

# MANTON

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE



## GOOD PRACTICE NOTE – NOV 2007 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

### Purpose

The purpose of this Good Practice Note is to highlight the Research and Development Manton Community Alliance (MCA) have carried out in developing and evaluation Participatory Budgeting as a method to get residents to make real decisions about how public money is spent in the area.

### Definition

Participatory Budgeting can be defined as “a mechanism of local government (or equivalent), which brings local communities closer to the decision-making process around the public budget. It is a flexible set of community engagement techniques, adaptable to local circumstances, but sharing a common principle: that power lies with those who decide how new money is to be spent. Where it has been tried it has enhanced participation in local democracy whilst improving the delivery and cost-effectiveness of local services.”

### Strategic Links

MCA has been developing Participatory Budgeting because of:

National Links	Local Government White Paper – People and Prosperity DCLG Participatory Budgeting Pilot
Local Links	Promoting democratic activity
Neighbourhood Links	Building sustainable community engagement Promoting democratic activity Involve residents in budgeting decisions

### The Process

In developing a process for Participatory Budgeting MCA were keen to ensure those participating in the process are representative of the general population therefore efforts were made to ensure all age groups and male and female were involved.

The process followed 3 steps to begin spending money:

Step 1: The Top Ten Priorities  
Community prioritisation process – Budget Bingo

Step 2: Where will we spend the £50,000  
Publicise, organise and run first Participatory Budgeting Event



### Step 3: What will we get for our £50,000

Project ideas invited and preparations made for second event

#### Outcomes

National Outcomes	Member of the National Reference Group for Participatory Budgeting National pilot participating in discussions on how Participatory Budgeting can be rolled out across England Local Government White Paper
Local Outcomes	Trial of Participatory Budgeting for Local Partners Residents involved in Local Democracy
Neighbourhood Outcomes	507 resident votes taken over the 3 stages 209 individuals, 53% female and 47% male £50,000 MCA invested in Manton attracting £XX additional activity ? applications received from ? partners 9 projects funded 13 different partners directly involved or benefiting from process

#### Summary

MCA implemented Participatory Budgeting for the financial year 2007/8 using a 3 step process to prioritise issues and then select projects to be funded. Residents made the decisions at all levels.

#### General Information

Participatory Budgeting Unit

[www.pbunit.org.uk](http://www.pbunit.org.uk)

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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