Notes from PB event – Table Discussions

Opportunities
- To change how we 'do' democracy and scrutinise whole budgets not just PB grant pots
- Gives communities a voice
- Taking a step back and looking at what we do
- Local people often have solutions
- The benefits of unintended consequences
- Learning from events – what works best?
    o Systems
    o Inclusion
    o Internal and external
- Using YoungScot (North Ayrshire)
- Formic (Fife)
- Blue Peter (East Ayrshire)
    o Sharing system across LA's

Challenges
- Engaging 'PB' as a tool/approach to wider decisions on public budgets beyond PB grant pots
- Overcoming 'professional' culture v. community knows best
- How do you ensure existing organised community interest groups don't dominate individual ideas and swing votes
- How do you include full community engagement in short term annual budget cycle?
- Same key individuals taking part
- How do we move to mainstreaming PB within existing budgets?
- How do we get buy in from services?
- Setting in 1%
- How do you enable the community to be able to talk/pitch/present?
- Digital poverty – how do you ensure interaction?
- How do you find out community issues before PB events?
    o The disconnect between community perception of needs and external perceptions
    o How do you ask the questions?
- How do people articulate their needs if they are ill-equipped to do so? e.g. because of life circumstances?
- Budgeting? – how do you open budgets up?
- Finance for tools (digitalisation)
- Voting twice (trust?)
- Data protection and validation
- In some cases, didn't work for young people
- Sharing across LAs

Questions from Sli.do

1. Is there appetite/support for BP within central government as well as local government?
2. Opportunity for local people to get involved as they often have solutions.
3. If local communities all make similar decisions, is there a route that they can be escalated to a national level delivery programme to get efficiencies?
4. Opportunity to take a step back and look at what we do, why?
5. How do we move to mainstreaming PB within existing budgets?
6. How do we get buy in from services?
7. How to get started?
8. Is there evidence that PB leads to better decisions?
9. How do we navigate the worlds of officers, elected representatives & communities?
10. What should mainstream PB look like in Scotland?
11. How do people articulate their needs? Life circumstances.
12. How do you engage and find out what the community issues are? Connecting between council plans/consultations and the community
13. Online tools and how they are being used. It would be nice to have one digital solution for Scotland!
14. How to influence partners in local area?
15. How do you deal with digital inequalities in certain regions or access to digital tools?
16. How do you enable the community to be able to talk / pitch their ideas / presentations?
17. Having a dedicated PB officer? Yes or No? Pros and cons