Challenge
The Scottish Government launched the Community Choices Fund to help deliver Participatory Budgeting (PB) to communities across Scotland – and substantially improve communities’ involvement in decision-making. The Democratic Society was asked to assess the value of using digital tools to support participatory budgeting and recommend how they might be used.

Approach
Following our recommendations, Demsoc was commissioned to support councils and communities to use digital participation alongside more traditional methods for PB. Our innovative learning programme includes help on process design, outreach, engagement, and facilitating dialogue, delivered through a range of resources, from webinars, to videos, to podcasts and training.

Impact
We have helped to support Participatory Budgeting in urban, rural, and island communities across Scotland, including the award-winning Dundee Decides. As a result of the programme, communities are benefiting from new skills, and a new approach to using digital platforms. Local authorities are building a sustainable and long-lasting ability to adapt to new demands for engagement.

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