



democratic  
society



# Digital Approaches to Participatory Budgeting

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23 September 2020

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# Digital tools and Scotland's Participatory Budgeting programme

A report by the  
Democratic Society for  
the Scottish Government  
February 2016

## Learning from 2016-19

- Can ensure a wider range of voices are involved.
- Flexible: overcomes barriers of time and place.
- Work at different paces and compliment offline.
- Harness the power of networks.
- No single tool is always significantly better than the others.

**Participatory Budgeting can be described as “Local People deciding how to allocate part of a public budget.” It is a way for citizens to have a direct say in how public funds are used to address local needs.**

<http://www.participatorybudgetingworks.org/what-is-pb>

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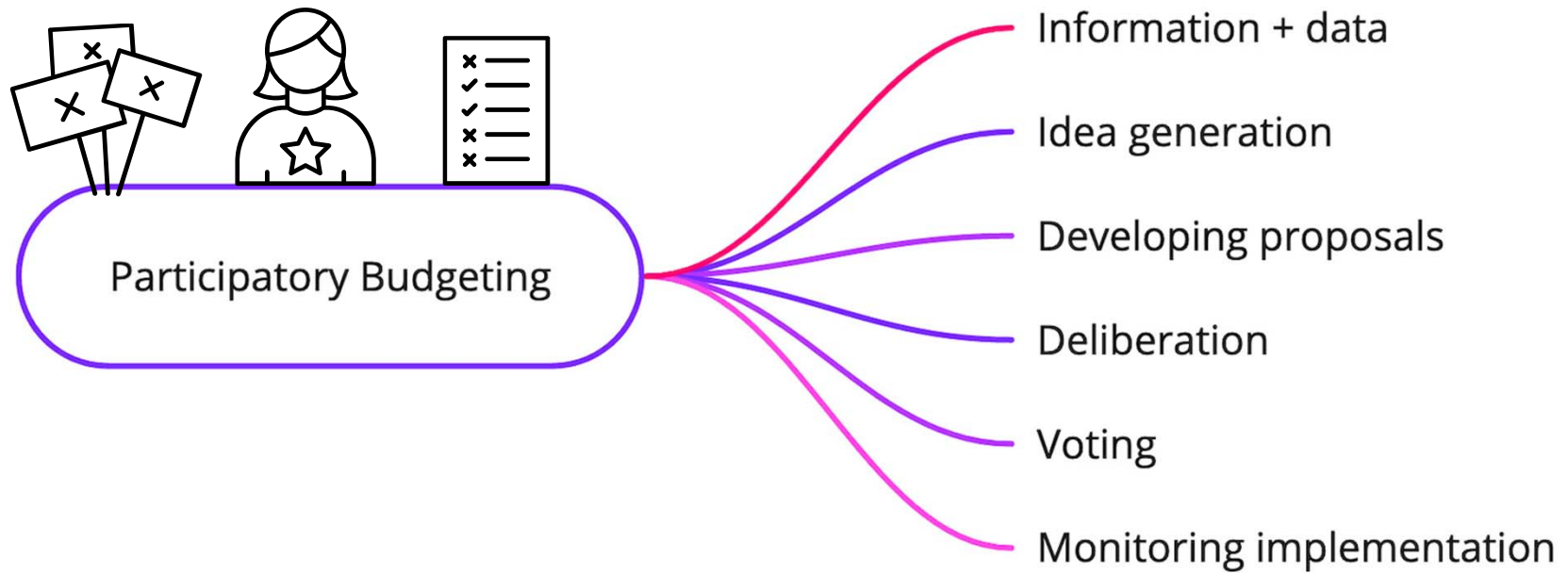
# Designing online PB processes



# This section

- Elements of a digital PB process
- Designing your online PB
- Proposals and pitches
- Deliberation
- Voting
- Tools

# Elements of a Digital PB process



# Designing your online PB process

## A framework for building a participation plan

### Aims:

- To gain a deeper understanding of a programme or project
- To get some high-level design elements outlined
- To determine the type of participation methodology best suited for the programme
- Outline roles and responsibilities
- Begin to explore key issues that the project needs to take into account and how they might be managed

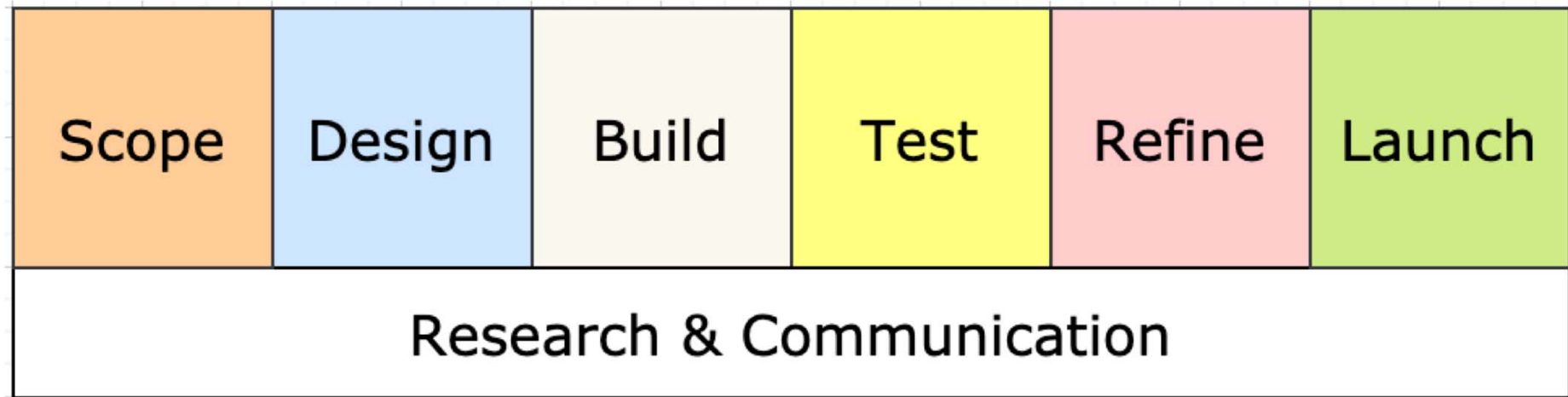
More info: [‘Planning your PB process’ webinar](#)

# Designing your online PB process

- Timeline and planning
- Skills & resources (in-house or external)
- Design with users and test, test, test
- Training in the tools
- Check compatibility with mobile tech
- Simple guidance
- Where can participants get support?
- Security and verification – trust
- Facilitation and moderation
- Promotion and outreach



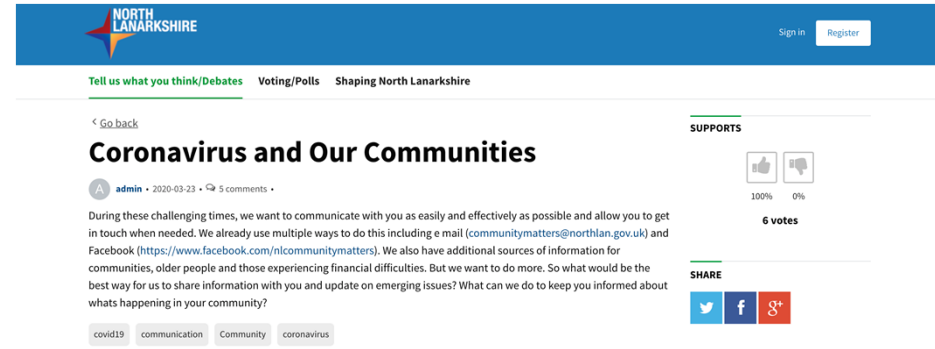
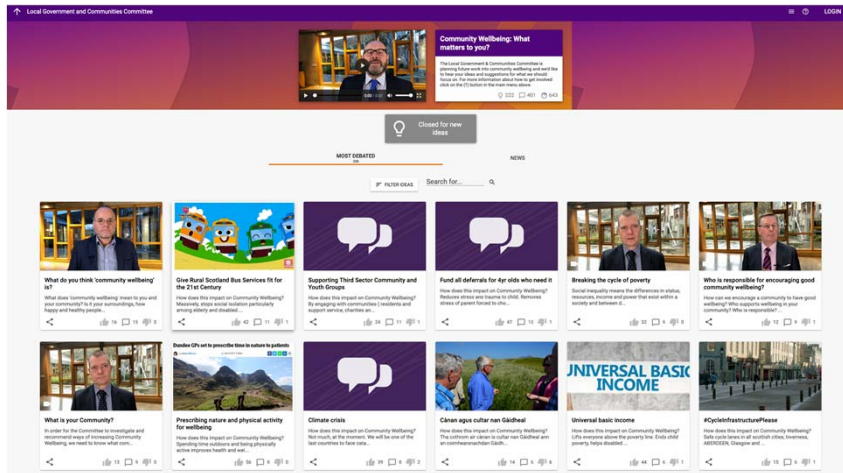
# Building from the ground up



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# Idea generation, proposals and pitches



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More info: [Idea generation and deliberation](#)

# Deliberation



**How does this impact on Community Wellbeing?**  
 Poorly maintained roads cause damage to vehicles, causing unforeseen bills and often unaffordable bills, a danger to public and ruin the driving experience adding frustration to the driver. Scotland invited tarmac and yet our roads are a mess potholes and uneven patches from quick repairs and utility companies digging up a road freshly resurfaced not 6months ago

**Why should the Committee focus on this as part of their future work?**  
 Councils have neglected the roads, and with the push to go electric and the infrastructure that will be needed I believe now is the time to remove the roads from the councils and create a publicly owned road maintenance Scotland. Maintaining and improving road to a new level

remove road maintenance from the council  
 Anonymous User

5 3

DEBATE (3) NEWS PHOTOS (0)

I think this idea is important because...

Anonymous User  
 A good safe road network is essential. Councils struggle to maintain roads and in the main do it badly.

I don't think this idea is important because...

Anonymous User  
 We already pay road and other taxes, the government needs to provide infrastructure. We will end up paying more. Unless they scrap the road tax.

yrpri.org (Citizens; Foundation

Disagree



Agree

## Top Cons

Building higher and denser also means that the demand on roads, schools, and other services rises. Infrastructure improvements will have to be made and will not be cheap.  
 7/2/2015, 4 comments

## Top Pros

So much of our land is zoned for single family, it will be challenging to build enough housing if we set it off-limits to new development.  
 7/1/2015, 5 comments

consider.it

involve @involveUK

#ClimateAssemblyUK met online for the first time this weekend, with 107 members taking part.

Check out some of the coverage here [news.trust.org/item/202004191...](https://www.news.trust.org/item/202004191...)

And the presentations are online here [climateassembly.uk/meetings/weeke...](https://climateassembly.uk/meetings/weeke...)



Climate Assembly UK and involve

climateassembly.uk



Not just for PB:  
Practical information  
about how to design  
an online deliberative  
process.

# Designing an online public deliberation

## The Democratic Society and The newDemocracy Foundation

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# Voting

## Lots of options...

Ranking system (e.g. rate 1-3 star)

Budget allocation

Weighted voting

Areas and themes

Live voting

Hybrid

## Practical considerations...

Voter verification

Security (e.g. flags and blocks)

Personal information requested

Counting votes

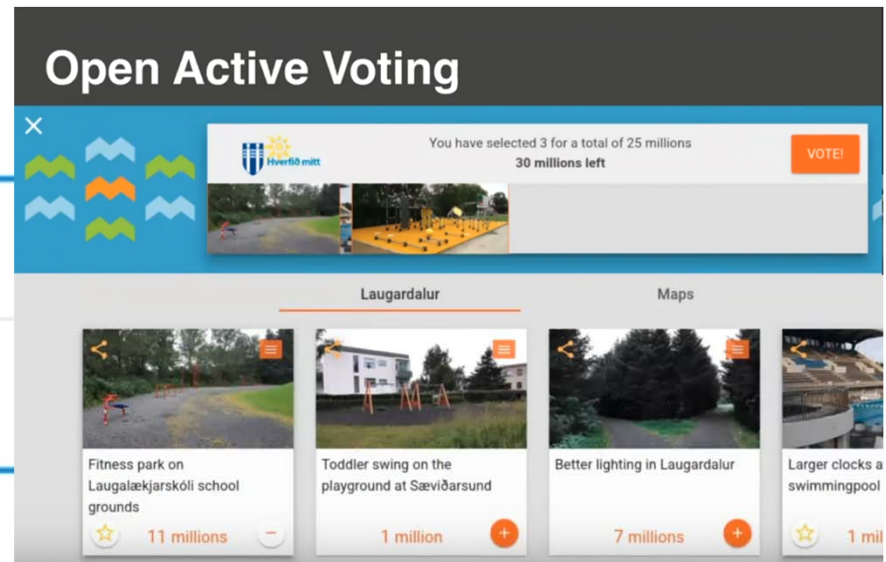
Minimum age for participation

[More info: Digital PB: Voting webinar](#)

# Voting



Ranked



Budget allocation



# Voting



**Bonus or weighted**

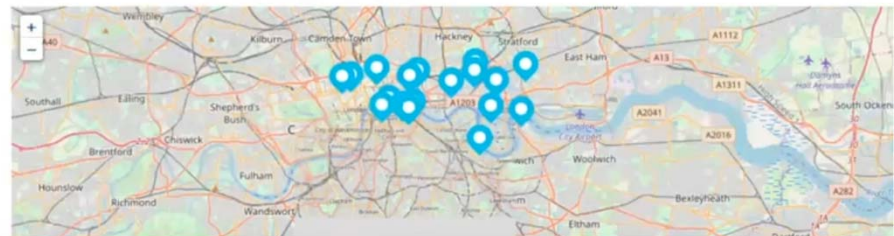
## City projects

City  
€60,000,000

## Districts projects

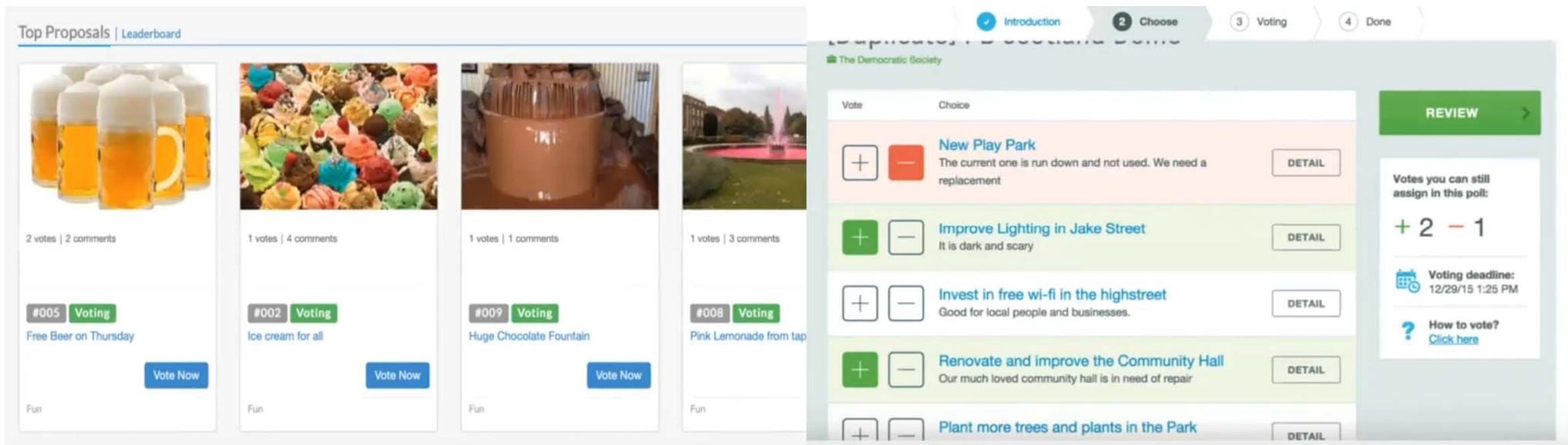
East district €10,000,000	North district €10,000,000	South district €10,000,000	West district €10,000,000
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## Budget investments' proposals located geographically



**Areas and themes**

# Voting



Multiple votes

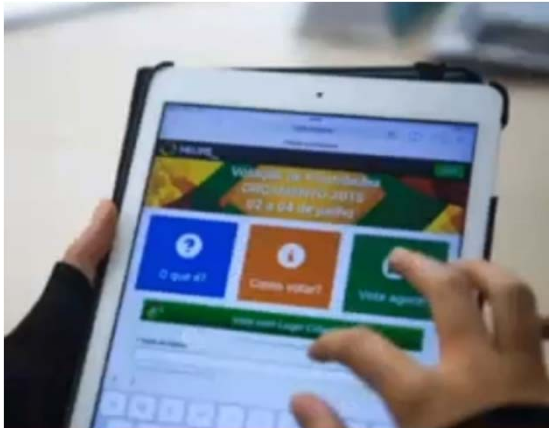
+/-

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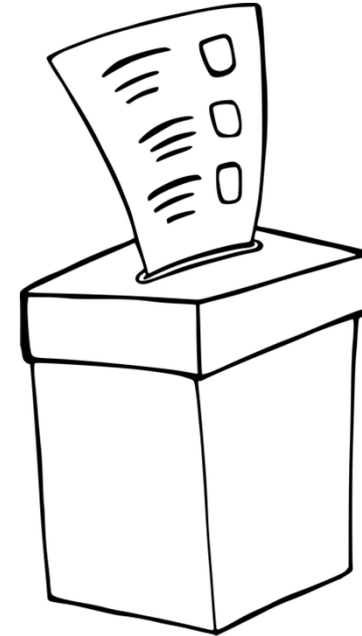
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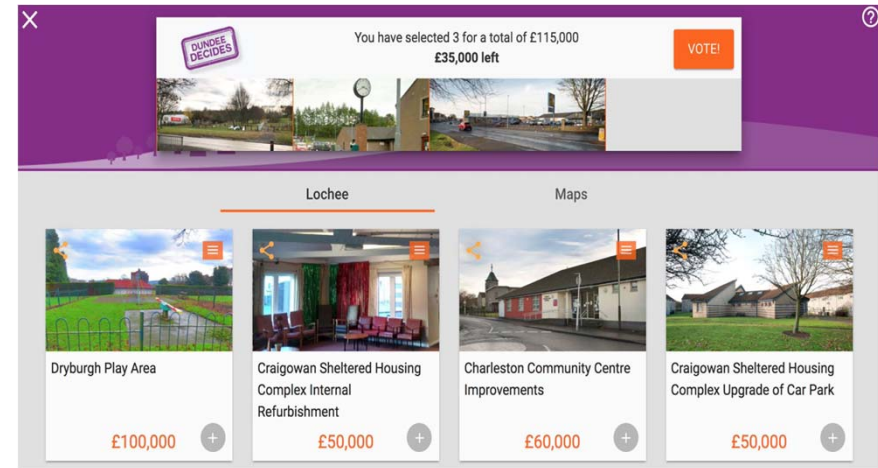
# Voting



**Live voting**



**Hybrid**



- Voting options were selected or removed: **112,508** times
- Map explored **2,041** times
- Projects were explored **11,545** times
- Project Design PDFs were opened **1,729** times
- **4,300** evaluation survey responses from the **11,472** voters

**Aberdeen City** - Collaborative Legislation on a new school facility  
<https://abc.communitychoices.scot>

**Fife** - PB Voting <https://fif.communitychoices.scot>

**Glasgow** - <https://glacalton.communitychoices.scot>

**North Ayrshire** - Collaborative Legislation (on various projects)  
and PB Voting <https://nay.communitychoices.scot>

**North Lanarkshire** - PB Voting <https://nla.communitychoices.scot>

**West Dunbartonshire** - PB Voting (site not live)



## QUIZZES

A selection of fun interactive quizzes for you to learn more about AI and feed in your thoughts to the AI strategy in Scotland!

### QUIZ 1



INTRODUCTION TO AI

### QUIZ 2



EQUALITY & BIAS IN AI

### QUIZ 3



AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

### QUIZ 4



FACIAL RECOGNITION

### QUIZ 5



HEALTHCARE

### QUIZ 6



FUTURE OF WORK

## CONVERSATION INFO PACKS

Perfect for communities, schools, families and the general public to learn about and start a conversation about AI in Scotland. Just click on the pictures below and download the conversation packs. We've produced a handy guide on how to hold a group conversation using these packs and please let us know how it went by uploading any photos or worksheets produced from those conversations!

[Conversation Guide](#)

[Submit your conversation](#)

### INTRODUCTION TO AI



### EQUALITY AND BIAS IN AI



### AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES



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# How to support people to get involved in PB processes which have moved online due to COVID-19



# This section

- Thoughts and considerations
- Recent process experience
- Making connections between groups

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# Considerations

- **Inclusion:** digital access, digital skills, digital confidence, accessing information, being in the home, mental health, feeling connected and 'part of the group'
- **Wellbeing:** looking after wellbeing 'quiet room', building wellbeing into your design of the engagement process from the start, making sure participants have the right information for their needs
- **Safeguarding:** using the features built into digital tools to protect people, monitor asynchronous engagement activity, consider your requirements around safeguarding policies and plans in online world
- **Privacy and security:** consider what should be in place to protect people's privacy and the security of their devices.

# Thoughts

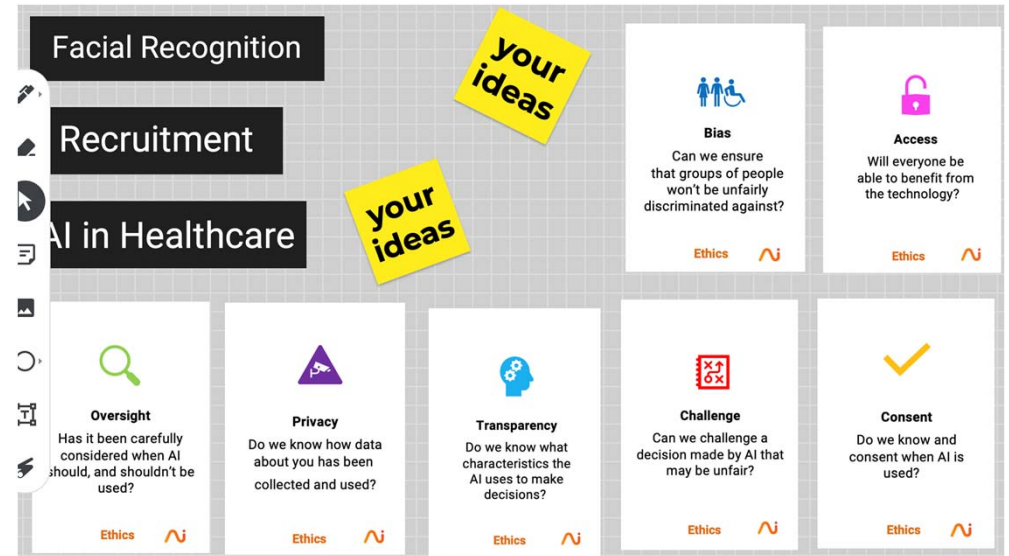
- Plan for a future of hybrid online/offline processes
- You still need an engagement plan
- Think about barriers, skills and training plans in advance – tech inductions
- Break processes into manageable chunks and don't use too many tools
- Complex verification or excessive personal data capture can turn people away
- Some rules apply equally online and offline: clear purpose; openness and transparency of process; inclusive practice; manageable; feedback loops; data collection and analysis help to assess processes.



## Recent process experience

- Identify additional support needs (participant survey) – ask about devices too
- Liaise with known participants and consider access to any software and hardware they require to participate. This could include screen readers, braille display, magnifiers and speech-to-text software. Data dongles and tech loans.
- Tech induction and skill share sessions.
- Create moderation guidelines. Refresh process and conversation guidelines, with the addition of relevant points for working in an online setting.
- Video should have subtitles and be live captioned.
- Information should be available in different formats, including audio. You might still need to post out packs.

# Making connections between groups



## Collaborative tools

# Links

- *Designing an online public deliberation* (2020) <https://medium.com/digital-diplomacy/creating-online-spaces-for-deliberation-what-were-thinking-e94fb40b1e>
- Demsoc resources (blogs, webinars, podcasts): [www.demsoc.org](http://www.demsoc.org)
- Democratic tools for local government report (2019): <https://www.thepublicsquare.org.uk/2019/09/12/democratic-tools-for-local-government-new-report/>
- Blog: *Digital solutions can complement real world participation — but mustn't exclude* (2020) <https://medium.com/participo/digital-solutions-can-complement-real-world-participation-but-mustnt-exclude-b52403793797>



**Thank you!**

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