 per ward (£350,000 in total) to be distributed via PB. No indications of any other resources were offered by partners, but CVS Inverclyde would be interested in discussing opportunities for them to facilitate the process on behalf of the partnership.
- 2.6 Delivering PB/Community Choices effectively will require dedicated resource, and the Board are asked to consider whether CVS Inverclyde could be contracted to carry this out.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- a. Notes the responses regarding opportunities for progressing PB in Inverclyde
- b. Agrees to hold discussions with CVS Inverclyde, Inverclyde Council Community Learning and Development and any other interested Community Engagement organisation to facilitate the local PB process

- c. Identifies any further resources, including indirect contributions that could be utilised to develop Participatory Budgeting locally.

**Miriam McKenna**  
**Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 At the meeting of the Alliance Board on 11 December it was agreed to ask partners to identify opportunities for Participatory Budgeting (PB) in Inverclyde. Partners were also asked to consider what resources, including financial, they can contribute to the development of participatory budgeting in Inverclyde.

4.2 A summary of the suggestions is set out below:

- Participatory Budgeting should be used to gain involvement of people and communities in the LOIP priorities – in other words, activities funded through it should be about environment, growth and reducing inequalities.
- PB should be geographically based – the three big localities are too wide an area for genuine community involvement in this. They should however tie into the locality plans.
- PB would be a more interesting way for Inverclyde Council to distribute grants to voluntary organisations
- PB should be done through one pot (not different partners with different pots) and delivered through a single model.
- The process of PB needs to be resourced properly – we need to engage across the whole communities, including those that have been hard to reach in previous consultations
- PB would be a really interesting way for community planning partners to seek to create a more “compassionate” Inverclyde – build stronger community resilience / reduce loneliness
- Other local authorities have developed models that are worthy of further review and provide opportunity to learn from practice that has been proven to be effective. In particular:
  - How you use technology to broaden participation to reach all communities
  - How you extend it to participation in the design of projects
  - How you avoid the process feeling like “consultation” – communities need to own it rather than take part in it – how do we get events run by communities?
  - How we motivate mass participation –develop community events and fun days etc.

The Alliance should capitalise on how good Inverclyde is in engaging with young people and involve young people in commissioning services. This could be vulnerable young people or young people that are involved with the Police, College, CLD etc. and would tie in particularly well with the Year of the Young Person. We need to build on the successful Joint Children’s Services inspection report and this would be a natural evolution from what we are currently doing and move things on in an innovative way. Advocacy Officers would be able to provide support.

It has been suggested that a piece of work needs to be carried out in order to map the priorities of each partner organisation on the Alliance Board against the priorities in the LOIP. This would allow areas of commonality to be identified and also highlight where there are gaps and duplication. Resources could then be targeted at filling the gaps and areas of commonality across partners. Currently, some organisations are not yet in a position to make a final decision as to their contribution to participatory budgeting and achieving the priorities in the LOIP. Partners are requested to give consideration to opportunities for indirect contributions, possibly in the form of resources.

4.3 Other opportunities which have previously been suggested including particular pots of funding e.g. anti-poverty initiatives, waivers budget, within the PB process. A number of pots of money could be brought together and community groups could apply under different strands through the same process, with communities making the decision on how this money is spent.

4.4 It is suggested that the process begin with the grant making process to get communities used to PB, and then moving on to making decisions on specific budgets.

4.5 CVS Inverclyde, Inverclyde Community Learning and Development and other interested community engagement organisations offer the opportunity to support and facilitate PB. This would support partners in looking at potential indirect contributions including:

- Strong understanding of local communities
- An ability to communicate and connect with active citizens across geography and theme
- Money from outside the area being brought in through funding applications
- Encouraging people to volunteer as well as participate
- Support to the community to fundraise additional resources that are needed
- Formation of new community led action
- Development of social enterprise / micro-enterprise.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications: Financial implications are unknown at present. Work requires to be undertaken to cost the process of rolling out PB.

5.2 Human Resources: none at present

5.3 Legal: none at present

5.4 Equalities: It will be important to ensure that the PB process used in Inverclyde does not just benefit those who are already involved in their communities or who already have the capacity to be involved. Work will require to be undertaken to engage with communities/people with protected characteristics, but also to ensure those with lower socio-economic status engage.

5.5 Repopulation: none at present

## 6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 n/a

## 7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage/CommEmpowerBill>

Agenda item 9: Community Empowerment Act Update

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-2017/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-20-march-2017>

Agenda item 7: Participatory Budgeting

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-2017/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-19-june-2017>

Agenda item 11: Community Choices Framework

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-2017/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-11-december-2017>

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