

Scaling Scotland's Nationwide Participatory Budgeting with NLP on the Consul Platform

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · United Kingdom

Quality score: 87/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Under a Scottish Government–COSLA framework requiring at least 1% of council budgets to go through participatory budgeting, researchers evaluated NLP tools on the Consul platform across 32 local authorities; by 2023 councils had exceeded the target, channelling £154m through PB.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	2/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability beyond pilot	3/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-25

[Scottish Government & COSLA \(Convention of Scottish Local Authorities\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-25

[COSLA — Participatory Budgeting Milestone Reached](#) — accessed 2026-07-25

[arXiv — Evaluating NLP tools in mainstream PB in Scotland](#) — accessed 2026-07-25

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