

**PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**

# Help decide which good cause should get funding

## Chance to improve community

**Lynn Duke**

**Communities have been given a chance to help shape their area's future in terms of how funding is allocated.**

'Strathern and Strathallan Decide!' is now open for community groups, non-profit organisations and social enterprises to submit project ideas which could be in line for a financial boost.

The money for what's described as "participatory budgeting" is provided by Perth and Kinross Council and involves an umbrella group known as the Strathern and Strathallan Local Action Partnership.

Groups and organisations within the Strathern and Strathallan council wards can apply for funding of between £250 and £1500 to support the delivery of their proposal.

A spokesperson said: "Proposals should address local priorities such as providing activities for young people; employment and training; community transport; access to local services and activities, or reducing the inequalities associated with health and social care, social isolation, poverty, age or disability.

"Ideas should respond to neighbourhood priorities, meet currently unmet needs, and

benefit as many people as possible across their community.

"Projects must also take place before the end of March 2020."

Successful proposals will then be put to local communities for a decision via online voting during September, which will be open to all.

The public vote will culminate in a special event on Wednesday, September 29.

Applications are open until 5pm on Sunday, August 26, and can either be submitted online at [www.pkc.gov.uk/communityplanning](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/communityplanning), or alternatively by emailing the local authority's community planning partnership team on [communityplanningpartnership@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanningpartnership@pkc.gov.uk) to request further details, including an application form.

The spokesperson continued: "The Strathern and Strathallan Local Action Partnership, alongside the four other LAPs established in Perth and Kinross, seeks to engage with local communities about the issues that affect them and address those issues to help services and communities work better together, as well as promoting increased community participation."

For further information, visit [www.pkc.gov.uk/communityplanning](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/communityplanning) or email [communityplanningpartnership@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanningpartnership@pkc.gov.uk).



**Award** The Logos Youth Project received money the last time the participatory budgeting was held. Pictured, from left, are Caroline Murphy, Akeala Speed, Siusaidh Johnston, Sophie and Sandra Peddie

## Independent review of proposed RBS branch closure in Comrie

**JOHNSTON  
CARMICHAEL**

**Johnston Carmichael has been appointed to independently review the proposed closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Comrie. If you are likely to be affected by the closure we would like to hear your views by 5pm on 14 August 2018.**

Johnston Carmichael, the largest independent firm of Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers in Scotland, has been appointed by the Royal Bank of Scotland plc ("RBS") to independently review the proposed closure of ten branches in Beaulay, Biggar, Castlebay, Comrie, Douglas in Lanarkshire, Gretna, Inveraray, Kyle, Melrose and Tongue.

We will be reviewing the usage of each branch on its own merits and then providing RBS with a recommendation on whether we consider each branch should remain open or be closed.

As part of our independent review, we would welcome the views of anyone who uses the RBS branch in Comrie and who would be directly affected by its closure. Specifically, we would like to hear how often you currently use the branch and what you use it for. We would also like to hear if you are aware of alternative ways to bank if the branch was to close and whether those alternatives would reasonably fulfil your everyday banking needs.

**You can share your views with us at any time by:**

- Writing to us at The RBS Review Team, Johnston Carmichael LLP, 29 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YL; or
- Completing a short online questionnaire available at [www.jcca.co.uk/rbsbranchreview](http://www.jcca.co.uk/rbsbranchreview)

**You can also talk to us in person at the branch on Monday 30 July 2018:**

- Members of our review team will be visiting the Comrie RBS branch on Monday 30 July and would welcome the opportunity to meet customers and users of the branch to discuss their banking needs on a one to one basis. Our team members will be at the branch during normal branch opening times and will be looking to meet with as many people as possible. Appointments of 20 minutes will be made available.
- We strongly advise you to book an appointment to avoid extended waiting times. **To book an appointment, please telephone 01224 259353** between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

**Please note that the deadline for the submission of your views is 5pm on Tuesday 14 August 2018** and all comments that you share about how you use the branch will be kept confidential. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Johnston Carmichael RBS Review Team