

REPORT TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 MARCH 2022

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN ABERDEENSHIRE SCHOOLS 2022/23

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 Following on from the successful Participatory Budgeting (PB) process in schools 2021-22, this report sets out proposals for the continuation of PB process in 2022-23 involving pupils from P7-S6 across Aberdeenshire. The focus of this project will contribute to Aberdeenshire Councils Climate Ready Action Plan and will form part of the Council's commitment to see 1% of its available budget distributed through PB.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider the review to date of the successful 2021-22 PB process, the first of its kind in Aberdeenshire Schools (Appendix 1); and

1.2.2 Agree the distribution of £85,000 in 2022-23 to fund projects with a focus on Climate/Carbon Reduction in line with Council Priorities, across 17 school networks as agreed by Full Council in June 2021 (Item 14).

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 In June 2021 ([Item 14](#)), Full Council agreed £85,000 of funds to be allocated to this project to support Covid recovery by encouraging schools and young people to focus on positive mental health and wellbeing projects and activities within schools across Aberdeenshire.

2.2 The attached Participatory Budgeting in Aberdeenshire Schools report (**Appendix 1**) demonstrates the success of 2020-21 PB process.

2.3 Following on from 2020-21 successful PB project this report seeks agreement for the PB process to be further extended and undertaken again in partnership with Young Scot. The PB process will take place between April and August 2022, with successful applications funded from September through to March 2023.

3 Discussion

3.1 Giving young people a voice in their local communities and in decision making processes within the work of the Council has become an embedded way of working since the adoption of the [Aberdeenshire Children & Young People's Charter](#) in 2018.

3.2 Successful PB project ran in partnership between Aberdeenshire Council and Young Scot during 2021-22 with 44 projects being successful in securing funds

to run activities that promoted positive mental health and wellbeing in young people. £63,840 was allocated to these projects. 16 School Networks positively engaged in the process with a total of 37 schools directly benefiting.

- 3.3 Aberdeenshire Schools PB project is a process that empowers young people to make decisions about where a proportion of council budget spend is allocated within a topic that they are committed to.
- 3.4 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction are very much on young people’s agenda. COP26 has created an increased dialogue with young people across Scotland and their issues and concerns have been highlighted as a result. Aberdeenshire has 10 Local COP26 Champions who currently attend Aberdeenshire Schools.
- 3.5 A survey by [Ipsos Mori \(2020\)](#) shows that 84% of the Scottish public are concerned about climate change and that concern is highest among young people - 96% of those aged 16-24 are concerned (Youthlink Scotland).

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priorities ‘Education’ and ‘Health & Wellbeing’ within the Pillar ‘Our People’ and ‘Resilient Communities’ within the Pillar ‘Our Environment’
- 4.2 This report helps deliver against [Aberdeenshire Children’s Services Plan](#)– Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing. This report helps deliver on [Climate Ready Aberdeenshire](#) priorities - Increase the understanding and awareness of climate change risks and opportunities within Aberdeenshire.
- 4.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		X	
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing	X		
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing		X	
Town Centre First			X

- 4.4 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as **Appendix 2** and there is a positive impact as follows: Young people are able to express their views, influence budget decisions and shape activities and opportunities around climate and carbon reduction.

4.5 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has identified the requirement for an impact assessment on Children's Rights and Wellbeing. This IIA evidences no negative impacts identified.

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section E.3.6 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the functions of the Council under the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937.

Laurence Findlay
Director of Education & Children's Services

Report prepared by Nicola Kenyon, Community Learning & Development Team
Leader (Working with Young People)
Date 21 February 2022

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Participatory Budgeting in Aberdeenshire Schools
Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment

Appendix 1

Participatory Budgeting in Aberdeenshire Schools

We Decide... Children and Young People Voting for Change

In June 2021 it was agreed by Full Council that £85,000 would be made available for schools to support covid recovery with a focus on projects that promoted positive mental health and wellbeing of young people.

It was agreed that a participatory budgeting approach process would to be run in schools in partnership with Young Scot, with Community Learning & Development (CLD) leading on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council.

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which citizens decide directly how to spend part of a public budget.

Process:

Process for application, shortlisting of applications for public vote, voting process and allocation of funds were agreed with timescales to these being set and circulated to all schools.

CLD and Young Scot facilitated 2 sessions for Academy and Primary School Head Teachers to familiarise them with the PB process and the online Young Scot PB tool that would be used to facilitate the vote.

Schools were encouraged to support young people, classes, teachers, and local groups to come up with exciting project ideas and apply for funding. Schools then went through an exercise with young people to shortlist the applications each school received, with Primary Schools then putting forward a maximum of one application each and Secondary Schools putting forward a maximum of 2 applications for the public vote.

The chosen applications from schools were then uploaded to the Young Scot PB tool and schools encouraged pupils to vote for their favourite projects. Some schools chose to dedicate part of the school day to allow pupils to cast their vote.

The vote was open to all young people in Primary 7 and Secondary schools across Aberdeenshire. The vast majority of young people in Aberdeenshire are issued with a Young Scot card when they move up to the Academy so had the means to cast their vote. For young people in Primary Schools and for those in Academies who may have lost or misplaced their Young Scot cards temporary numbers were issued. Aberdeenshire Council staff handled the issuing of temporary numbers with a robust process to ensure that young people were not issued with more than one number.

Results:

2 rounds of this process were facilitated:

Round 1: 1st October 2021 until 13th October 2021.

Round 2: 29 November 2021 until 9 December 2021.

44 projects in total were funded from 16 school cluster areas.

1789 voting young people over the two rounds.

£63,839.67 in total has been allocated.

Name of Application	Awarded
Aboyne Academy - Make Lunchtimes Better	1,200
Aboyne Academy - Re-decorating the pond	500
Kincardine O Neil P7s	1,500
Lumphanan School	1,000
Finzean Primary School	500
Alford Academy Student Council	1,000
Alford Academy Improving Outdoor Spaces	1,598
Banchory Academy Support for Learning Garden	1,900
Drumoak Primary School Outdoor Spaces	1,500
Crathes Primary School Prefects	1,350
Banff Primary School	1,400
Whitehills School Nurture Room	1,200
Banff Academy Grow - Our Health & Well-being Space	2,000
Fordyce Primary School Free Play Forest School	400
Westfield School Community Resource Hub	2,000
Gordon Primary Schools	1,650
The Gordon Schools – ASDitude	1,500
The Gordon Schools - TGS Wellbeing Ambassadors and Peer Educators	500
Drumblade Primary School	1,068.54
Strathburn Primary Nature Project	500
Hatton of Fintry School HAPPY HEALTHY ME	2,000
Keithhall Primary School Keithhall Eco Warriors	1,000
Aleshousewells Primary	2,000
Kemnay Academy	1,500
Kintore Primary	1,500
Mearns Academy Outdoor Sensory Space	1,961.13
Mearns Academy M-Power - Mearns Empowered Project	2,000
Daviot Primary – Cluster Project	3,000
Mintlaw Academy	2,000
Pitfour Primary School	2,000

Peterhead Academy Outdoor Spaces	2,000
Peterhead Academy PE Extra Curricular	1,900
Portlethen Academy - Indoor Wellbeing Garden	2,000
Fishermoss Primary School	1,912
Portlethen Primary School	1,100
Mill o Forest Primary School	1,700
Mackie Academy - Mackies Nurtures Wellbeing	1,700
Arduthie Primary School	1,700
Glenbervie School Garden Revival	1,200
Turriff Academy	2,000
Fyvie Primary School Help Hub	1,000
Auchterless Primary School	1,300
Fyvie Primary School Library	700
Westhill Academy Library	400
Total allocated	£ 63,839.67

Reflections:

- Outcomes from this project so far represent a great achievement from young people and the staff of Aberdeenshire, particularly during the time of the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- A very positive and successful project that is currently still delivering a wide range of exciting, innovative and creative projects which support positive mental health and wellbeing in young people.
- Project was well received by schools.
- All projects put forward for vote showed commitment and desire to respond to local needs.
- Schools did very well in engaging young people in the PB process, this would be further built on by continuation of the project.
- Feedback from schools has been very positive.
- Timescales were tight from beginning to end, application and voting timescales were challenging as was the timescale for promoting the project within schools and encouraging applications – beginning the process earlier would increase engagement.
- A more in depth participatory budgeting session with Head Teachers and School Staff would be beneficial to the process.
- Partnership working with Young Scot has worked very well and has demonstrated how PB system can be used within this project but also for other projects school may wish to facilitate using this approach.
- Projects will complete an evaluation form at the end of the funding period which will further evidence impact of the fund in local areas.

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Participatory Budgeting in Aberdeenshire Schools

Assessment ID	IIA-000498
Lead Author	Nicola Kenyon
Additional Authors	Avril Nicol
Service Reviewers	Philip Boath, Avril Nicol, Susan Mcgregor
Subject Matter Experts	Christine McLennan
Approved By	Avril Nicol
Approved On	Tuesday February 22, 2022
Publication Date	Tuesday February 22, 2022

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Continue and extend the Participatory Budgeting process within schools.

During screening 2 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 1 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing

In total there are 5 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by avril.nicol@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	No
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	No Negative Impacts Identified
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Not Required
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe		Yes		
Healthy	Yes			
Achieving		Yes		
Nurtured		Yes		
Active		Yes		
Respected	Yes			
Responsible	Yes			
Included	Yes			

4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child Article 13 - Freedom of expression
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4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Healthy	Young people feel included in decision making and shaping what is needed in their local community school area. Young people increase their confidence and self esteem.
Included	Young people are included in decision making processes and feel part of the wider school community. Young people feel listened to and valued.
Responsible	Young people take responsibility for their actions and understand how their decisions affect others
Respected	Young peoples views are heard and acted upon. Young people shape services and supports appropriate for them
Respected	Young people are respected and as such increase their confidence and self esteem. Young people feel they can make a difference in their communities and their opinions are heard and acted on.

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Young Peoples views	Young People have an interest and are invested in making changes in daily lives to improve climate change	Young people want to be involved and active within climate action

4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Participatory Budgeting process was run in schools in 2021-22 and proved very successful. Young people actively and enthusiastically engaged in the process. COP26 and Aberdeenshire Climate Futures Group has increased young peoples activity locally around climate issues.

4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

The effects of climate change can have negative impact on young peoples mental health and wellbeing - planning for positive educational activity around this issue helps to reduce climate anxiety. Young people expressing their views and these views being heard and acted upon increases young peoples mental health and wellbeing.

4.7. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

Young people vote on their preferred projects, enabling them to give their opinion on what matters to them most, influencing budgets and shaping support, activity and opportunities within their schools

4.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

All impacts are described as positive for young people' development, involvement in their school community and take part in a wider school process.s

5. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
<p>To continue and develop Participatory Budgeting within Aberdeenshire Schools with a new theme of Climate and Carbon Reduction.</p>	<p>Lead Officer Nicola Kenyon</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Monday April 18, 2022</p> <p>Planned Finish Friday March 31, 2023</p> <p>Expected Outcome Young people decide which projects successfully receive funding using the participatory budgeting process, ensuring young people are at the heart of decision making.</p> <p>Resource Implications Use of small portion of 1% of council budget. Staffing support - School staff and CLD staff</p>