



# Combining Online and Traditional Participatory Budgeting

Combining traditional and online PB voting to reach as many young people as possible.

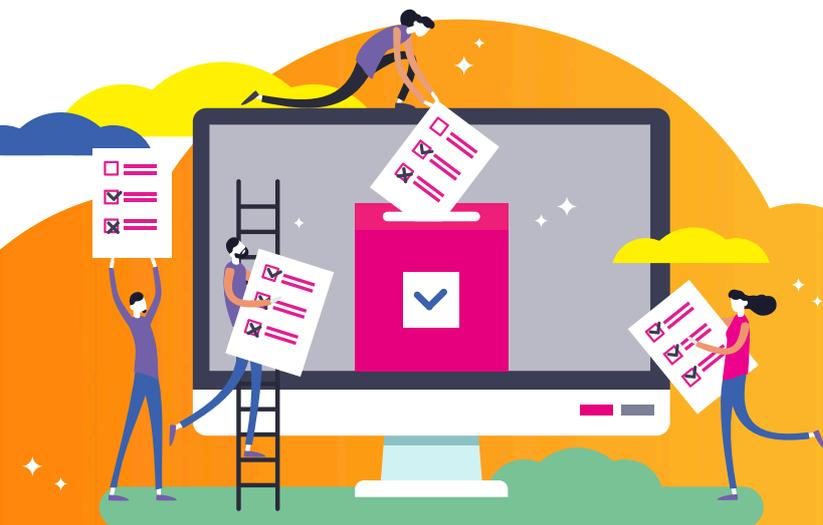
Young people are passionate about issues that affect them and want to have their voices heard by decision-makers. Youth workers, teachers and others have been engaging young people with local and national participation projects for many years. However, face to face methods of participatory budgeting have sometimes missed out young people.

Moray Council worked with Young Scot to run a series of Participatory Budgeting (PB) events in five local areas. The events were unique as they combined the Young Scot e-voting and PB online platform with a traditional showcase event for the projects.



## Events

- Speyside YP Decide – PB event run over one day in October 2018, with £10,000 available funding. Online voting was delivered at a showcase event for projects and closed at the end of the showcase.
- Lossiemouth YP Decide – PB event run over one week in December 2018, with £6,000 available funding. Online voting was opened a week before the showcase.
- Keith YP Decide – PB event run over three days in March 2019, with £5,000 available funding. Online voting was opened a week before the showcase.
- Buckie YP Decide – PB event run over one day in March 2019, with £9,000 available funding. Online voting was delivered at a showcase and closed at the end.
- Elgin YP Decide - Two PB events run in March 2019, with £5,000 available funding for Elgin South and £10,00 available funding for Elgin North. Online voting opened one day before a showcase and results were delivered at the end of the showcase.



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## Process

The PB exercise made use of Young Scot's e-voting and PB online platform, linked to the Young Scot National Entitlement Card (YSNEC). The e-voting used the YSNEC as a unique identifier for young people, enabling to cast votes in their events. Through the YSNEC, partners can be confident that young people aged 11-25 years old are voting, they are only casting one vote and can vote in a specific local authority if need be.

The online voting was combined with a traditional showcase event hosted in the local areas, allowing for face-to-face engagement and discussion of projects. The time the e-voting platform was open varied between projects, ranging from one day to one week. All winning projects were notified at their respective showcase events, and the results were delivered straight after the votes closed.

During the vote, Young Scot provided temporary numbers for each local area, for young people who may not have Young Scot cards. Young Scot also provided a landing page for the votes, detailing the projects further.

The Young Scot robust e-voting and PB online platform saves time and resources by having the system in place, automatically counting the votes and provide a secure voting platform for young people. Our system does not require any additional information from young people, only using valid card numbers, so there is no worry for personal data being lost or stolen.

## Impact

- Over 4,000 young people voted
- 85 projects received funding across Moray's five local areas

## Conclusion

The Young Scot e-voting and PB online platform is a robust system that can be used independently or combined with traditional PB events. The platform empowers young people to decide how money and resources are allocated to local issues important to them. Overall, the platform provides straight-forward, accessible and cost-effective method of engaging with young people.

For more information and if you are interested in collaborating with Young Scot please contact:

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