

Participatory Budgets

NETs, Land & Countryside Services

West Lothian Council Approach to “Community Choices”

Background

- “Community Choices” in Scotland
 - Democratic process that empowers communities
 - COSLA and Scottish Government agreed framework
 - Target 1%
 - Local Authorities discretion
- Mainstream Community Choices in West Lothian
 - Target £3.3 million
 - Included budgets covers 9 services areas (e.g. Education, Social Policy, Operational etc.)
 - Coordinated Approach
 - Corporate Community Choices Steering Group
- Community Choices in NETs, Land and Countryside
 - 5 budgets areas agreed
 - Total Budgets £2.694 million – 81% of Target

NETs, Land and Countryside Budgets

- Grounds Maintenance - £1,593m
- Litter Bins – £300k
- Play Areas – £266k
- Public Art £55k
- Open Spaces Planned Improvements - £480k

Proposed Approach to Community Choices

- Open Space Planned Improvements and Play Areas
 - Build on existing consultation and engagement exercises
 - 2 phase approach
 - Stage 1 - Placed Based approach to develop strategic plans for parks
 - Stage 2 – Develop options and use CONSUL for Community voting
- Grounds Maintenance
 - Learn from others (North Ayrshire and COSLA)
 - 3 Phase approach
 - Stage 1 - high level survey consulting on previous budget reductions and service standards
 - Stage 2 - develop options for local areas
 - Stage 3 - Use CONSUL for Community Voting
 - NETs, land and Countryside Working Group

Progress and Next Steps

- Open Space Projects for 2021/22 - Stage 1 Consultation Complete
 - Options for parks being developed
 - Use CONSUL for Community voting in March
- Grounds Maintenance
 - Stage 1 Survey approved by Executive Management Team
 - Stage 1 Consultation in Spring 2021
 - Community Voting in Autumn 2021
- Develop an approach for Litter Bins and Public Art
 - Thoughts?

Questions and Discussion

Approaches taken by other APSE members?