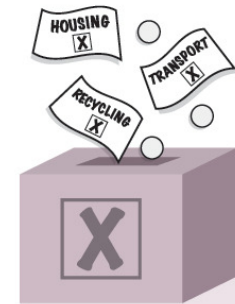


# Values, Principles and Standards of Participatory Budgeting

International Congress, Berlin

21<sup>st</sup> January 2010

Ruth Jackson, PB Unit



**PB Unit**  
making people count

# Participatory budgeting in the UK

- First pilots started in 2006
- Funded by Communities & Local Government
- Now over 80 different initiatives
- Allocating up to £2.4million
- National policy strategy, including in Policing white paper
- 4 main models emerging



- PB in the UK has developed differently from rest of Europe
  - Non party-political
  - Seen as empowerment tool
  - High level of centralised control
  - Not all services controlled by municipal government plus different layers of municipal government
  - Different models emerging



# What is the PB Unit?

- Charity project funded by Communities and Local Government
- Support and promote implementation of PB in the UK
- Work nationally – now have activity in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Developed the values, principles and standards with practitioners



# Purpose of the values

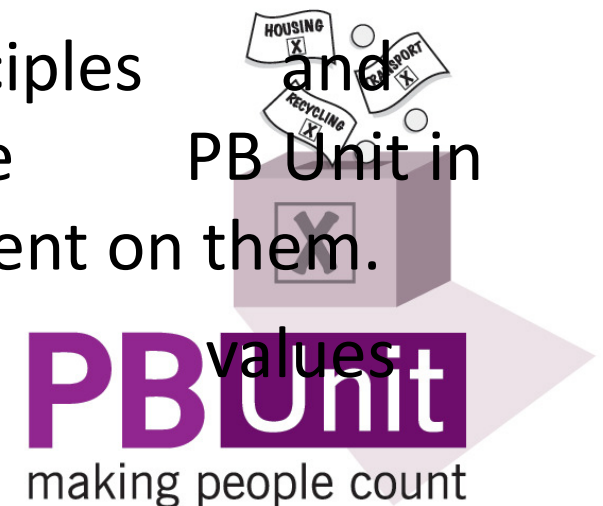
- The purpose of the values is to encourage projects to create excellent PB practices which provide real long term outcomes.
- PB is seen as one of many empowerment tools. The values enable PB to stand out as more than just a tool.
- The government support of PB is good, but there is a danger that local areas will implement it as a 'tick box' exercise but with no real desire for the outcomes. The values help ensure good practice.



**PB Unit**  
making people count

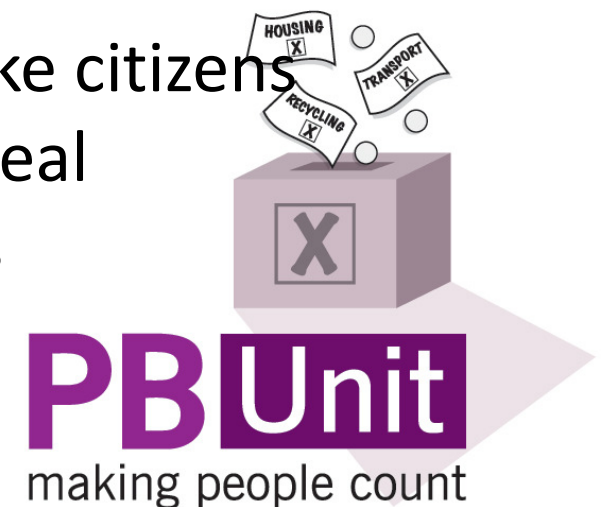
# Background to values

- The National Reference Group (national strategic policy influence group) decided that values were needed in 2007
- A small group of practitioner & experts met and agreed the basic parameters of PB values in early 2008
- These were then developed the principles and standards were added to them by the PB Unit in 2008, who published the first document on them.
- Based on community development values



# The Values

- **Transparency:** PB processes are designed to give citizens full and clear knowledge of public budgets in their area, even those over which they do not have a direct say.
- **Accessibility:** Participants have good and clear access to the PB processes
- **Deliberation:** PB processes should take citizens beyond personal choice and involve real deliberation around budget decisions



# The Values 2

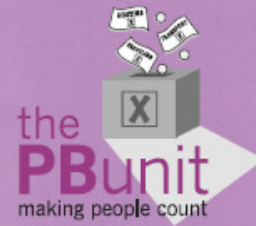
- **Empowerment:** PB events are centrally concerned with empowering local citizens in decisions over local services and shaping their local area through allocating part of a public budget.
- **Local ownership:** Residents should be involved in setting budget priorities and identifying projects for public spend in their area wherever possible.
- **Mainstream involvement:** Over time processes should move towards residents being involved in decisions over mainstream budgets.



# The Values 3

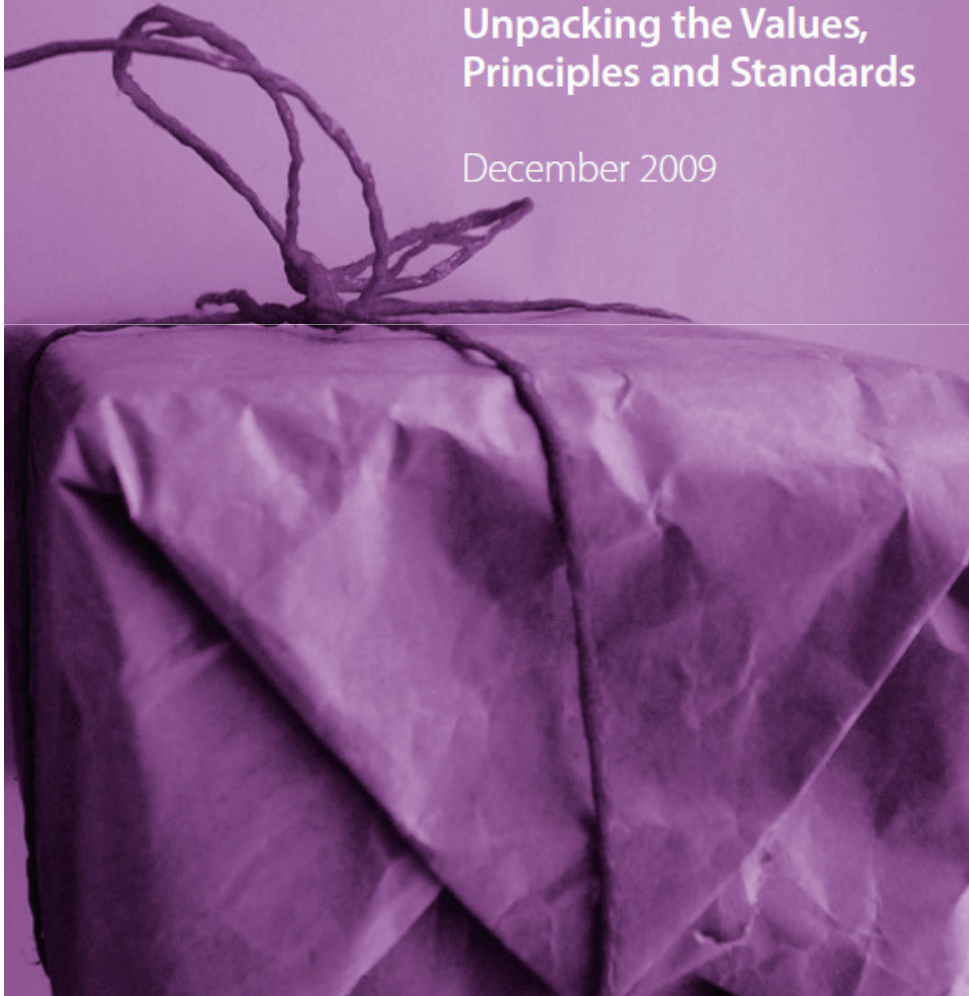
- **Support representative democracy:** participation mechanisms such as PB should support representative democracy rather than undermine it.
- **Shared responsibility:** PB should build common purpose and commitment from all stakeholders





## Unpacking the Values, Principles and Standards

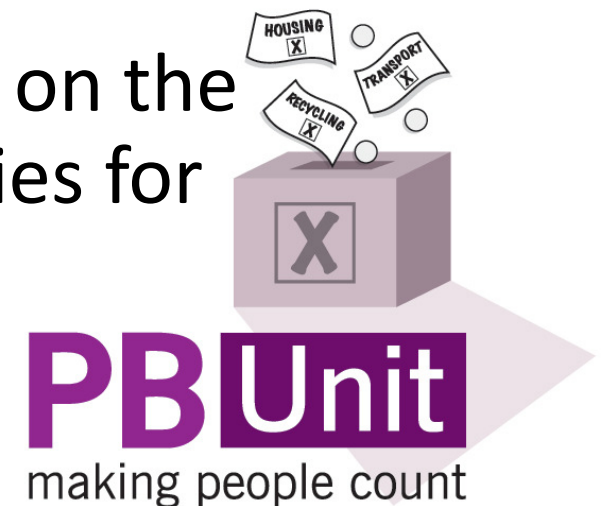
December 2009



**PBUnit**  
making people count

# New publication

- Published 'Unpacking the values' document in December 2009
- Aim is to expand on the values and provide a way for projects to more easily identify how they are embedding values and what more they could do.
- Projects can chart their progress on the tables and refer to the case studies for inspiration



# More information

[www.participatorybudgeting.org.uk](http://www.participatorybudgeting.org.uk)

[mail@participatorybudgeting.org.uk](mailto:mail@participatorybudgeting.org.uk)

