

ACHIEVING COMMUNITY BENEFITS IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



“In these challenging economic times it is especially important that we get the maximum possible benefit for our communities from public spending. Community Benefit clauses need not cost more and they require contractors working on public sector projects to put something back into the community.

“The first question that we should ask when developing any contract specification should be: ‘Can we include a Community Benefit clause?’.”

John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth.



WHAT ARE COMMUNITY BENEFIT CLAUSES?

These can be added to any suitable contract to provide wider social benefit. Typically:

- Targeted Recruitment and Training
- Small Business and Social Enterprise development
- Community Engagement

WHO USES THEM?

- **Central Government:** Scottish Government contracts for the national Energy Assistance Programme and the Scottish Crime Campus
- **Health Boards:** Greater Glasgow and Clyde contract for the new Southern General Hospital (target of 250 new entrants trainees and Social enterprise development in catering, recycling and transport sectors)
- **Local Authorities:** Glasgow City Council for Commonwealth Games contracts (contractual commitment of 155 new entrant trainees)
- **Regeneration Organisations:** Raploch Urban Regeneration Company, Stirling (contractual commitment for 225 new entrant trainees)
- **Registered Social Landlords:** Glasgow Housing Association (to date more than 1400 new opportunities created)

HOW CAN I USE THE CLAUSES?

Community Benefit clauses are not just about procurement, they require organisations to take a strategic view of:

- What are they buying?
- What other obligations do they have?
- What additional benefits could be achieved?

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL COSTS INVOLVED?

Experience to date suggests:

- Costs are minimal
- Suppliers who respond well on Community Benefit questions, also do well in other parts of their bid

WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE?

- For detailed guidance –
 - Community Benefits in Public Procurement Report:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/02/13140629/0>
 - Community Benefits in Public Procurement Guidance Note:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/212259/0056492.pdf>
- The Scottish Government 'Ready for Business' Programme will help to develop appropriate clauses –
<http://www.readyforbusiness.org/index.php>
- Community Benefit Champion's Network and Ambassadors programme will provide first-hand experience of using clauses – contact Graeme.mckechnie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- The employability staff in your local authority
or e-mail: ScottishProcurementDirectorate@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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