

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**ANGUS COUNCIL – 4 NOVEMBER 2021**

**PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**

**REPORT BY ALISON SMITH - INTERIM DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides information on the proposals received in the 2020/21 round of Participatory Budgeting in Angus and seeks approval of the recommended proposals to progress to the public vote.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) notes the work on Participatory Budgeting to date; the work carried out by the Short Life Working Group (SLWG), the diverse range of proposals submitted in each locality and subsequently recommended by the SLWG to progress for consideration by members; and
- (ii) approves the final list of proposals to progress to the public vote from 15 - 21 November 2021

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COUNCIL PLAN**

2.1 Participatory budgeting activity contributes to the following outcomes in the Council Plan 2019-2024:

**ECONOMY**

- An inclusive and sustainable economy
- A skilled and adaptable workforce
- Attractive employment opportunities

**PEOPLE**

- The best start in life for children
- More opportunities for people to achieve success
- Improved physical, mental and emotional health, and well-being

**PLACE**

- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment
- A reduced carbon footprint
- Safe, secure, vibrant, and sustainable communities
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**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a way for communities to have a direct say in how Local Authorities spend their money and is a tool for community engagement and a resource to build on the wider development of a participatory democracy in Scotland.

3.2 Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 8 June 2021 considered and agreed the procedure for Participatory Budgeting for 2020/21 (Report [195/21](#) refers)

3.2 Information Report 275/21 highlighted the progress for 2020/21 and noted changes to the timeline to further support effective engagement and development of proposals.

#### 4. PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 All areas highlighted in report 195/21 have progressed as follows;

- a. Information about the process and the criteria required for proposals was issued to Angus Council services; Community Planning partners; Third Sector Interface and Collaborative; as well as small businesses and social enterprises on 2 August 2021. Formal applications were then invited with a return deadline of 27 August 2021.
- b. A short life working group (SLWG) was established following a request for volunteers to take part consisting 5 Angus Community Council Chairs; 2 members to represent the local third sector; 3 former LEADER Local Action Group members; 1 member from Dundee and Angus College; and Council officers.

4.2 In addition to this, the SLWG:

- a. Agreed Terms of Reference as set out in **Appendix 1**
- b. Agreed the deadline for submissions be extended to 6 September 2021 and, to ensure fairness and agreed not to accept any proposals received after this date.
- c. Assessed each proposal against the criteria as agreed by Policy and Resources Committee in Report 195/21, i.e.:
  - focus on addressing inequalities and aligned to recovery and renewal post Covid.
  - be a project not already in the Council's plans – although projects that 'add value' to existing proposal would be eligible.
  - not have revenue (ongoing) or design costs.
  - be deliverable in time frame; and
  - meet any legal requirements.

4.3 To ensure a fair, inclusive and representative assessment, all proposals were assessed by 3 individual members of the SLWG with those proposals with a majority yes vote going forward for approval to progress to a public vote by Angus Council elected members. SLWG members did not assess any bids from their own locality or where they had a conflict of community and/or geographic interest. This is a similar process to that used for many years for the Leader Programme and allows openness in assessment. as well as peer scrutiny of final recommendations.

#### 5. CURRENT POSITION

5.1 A total of 92 proposals were received totalling £878,784.56 . Members are reminded that £260,000 is available - £65,000 for each of the four localities. . Projects totalling more than that sum can go forward to the public vote however and monies will be allocated according the results of the vote only up to a total of £65,000 per locality.

5.2 As a result of the assessment process highlighted above, a total of 68 projects are recommended for approval to progress to final vote.

The Locality breakdown is detailed in the table below

	No of Groups who applied	Total value of Bids Received	Final List of Projects presented to committee	Total value of Bids recommended to be put through to vote
Arbroath	15	£ 159,184.00	9	£ 84,464.00
Brechin & Montrose	19	£ 200,794.00	11	£ 88,074.00

Carnoustie, Monifieth & Sidlaw	17	£ 299,755.24	15	£ 283,755.24
Forfar, Kirriemuir & Glens	41	£ 219,051.32	33	£ 183,461.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>£ 878,784.56</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>£ 639,755.23</b>

A summary of those proposals recommended for approval are detailed in **Appendix 2**.

Those proposals that are not recommended for progression are detailed in **Appendix 3**. Unsuccessful applicants will be supported and signposted to other funding opportunities.

## 6. NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 Following Council approval of the final list to go to the public vote, the final list of proposals will be publicised through Angus Council communication channels and Social Pinpoint where the public will be made aware of the projects and the voting process. As agreed by Committee in Report Number 195/21 voting on the projects will be held from 15 – 21 November 2021. To minimise barriers to inclusion, the Vibrant Communities team will promote opportunities for the public to access online voting and work with partners to utilise any events as well as buildings and the mobile libraries within the more rural communities to ensure access to digital devices.
- 6.2 The Policy and Resources committee, at its meeting of 8 June 2021 agreed that Consul should be the voting platform used for this round of Participatory Budgeting. As reported in September due to COVID-19 implications on resource, it has not been possible to install Consul in time for this year's public vote event, however we are utilising Social Pinpoint, which the public are familiar with from the previous PB vote. We are confident that Consul will be installed, information migrated and staff trained for the 21/22 PB process

The timeline for the next steps is detailed below:-

Date	Action
8 November onwards	Communications to public of agreed projects and voting process
15 to 21 November	Public vote (online via Social Pinpoint)
Week commencing 22 November	Identify successful projects
	Inform successful applicants
16 December	Report final projects selected to Angus Council committee
31 March 2022	Evaluation and reports from projects

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications over and above the monies already earmarked in the General Fund Reserve.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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