



The former PB Unit has been morphed into two new bodies: The PB Network, a voluntary association of experts and interested bodies, who support the development of new examples of PB, and PB Partners (a new consultancy service).

The National PB Network exists to promote the use of Participatory Budgeting (PB) across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, to act as a hub for information and research on PB in the UK, to resource further advocacy and the growth of PB.

The national PB network builds on the success of the previous work promoting PB across the UK by the PB Unit, Oxfam, Church Action on Poverty and thousands of PB practitioners.

Participatory Budgeting is defined as local people making decisions directly over how (at least a part of) local public budgets are spent. The Network is committed to the values of PB as set out in the PB Unit's Values, Principles & Standards document: Transparency; Accessibility; Deliberation; Empowerment; Local Ownership;



Mainstream Involvement; Representative Democracy and Shared Responsibility.

The National PB Network is open to, brings together and is run by all those individuals and organisations that are committed to the principles of and support for PB. It is independent of all political parties and other organisations. Its way of organising will mirror the co-operative and transparent principles of PB.

The aim of the network is for PB to be recognised as a key and effective tool for:

- addressing inequalities in service choices and resource allocation
- engaging and empowering citizens in discussions on public budgets
- stimulating co-production and mutual responsibility between citizens and the state.

The goal of the National PB Network for the next 5 years is to move PB beyond its predominant current model of allocating small pots of money to voluntary and community groups, towards a tool for repeatedly distributing

elements of mainstream public budgets. It is hoped that public services routinely offer some form of PB for mainstream budget choices and that as a norm people will expect it to be offered.

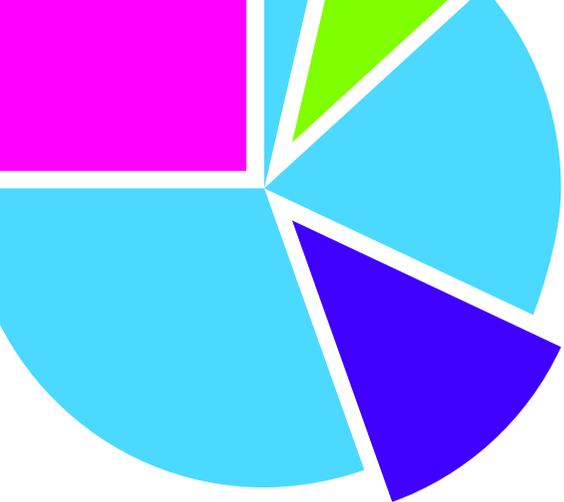
As part of modernising the delivery of Participatory Budgeting (PB) support in the UK, the highly regarded PB Unit toolkit has now been made freely available.

This toolkit has over 150 pages of case studies, tools, resources and information. It is full of practical advice and includes some useful case studies.



To obtain a free download and for further information go to:

[www.pbnetwork.org.uk](http://www.pbnetwork.org.uk)  
or email: [info@pbnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@pbnetwork.org.uk)



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# Participatory Budgeting Network

