



# COMMUNITIES KNOW GORBALS IDEAS FUND STRATEGY

2020 TO 2022



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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 have formed a Community Panel, through which all decisions on the design, development and delivery of participatory budgeting activity across the area are taken. The initiative is supported and facilitated by New Gorbals Housing Association, with a Community Budgeting Officer working with the Community Panel to progress work on a day-to-day basis.

GIF activity to date has focused on small grant giving. Projects, Groups and individuals have had 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 1675 local people have voted to fund 57 ideas and activities and in the process, allocated over £81,000.00.

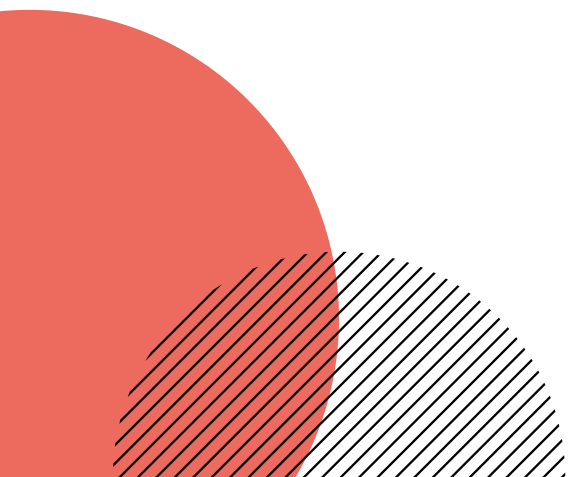
In December 2019 funding was secured from the Community Lottery Fund and Scottish Government which secures participatory budgeting in the Gorbals for the next 3 years. With this security the Community Panel felt it was time to set out their aims, ambitions and direction of travel in a strategy to support action planning and monitor progress in the months and years ahead.

This Strategy sets out our vision, mission and goals, along with some statements on how we intend to achieve these. We will monitor our progress towards these goals on an annual basis, however we will continue to take an action research approach to our work; testing, measuring and changing elements of our processes and practice should we feel it will support our success.



## OUR VISION

**Our vision is for a  
Gorbals Ideas Fund that  
creates opportunities for local  
people to influence the funding  
and budget decisions that  
impact on 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

We have developed aims and objectives to support progress towards our vision and specific outcomes we hope our activity will achieve.

## **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 Panel members each year to drive and shape our work.

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

We will deliver at least 2 small grant funding initiatives each year making small sums of money available to local people and groups to take forward new ideas they may otherwise struggle to fund.

We will deliver at least 2 small grant funding initiatives each year, involving local people as decision makers through community voting.

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

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

### **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 have:

- i. Increased knowledge of the services available in the area;
- ii. Increased knowledge and understanding of PB;
- iii. Increased 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:

- i. Increased 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 fully informed about Participatory Budgeting and the proposals and developments that may affect them and their community.**

**OBJECTIVES:**

Community and Youth Panel members will be fully trained in the history and ethos of Participatory Budgeting and Co-production and practical skills such as peer research, education and facilitation skills.

We will work with local partners and decision makers to gather information about proposed developments/changes to services and the local community.

We will develop techniques to share this information with local people, including online channels, face to face conversations and focus groups.

**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 have:

- i. Increased knowledge of what is happening in their community and how it may impact;
- ii. Increased knowledge and understanding of PB;
- iii. Increased knowledge and understanding of local democracy;
- v. Increased knowledge and understanding of co-production.

### **AIM 3:**

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

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

We will engage with local people across the community to gather information on their priorities and challenges.

We will host 3 community conversations programmes each year to involve and include local people in discussions about the issues most important to them.

We will engage local people in the development of collective solutions to the issues important to them.

We will bring local people together with decision makers to co-produce developments and solutions to existing problems and challenges.

We will share our research and the views and experiences of the local community at strategic forums and networks to 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:**

Community and Youth Panel members:

- i. Have increased knowledge and understanding of the needs and challenges experienced by the community and thematic groups within the community;
- ii. Have the information they need to develop priorities for funding and discussion;
- iii. Opportunities to develop facilitation skills;
- iv. Are able to develop coherent positions, based on community feedback through which they can advocate for community needs.

Local people have:

- i. Increased knowledge of what is happening in their community and how it may impact;
- ii. Increased knowledge and understanding of PB;
- iii. Increased knowledge and understanding of local democracy;
- iv. Opportunities to participate in discussions and decisions relating to the services they use and their community;
- v. Increased and meaningful opportunities to develop positive change for their community.

Service providers and decision makers have:

- i. Easily 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.



## COMMUNITY PANEL

The Community Panel is instrumental in delivering this strategy. Local people with lived experience of our area are best placed to engage with others, as peers, friends and neighbours.

In 2020/21 we will expand our Community Panel and develop a training programme that ensures all members have the knowledge, information and skills they need to achieve the aims and objectives set out in this document.

## DEVELOPING A YOUTH PANEL

In 2021 we will work with local schools and organisations to develop a Youth Panel to build engagement of children and young people in the Gorbals Ideas Fund and our aims and objectives.

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND INFLUENCE

The Gorbals Ideas Fund is a unique community-led model of Participatory Budgeting, where local people lead. We believe this is the best model of Participatory Budgeting and hope to inspire and influence the development of other community-led initiatives across Scotland.

As well as sharing our experiences and learning we hope to learn from others and will work with the Scottish Community Development Centre, Leith Chooses and Glasgow Disability Alliance to establish a People and Practitioners PB Network for Scotland. A place where those directly involved in the design, development and delivery of PB activities a local level can build partnerships, share experiences and influence strategic and policy decisions relating to PB.

# 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
- Community Lottery 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](mailto:info@gorbalsideas.org.uk) or call Jo on 0141 429 3900.



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