

## **Blackburn Community Choices – Frequently Asked Questions**



### **What is it?**

Blackburn Community Choices is a process that enables local communities to decide how public funding is spent. It aims to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and families in Blackburn and is a pilot project as part of the wider development of Participatory Budgeting (PB) in West Lothian.

We are inviting groups, organisations to put forward their ideas to help address the areas below.

1. Mental Health & Wellbeing: Improving mental health and wellbeing and building resilience in individuals and communities
2. Children Living in Poverty: Tackling inequalities with a specific focus on children and their families who are living in poverty
3. Healthy Living: Increasing physical activity and exercise, by reducing barriers that impact on physical activity levels, promotion and support for healthy life choices around food and reducing barriers to making health life choices

### **Who decides how the funding is spent?**

The residents of Blackburn will decide on what projects and ideas receive funding. A community marketplace event will be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March in Blackburn Partnership Centre from 3pm-7pm where the projects that have applied for funding will showcase their project: Members of the community will visit the stalls to learn more about the projects and then vote on which projects they feel meet the needs of the community.

### **How is this different?**

Community Choices is different because it allows members of the public to decide how funding is allocated.

### **Who can vote?**

To be able to vote you must be a resident of Blackburn and aged 12 or over. You must also be able to attend the community event on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. You will be asked to register at the event in order to be able to vote. Individuals don't have to stay for the duration of the whole event.

### **How can I vote?**

The marketplace event will take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March in Blackburn Partnership Centre from 3pm-7pm where organisations and groups who apply for funding will have a stall to showcase their project. Members of the community who attend will have the opportunity to visit the stalls and then vote on the projects they want to receive the money.

More information on Blackburn Community Choices can be found on our webpage.