

Participatory Budgeting – Update for Area Committee

Service Area	HIP Environmental Programme and Estate Improvement Budget	Lead Officer	Cameron Mitchell Jonathan Read
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Stage 1 : Pre Consultation :

- What are we asking the public for their view on (what service is it / description etc)?
- How much funding are we asking about?
- Who are we asking,
- How are we doing this?
- When are we doing this?
- When will we report back?

Kirkton Court Sheltered Housing Complex, Carluke

Engagement with tenants on the overall Housing Revenue Account budget for the 2021/22 period, and the proposed level and focus of the Housing Investment Programme within this took place as part of the annual resource 2021/22 budgetary consultation process. The Environmental aspect of the Housing Investment Programme (the 'Environmental Programme') is a significant budget area that covers a wide range of projects that seek to improve the quality and energy efficiency of the Council's domestic housing stock.

Examples of projects within this budget area can include replacement doors and windows within properties or redevelopment of communal areas in multi-storey buildings or sheltered housing facilities. Not all projects included within this budget area are suitable for inclusion of a participatory budgeting approach, however for those that are, officers will ensure the required element of choice and voting opportunities are offered to customers and appropriately recorded.

To date, one participatory budgeting project has been completed within the Clydesdale area at Kirkton Court Sheltered Housing Complex, Carluke. As part of an internal upgrade programme, residents were offered the opportunity to determine a range of finishes such as flooring, tiles and wall coverings with an initial meeting held to explain the process. Officers prepared 'mood boards' with the relevant styles on them and completed door visits or sent letters to all households within the complex asking them to select their preferred option.

Fence installation at Honeybank Crescent, Carluke

The Estate Improvement Budget totals £40,000 and is split across the four housing divisions of South Lanarkshire. Each local housing management team can direct the funding towards projects or improvements highlighted as a priority by customers of Housing and Property Services. Although not a significant value, the budget is ideally suited for conversion to a participatory budgeting approach as often funds a number of smaller projects that have been highlighted as a priority by customers. Examples for its use recently have been the installation of new fencing and lighting, which the types and design of were consulted on with customers. To date, one project has been completed within the Clydesdale area:

In summer 2021, the local housing office were contacted by tenants reporting concerns with broken and vandalised fencing to the rear of their properties, leading to concerns around security and privacy. Officers engaged with all tenants located in close proximity to the area to understand their preferred solution. From this it was determined by tenants that a replacement fence would be the best option.

Stage 2 : Post Consultation

- The outcome of the PB activity
- What happens next?
- Further reporting requirements (eg required Committee approval)

Kirkton Court Sheltered Housing Complex, Carlisle

A total of 31 households took part in the exercise, with 51% selecting the preferred option from the 'mood boards' and discussions with officers. The project cost is approximately £254,000 however some of the costs were attributed to background works where tenants were not able to determine the outcome.

Fence installation at Honeybank Crescent, Carlisle

Officers arranged for two different fence types to be presented to the tenants and allowed them to vote on which one they would like to see installed. This was achieved through a combination of door visits, and letters and photographs of each style. 11 households took part in the vote, with 90% selecting the preferred result. The project cost a total of £9,406.

Officers from Housing and Technical Resources will continue to take forward opportunities within Clydesdale to ensure tenants and other customers have the opportunity to determine the outcome of budgets within the Environmental Programme and Community Safety Partnership Commissioning Budget, with further updates provided to Committee.