



COMMUNITIES KNOW GORBALS IDEAS FUND STRATEGY

2022 TO 2025



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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The Gorbals Ideas Fund (GIF) was established in April 2018 to promote and advance participatory budgeting across the wider Gorbals area.

The initiative is an independent, community-led action. Local people act as Community Advocates, designing, developing and delivering all of the participatory budgeting activity across the area. The initiative is supported and facilitated by New Gorbals Housing Association, with a Community Budgeting Officer who works with and supports Community Advocates achieve their collective goals.

From 2018 to 2021 GIF activity focused on small grant giving with Projects, Groups and individuals having the opportunity to apply for small grants, from £500.00 to £4000.00, to take forward activity across a range of priorities, including health, the environment and arts and culture. The whole community has then been invited to vote for the projects they wish to support. Since inception in 2018, 2162 local people have voted to fund 68 ideas and activities and in the process, allocated over £111,000.00.

In 2021 the decision was taken to develop a new Participatory Budgeting process whereby local people would have much more control over Gorbals Ideas Fund monies.

Your Priorities launched in January 2022 with the specific aim of involving local people, not just in decisions about who should get funding, but about how funding could and should be directed to meet their chosen priorities.

The Your Priorities process takes the Gorbals Ideas Fund one step closer to the inclusive, discursive and deliberative Participatory Budgeting practice we would like to embed in the community and this revised Strategy sets out our ambitions for this new model of Participatory Budgeting over the next 3 years.



OUR VISION

Our Vision has been updated for 2022-2025. Community Advocates wanted to strengthen the vision to make sure it reflects the what they want to achieve for their community.

**The Gorbals Ideas Fund
educates and empowers local
people to impact the funding
and budget decisions that
affect our lives and our
communities.**



OUR PRINCIPLES

The Gorbals Ideas Fund is based on three principles that put local people at the heart of everything we do:

1 The Gorbals Ideas Fund is led by local people, for local people.

2 All decisions about Gorbals Ideas Fund money are taken collectively, by the whole community.

3 The Gorbals Ideas Fund creates opportunities for local people and groups to tackle inequalities, wide spread challenges and barriers through Participatory Budgeting and Co-production.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Our Aims and Objectives have been updated for 2022 to 2025 to reflect the progress made and the ambitions we have for the coming 3 years.

AIM 1:

To ensure local people have increased, meaningful opportunities to use their experiences, views and opinions to influence decisions.

OBJECTIVES:

We will recruit at least 5 new Community Advocates each year to drive and shape our work.

We will develop a Youth Group to actively engage children and young people.

We will facilitate at least 1 Your Priorities process each year to allow local people, groups and charities opportunities to tackle barriers and challenges that impact on local people.

Local people are at the heart of Your Priorities, acting as idea generators, consultants, developers and deliverers of the ideas most important to them.

Your Priorities gives local people the opportunity to learn more about their community and routes to affect change.

We will ensure equal access through digital voting, community voting events and postal ballots.

We will promote the results of voting widely through our website, social media and partner publications e.g. NGHA newsletter.

OUTCOMES:

Community and Youth Panel members have increased:

- i. Knowledge and understanding of the history, theory and ambitions of PB;
- ii. Knowledge of local democracy;
- iii. Knowledge and understanding of co-production;
- iv. Opportunities to influence PB developments in the Gorbals;
- v. Practical skills in peer based approaches;
- vi. Confidence in their role as a PB champion.

Local people have increased:

- i. Knowledge of the services available in the area;
- ii. Knowledge and understanding of PB;
- iii. Opportunities to influence and control what happens in their communities;
- iv. Feelings of belonging to their community;
- v. Feelings of being valued.

Local Community Groups and Projects have increased:

- i. Knowledge and understanding of PB;
- ii. Opportunities to develop, deliver and test new ideas;
- iii. Share their work with the wider community;
- iv. Opportunities to build networks and connections across the community.

AIM 2:

To ensure local people are empowered and educated about Participatory Budgeting and the proposals and developments that may affect them and their community.

OBJECTIVES:

Community and Youth Advocates members will be fully trained in the history and ethos of Participatory Budgeting and Co-production.

Community and Your Advocates will be fully trained in practical skills including:

- Facilitation
- Peer Education
- Peer Research

We will advocate for transparency and accountability from all local partners and decision makers to ensure the community are adequately informed and involved in decision making.

We will use Peer Education techniques to share information with local people, empowering them to become part of discussions and decision making.

OUTCOMES:

Community and Youth Panel members have:

- i. Increased knowledge and understanding of the history, theory and ambitions of PB;
- ii. Increased knowledge of local democracy;
- iii. Increased knowledge and understanding of co-production;
- iv. Opportunities to influence PB developments in the Gorbals;
- v. Increased practical skills in peer based approaches;
- vi. Confidence in their role as a PB champion.

Local people:

- i. Know what is happening in their community;
- ii. Know how to use PB to drive positive change;
- iii. Are better informed about local democracy, their rights and entitlements;
- v. Have opportunities to collaborate and co-produce the services they need;

The Gorbals Ideas Fund is:

- i. Recognised as a source of credible information;
- ii. Recognised as a conduit to problem solving;
- iii. Respected as vehicle for community action and activity;
- iv. Respected as a community-led, community controlled initiative.

AIM 3:

To ensure local people are included in discussions, deliberations and decisions about the services they use and the place they live.

OBJECTIVES:

Local people have a platform to share their priorities, identify challenges and propose solutions.

Local people have opportunities to identify collective priorities.

Local people have opportunities to discuss and develop collaborative solutions to priorities & challenges through a programme of Community Conversations.

Local people have opportunities to be involved in the delivery of solutions focused activity.

Local people have opportunities to co-produce solutions with local partners and decision makers.

We advocate for community solutions and involvement in decision making.

Where necessary we will build community campaigns to promote action and activity across a specific priority.

Where necessary we will use the Community Empowerment Act 2015 to advocate the communities right to be involved in decisions about the community.

OUTCOMES:

Local people:

- i. Know what is happening in their community and the impact it has/may have.
- ii. Use PB to improve their community;
- iii. Are better informed about local democracy, their rights and entitlements;
- iv. Have a better understanding of the needs and challenges faced by others;
- v. Have participate in discussions and decisions relating to the services they use and their community;
- vi. Can drive positive change for their community;
- vii. Feel included, respected and valued as members of their community.

Service providers and decision makers have:

- i. Accessible ways to involve local people in decisions;
- ii. Increased understanding of the challenges and needs experienced by local people and the impact of these;
- iii. Opportunities to involve local people as equal partners in decision making.

The Gorbals Ideas Fund is:

- i. Recognised as a source of credible information;
- ii. Recognised as a route to community involvement in decision making;
- iii. Respected as a vehicle for community action and activity;
- iv. Respected as a community-led, community controlled initiative.

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

From 2018 to May 2022 the Gorbals Ideas Fund was led by a Community Panel. The Panel was instrumental in the design, development and delivery of Participatory Budgeting since the initiative was established.

In May 2022 existing Panel Members met to review and revise our Strategy and reflect on the role of a Panel Member and how it has evolved over time, particularly with the introduction of the Your Priorities process.

It was agreed that 'Panel' and 'Panel Member' were no longer accurate descriptions of the role and from May 2022 the role would be renamed Community Advocate.

Community Advocates will have a much more outwardly focused role in engaging with local people, facilitating discussions and representing their community to partners and decision makers.

In recognition that the role of Community Advocate and the commitment required to fulfill it would not be suitable for everyone a secondary membership level will be developed, Associate Member.

Associate Members will be able to take an advisory role, using their experience and local knowledge to support the work of the Gorbals Ideas Fund.

ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE

Over the course of 2020-2021 efforts were made to engage with local children and young people with the aim of developing Participatory Budgeting model with local young people at the heart of the process. Unfortunately due to the impacts of the global Coronavirus Pandemic it was difficult to sustain this work.

The Gorbals Ideas Fund remains committed to developing this area of work over 2022 to 2025.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We will develop a monitoring and evaluation framework that meets the requirements of our funders and also allows us to measure our work against the aims and objectives we have set out in this strategy. The framework will include:

- Quarterly reports to the Scottish Government Investing in Communities Fund;
- Annual reports to the National Lottery Community Lottery Fund; and
- An annual progress report to measure our progress against Scotland's PB Charter.
- An annual report measuring progress towards our strategic aims, objective and vision.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following organisations for supporting the Gorbals Ideas Fund and our work since 2018:

- New Gorbals Housing Association
- Scottish Government Community Choices Fund
- Scottish Government Investing in Communities Fund
- The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland
- Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership
- Urban Union Ltd
- Scottish Community Development Centre
- PB Network Scotland

CONTACT US

If you would like more information about the Gorbals Ideas Fund or the contents of this Strategy please do not hesitate to contact us at info@gorbalsideas.org.uk or call Jo on 0141 429 3900.



Gorbals Ideas Fund
c/o New Gorbals Housing Association
200 Crown Street
Glasgow
G5 9AY

Tel: 0141 429 3900
Email: info@gorbalsideas.org.uk
Web: www.gorbalsideas.org.uk



@GorbalsIdeas