

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Service:</u>	City Growth
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<u>Title of Update:</u>	Community Benefits Realisation Update
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UPDATE:

Following the approval of the Community Benefits Management Process at CH&I Committee on the 29th of August 2017 (CHI/17/180) and its subsequent implementation, the purpose of this update is to report on progress and present community benefits outputs realised to date. The reporting period covered is 1st January 2017 to 31st March 2018, consistent to that of the procurement annual report.

Community benefit clauses are obligations within contracts or framework agreements that require tenderers to commit to undertake some form of social, economic or environmental benefit in addition to the core purpose of the contract. Including community benefit requirements within contracts ensures compliance with the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 whilst promoting inclusive growth and maximising opportunities for individuals and communities to benefit from mainstream procurement activities and significant capital investment.

The table below expands on the social, economic and environmental themes, providing further guidance to procuring officers considering the types of community benefit they might look to address in their contracts.

Improve (Wellbeing)	Promote	Facilitate (Involve)
Social	Innovation	SMEs
Economic	Equalities/reduce Inequality	3 rd Sector organisations
Environmental	Ethical trading and social justice	Supported Businesses
Health	Fair Work Practices/The Living Wage	Prompt Payment throughout the supply chain
Food poverty/fuel poverty/energy efficiency	Resource efficiency and the circular economy	Community engagement and community empowerment; community projects
Air quality/reduction of harmful emissions/reduction of waste and packaging	Education; employability and skills training	Collaboration and collaborative working

During the reporting period, a total of 150 outcomes were delivered including:

- 58 jobs created (2 resulting from work experience placements)
- 19 apprentices engaged
- 18 placements facilitated (including school pupils, students of Higher or Further Education [HFE] and other priority groups)
- 20 persons underwent training and obtained industry certification
- 9 curriculum support visits to schools and HFE institutions to 218 beneficiaries
- 25 employability engagement activities to 628 beneficiaries
- Work packages of £345K recorded as subcontracted locally by Main Contractors

These outputs derived from a total of 10 contracts all in the 'Works' category, with two major projects contributing the majority; the construction of The Event Complex Aberdeen and Lochside Academy.

The Event Complex Aberdeen (TECA)

The community benefits delivered by Robertson Construction, the appointed contractor for this project, focus on education, employability and skills.

During the reporting period a total of nine work placements were offered to students of further and higher education from the North East of Scotland College (NESCOL) and the Robert Gordon University (RGU) and to jobseekers from a variety of employability and training providers across the city including Station House Media Unit, North East Sensory Services and clients of the Progress Through Positive Partnership project currently being delivered by Aberdeen City Council. Placements were facilitated by Robertson or its wider supply chain depending on the interests of the individual. Participants benefited from worthwhile experience to enhance their CVs, develop new skills and gain insight into the construction sector. On two occasions, placements led to employment. Four young people also gained employment as apprentices as a result of this project.

Robertson also worked with partners including Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and JobCentre Plus to provide employability sessions offering CV building and interview techniques to jobseekers. Participants' employment prospects were boosted by the opportunity to access practical advice directly from an employer, increasing the quality of their CVs and confidence in an interview setting. For participants identifying a specific interest in construction, 'careers essentials' sessions were delivered to provide an insight to the industry, the span of career opportunities and routes into employment covering the knowledge, skills and training required.

A further key element of the community benefits programme is education, maximising the value of the profile associated with this project to inspire the future workforce. Robertson engaged with young people from nursery to university level in a variety of formats appropriate to the age group. Activities included: site visits; careers presentations; CV and mock interview training; trades demonstrations; 'meet the apprentice' opportunities; Science Technology Engineering & Maths (STEM) sessions; construction profession tasters for College students; and examples of extended engagement such as the 'trade route' programme' engaging with secondary school pupils over the course of seven weeks.

As the project progresses beyond the reporting period, further activity within the employability, training and education themes continues as the contractor engages with more schools and employability and training providers across the city. Robertson has also increased the focus on community engagement with fundraising activities for local charities, food drives and offering practical support to local community groups and facilities.

Lochside Academy

Given the nature of this project, the community benefits delivered by the main contractor, Balfour Beatty, focused on young people, particularly those living in the communities served by the new school upon completion.

A total of seven apprentices were employed on the project, two secondary school pupils participated in summer scholarships which included four weeks of work experience and two placements were completed by Construction Management students from RGU, one of those a six-month paid industrial placement.

Education activities were delivered for primary and secondary school audiences as well as students at college and university and included: team building and communications skills as part of a P7 transitions event; employability and skills activities with a focus on construction activities; two sessions for Nat 5 Design and Technology classes; corporate social responsibility sessions for Commercial Management and Quantity Surveying students at RGU. In addition, there was a programme of site visits for future pupils of the school, wider stakeholders including community councils and the public on events such as 'open doors day'.

Balfour Beatty contributed time, expertise and finances to various charitable causes and to community facilities in Torry and Kincorth. Both academies from these communities also benefited from a donation to the joint drama production of School of Rock and the provision of sports kits for the Lochside Academy basketball team.

During Works the contractor also showed a willingness to promote health and safety amongst their workforce and offer training on fire safety and the use of a defibrillator which was kept on site and accessible to the wider community during site hours. Initiatives such as Mental Health Awareness week was promoted on site and a continuing professional development module on Mental Health in Construction was made available to staff.

The remaining eight contracts contributing towards the output totals cover a variety of maintenance and improvement Works to Council assets. Community benefits are referred to within the contract preliminaries however learning from the two aforementioned major projects has shown that community benefits can be more effectively encouraged and monitored when contractors are working to a set of clear requirements.

During the past year, training sessions have been delivered to key groups of procuring officers across the Council to raise awareness of community benefits to increase their use within a wider variety of contracts. The Community Benefits Project Plan has been a key tool for officers as this can be included within the package of tender documents

when a contract opportunity is advertised and is a standalone document detailing all community benefit requirements clearly and comprehensively. This allows for procuring officers and bidders alike to obtain a thorough understanding of community benefit requirements which will in turn aid subsequent delivery and monitoring of activities post award. Sources of local support for bidders are also identified encouraging the anchoring of community benefits delivery in the local area.

Significant, high profile contracts have been targeted in the first instance as a vehicle to promote the use of Project Plans including the following, all of which are awaiting appointment of a contractor except the Construction of the Tillydrone Community Hub where delivery is underway, however work commenced outwith the reporting period.

- NESS Energy from Waste Facility
- Tillydrone Community Hub
- TECA Energy Centre
- Union Terrace Gardens

In the coming year the focus on increasing the number of Community Benefits Project Plans included within contracts will continue, ensuring requirements are designed effectively to maximum effect. Pipeline projects include: the TECA Anaerobic Digestion Gas to Grid operation contract; the Summerhill Social Housing contract; pending committee approval the Catering Services for the Art Gallery and Maritime Museum contract; the schools and community facilities programme; and a continued focus on City Centre Masterplan procurement activities. A stronger focus will be given to the procurement of Council services, increasing the variety of contracts that feature community benefits in addition to Works packages.

Support will continue to be offered to contractors in delivering community benefits, ensuring they are linked with the relevant partners and agencies locally to anchor the delivery of benefits in the city.

In projects where the Council is not the procuring authority, the same support is available to developers and contractors looking for assistance in the development and delivery of their community benefit and corporate social responsibility strategies to encourage maximum impact. This type of engagement has worked successfully with the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project.

Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project (AHEP)

Aberdeen City Council have maintained a longstanding relationship with Dragados, the contractor appointed to deliver this major infrastructure project supporting the development of community benefit initiatives and continue to support their delivery as members of the AHEP Community Benefit Steering Group.

During the reporting period, a key community benefit output of note has been the awarding of 27 subcontracts to the local supply chain as a result of Dragados, in partnership with the Council, delivering three 'Meet the Buyer' sessions across January and February 2017 collectively attracting 194 attendees. In each month following these events at least one subcontract was awarded locally across a variety of product and service categories.

Dragados has also invested in the communities surrounding the project both financially through the creation of a £70,000 Community Investment Fund and the offer of professional time and expertise through their Community Timebank. During the reporting period £12,000 of the fund was shared between seven community causes and applications continue to be evaluated twice yearly. Although take up of the Community Timebank was initially slow, in the months following the reporting period there has been an increase with community groups requesting professional support and volunteer time for a variety of projects.

The Community Ambassadors Programme also offers the opportunity for individuals to gain work experience at the project's visitor centre with WorldHost training available in customer service. During the reporting period two Community Ambassadors were engaged with the project.

Dragados has also engaged with local partners including JobCentre Plus, SDS, HMP Grampian and Developing the Young Workforce North East to deliver employability sessions to a variety of groups. All schools in the region were invited to the visitor centre upon its opening in January 2018 with two primary schools visiting during the reporting period. A site visit was also provided for the Construction Management students from RGU and two graduates gained employment from this project. The visitor centre itself features exhibition space for community groups and is accessible to the public to learn about and observe the progression of this project.

Work continues to identify further key projects across the city where the Council could support developers and contractors in the delivery of their community benefits activity to ensure opportunities are maximised and are focussed locally. A key emerging project is the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre where the main contractor Vattenfall has committed a £150k annual investment to the community for the duration of the project available for community groups across the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire region to apply to.

Finally, it is the intention that via the Community Planning network lessons learned to date are shared with partner organisations some of whom will have obligations to address community benefits in their own community benefits and it is hoped that by sharing experience and aligning activities, impact can be maximised.