

Agenda Item 20

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Report

Subject : Salisbury Area Board's Participatory Budgeting initiative
Report to : The Cabinet
Date : Wednesday 28 January 2009
Author : Marianna Dodd, Project Manager Salisbury Area Board
Cabinet Member for Community Initiatives : Councillor Brian Dalton

1. Report Summary:

- 1.1 This information included in this report and accompanying papers is intended to inform the Committee of a participatory budgeting initiative approved by Salisbury Area Board as part of its development phase.
- 1.2 It is intended that the report will provide the information necessary for the Committee to be able to release the sum of £30k as the pot of money used to fund community projects identified through the participatory budgeting process.

2. Background:

- 2.1 Salisbury City is one of twelve community areas chosen to pilot Area Boards and test aspects of local governance as part of, and in readiness for the transition to a Unitary Authority.
- 2.2 Wiltshire is committed to engaging with the process of Participatory Budgeting (PB) through the development phase of its Area Boards and Salisbury was identified as one of two areas, along with Calne, to pilot this initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to test and evaluate the process of PB in Salisbury with the intention of developing a broader programme rolling out PB across all community areas in Wiltshire.
- 2.3 In order to ensure the initiative is managed well, the project has enlisted the help and support of The Participatory Budgeting Unit (PBU), a charity partially funded by Communities and Local Government to support the implementation of PB in England.

The PBU defines PB as:

'Participatory Budgeting is a method where local people decide how to allocate part of a public budget. It directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget and aims to increase transparency, accountability, understanding and social inclusion in local government affairs.'



Awarded in:
Housing Services
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The government hopes that all local authority areas will be using PB by 2012.

3. The Project

- 3.1 Following the decision to undertake PB in Salisbury, the Chair Cllr Paul Clegg and Project Manager, Marianna Dodd attended a PBU conference which outlined good practice elsewhere in the country. Feedback to the Salisbury Area Board led to a decision to enlist the support of a consultant adviser to the PBU, Leslie Silverlock, Local Improvement and Neighbourhood Renewal Adviser whose first task was to give a presentation to members and provide guidance on PB methodology, including its values, principles and standards. Leslie has been very impressed by the commitment of the Salisbury Area Board and steering group to make PB happen, communicating this back to the PBU and at the PB Conference at Taunton. **(Appendix 1)**
- 3.2 As the Salisbury Area Board had chosen young people as its target group for testing aspects of local governance, a decision was made to adopt 'young people engaging with disabilities' as its target group for the PB initiative. This was supported by the PB steering group.
- 3.3 A steering group for PB has been established which is primarily made up of stakeholders committed to the delivery of services to young people including those involved in setting up the Youth Council in Salisbury. Every effort is being made to make the appropriate links to ensure we build on best practice and expertise already being delivered in the Youth Development Services and to build sustainability into the project. For instance, youth development workers working within the PB project will also be gaining insight into how best to engage young people in the Salisbury Area Board post July, 2009, from looking at how meetings are organised to how they will participate in public meetings.
- 3.4 The steering group has met on a number of occasions to agree a project plan and timescale for delivery. **(Appendix 2)**. A PB event has been planned for the 21 March, 2009.
- 3.5 The benefits to undertaking PB, in respect of this project and target group, include:
 - supporting the 'duty to involve' enabling Wiltshire Council to comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 in providing a process of citizen engagement.
 - involving the target group of young people and associated citizens, stakeholders, councillors, public sector representatives and local government officers working together toward a joint aim
 - increasing the voice of the target group of young people in local decision making
 - focusing on young people, the project will be including a group of people not traditionally engaged in budget and policy decisions
- 3.6 Local authorities are to be able to devolve up to 5% of their budget for youth service to young people's influence in 2010 and 2011. The government's long term aspiration is that, by 2018, young people could actively shape decisions on 25% of local authorities' budgets for positive activities. Testing the process of PB should provide an insight into how this works in practice as young people will be invited to demonstrate, through presentations, their views and aspirations for community projects, chosen by them and funded through Salisbury District Council.

Cllr Paul Clegg, supported by members of the Salisbury Area Board, initiated the request for £30k from Salisbury District Council, as the pot of money to be used for community projects which would be identified by young people involved in the PB project. The £30k will be split between x number of separate pots, a decision to be made by the steering group. The £30k will be administered through the offices of Niki Lewis, Service Director for Community Leadership and Governance at Wiltshire Council and ring-fenced for Salisbury Area Board's participatory budgeting project.

It has been agreed that operational funding for the PB project will be met by Wiltshire County Council.

3.7 Success criteria for the project will include:

Involve and engage Area Board members in PB initiative	Pilot Area Board agree & support initiative
Empower relevant local groups and organisations to bid for money	Members sit on Steering Group
Resident participation in decision making	Members attend and engage with the Event
Establish processes and accountability lines that are clear, concise and productive	Some of the bids are from local groups
Aim to meet citizen's & young people's quality expectations	Some of the bids are from organisations
	X number of residents attended
	Residents engage with the presentations, voting and overall activities
	All participants are clear about the processes
	Residents are clear about the voting and decision making process
	Evaluation, survey, questionnaire/video of event

4. Consultation undertaken

4.1 One of the many benefits of working in partnership, in this case with the Youth Development Services, is the opportunity to tap into consultation processes already undertaken for this target group of young people. In this respect, and due to the short timeframe of the project, the steering group has agreed that the project will draw on information collated, i.e., through reviews of young people's views of their needs in the Young People's Plan.

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is requested to consider the contents of this report and accompanying papers noting the recommendation to:

- Approve funding of £30k for community projects in Salisbury identified through the young people's participatory budgeting project

6. Background papers

- 6.1 Appendix 1: Salisbury November update to PB event in Taunton
6.2 Appendix 2: PB Project Plan

7. Implications:

- **Financial** : One off savings have been identified within the current approved budget to allow for the £30,000 funding.
- **Legal** : None
- **Human Rights** : None
- **Personnel** : None
- **Community Safety** : None
- **Environmental** : None
- **Council's Core Values:** Adoption of the recommendations will support the following core values:
 - provide excellent service
 - promote a thriving local economy
 - promote fairness and equality of opportunity of opportunity for all
 - communicate, especially listening and responding
 - be open and honest
 - meet local needs
 - work together
 - achieve practical results
- **Wards Affected** : all.

Context

Wiltshire is committed to PB and has identified Calne and Salisbury as pilots. The County is to become a Unitary Authority with Area Boards; Salisbury will also have a Parish Council. These are potentially radical changes, seen to be presenting a number of opportunities and threats.

Preparation

Marianna Dodd, the Area Board Manager, has prepared key decision makers well, to a state of readiness, and secured the promise of a budget. There is also a Steering Group of other partners and advisers. The new Board's Chair was inspired by the PB Conference.

The Salisbury Area Board is constituted of elected members, Police, Fire & Rescue, Health, Education and supported by WCC CE Keith Robinson and Carolyn Hamblett, Director of Children & Families

The Focus of the PB Project

will be the empowerment of young people. Decisions are currently being made about whether to focus on

- All young people across the City
- A specific target group of young people e.g. at risk; housebound carers
- A neighbourhood group in a residential area

Links

are being made with the Children and Young People's Plan, the Community Plan / LAA, Youth Opportunities Fund, Planning Section 106.

Some next steps include

1. Securing budgets
2. Identifying the target group
3. Set performance criteria
4. Form a planning group of young people
5. Conduct risk assessments
6. Put monitoring template in place

Limitations

Marianna Dodd, who is driving the programme thoroughly, has the management and facilitation of all the Area Board's work to co-ordinate, as well as piloting this PB Project.

Advantages

Strong political balance and commitment. They are already looking at a bigger budget for the next financial year. The REIP is likely to be interested.

Leslie Silverlock

11.11.8

APPENDIX 2

**SALISBURY AREA BOARD
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING
PROJECT PLAN**

Aim	To involve young people in developing, prioritising and delivering projects via relevant groups and/or organisations across the city of Salisbury
Target Group	Young people engaging with disabilities
Objectives	To explore a new way to engage young people in To act as pioneer and learn from the process and communicate this to other Area Boards in Wiltshire
Where	Salisbury City, Wiltshire
Structure	Establish priorities from reviews of young people's views of their needs (Young People's Plan, etc) Organisations who work with young people, youth groups (including young carers) across the city will be informed about the PB pilot through publicity and existing (Youth Development Service networks) Bids will be invited and checked for legality
Stakeholders	Salisbury Area Board (Councillors, Police, Fire & Rescue, Health, Education, Salisbury Area Partnership) Wiltshire County Council Salisbury District Council Youth Development Services
Task Group	A task group has been set up made up of representatives from the Youth Development Service, WCC and PB Unit A representative/s or group of young people will work with the task group to design and advise on the process
Funding	An estimated 30K from Salisbury District Council (to be approved) Operational costs will be met by Wiltshire County Council Other sources of funding being investigated
Timeline	Stage A: Preparations Nov-Dec, 2008 Steering Group formed to drive process Funding identified Project plan; communications plan Stage B: Initial Ground Work Jan-Feb, 2009 Briefing & publicity material prepared Invitations sent out to bid into pot of money Information packs and applications sent out Stage C: The decision making event Mar-April, 2009 Young people will be given materials to make a creative display about their project and asked to make a short presentation to the other groups bidding for money Participants may prioritise projects using e-voting. Stage D: Follow-up procedures April, 2009
In Scope	Planning & Promoting the PB project Learning & development Working on the PB project Facilitating & supporting the event Bids from appropriate groups and organisations (not individuals)
Out of Scope	On-going work Administering funding
Post Event	Unsuccessful projects will be given advice on potential pockets of funding After the event money will be allocated to the groups and support given to help them spend it.
What should it achieve?	Demonstrate how young people can become involved in prioritising their needs and designing projects. Provide information through the evaluation process for Area Boards to work with PB. Produce a DVD Young people to be involved in implementing their projects