

Employability Learning Network Event Summary

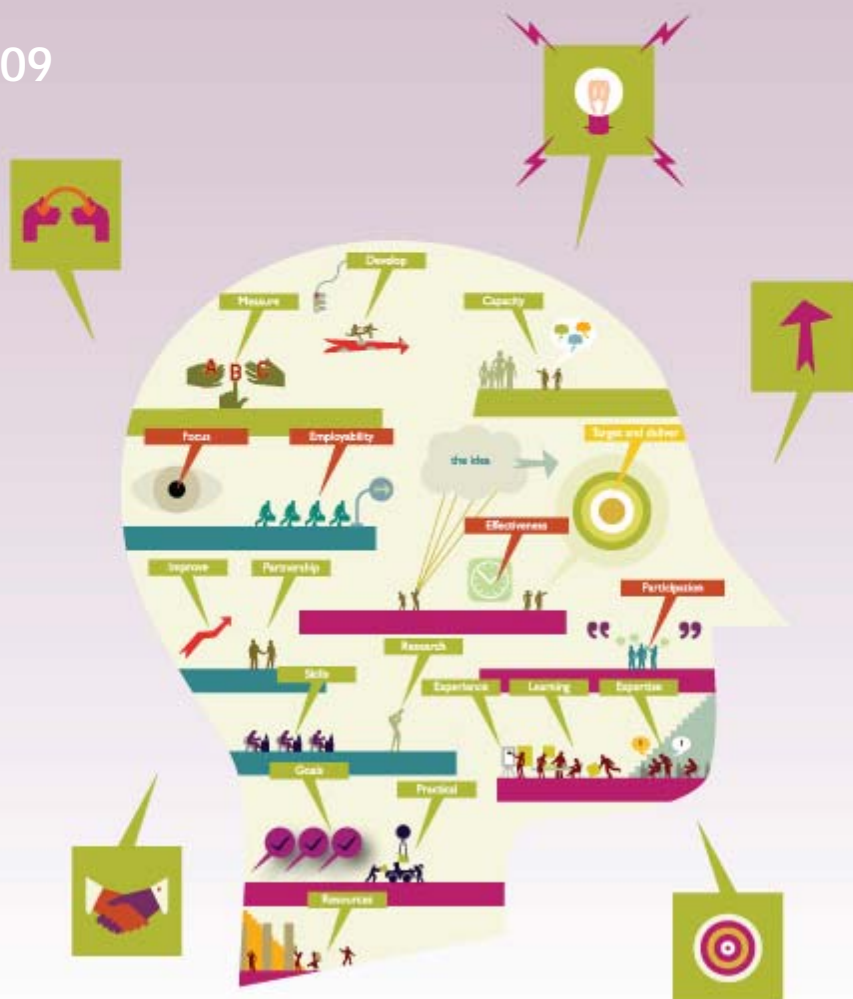


Linking Opportunity & Need Event

In partnership with Clyde Waterfront



October 2009



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Background

In November 2007, the Scottish Government published guidance on how community benefit clauses can be used in public procurement. This outlined how to include targeted recruitment and training opportunities in public sector contracts in a manner that is consistent with procurement legislation. Given the current economic situation, it is imperative that public sector is utilising all available opportunities to help local people move towards and into work.

The use of "local labour clauses" (contract conditions that required the contractor to recruit a given percentage or number of local people) declined in the late 1980s, with European Court of Justice rulings and guidance from the Commission to the effect that regional/local preference schemes were unlawful in public contracts.

Over recent years there have been developments in the interpretation of the procurement, policy and legal frameworks that have made it possible to consider incorporating `community benefits`, such as including targeted recruitment and training opportunities, in public sector contracts, however variation in understanding what can and can't be done still remains.

Event Aim

This half day event looked at how best to Link Opportunity and Need (LOAN) in the Clyde Waterfront area. It provided an opportunity to share information and identify actions and opportunities.

Additionally the workshop aimed:

- to raise awareness of linking opportunity and need
- to highlight the methodology for maximising community benefit from public procurement, focusing on the Scottish Government's recent report on Targeted Recruitment & Training Clauses in Public Sector Contracts
- to highlight best practice examples in the above areas
- to have spatially focused breakout sessions, that will map existing systems within each partner organisation and identify the main barriers to systems that will maximise community benefit from imminent investment in each area along the Waterfront
- identify whether there is an ongoing need for practitioner support in this area.

Summary

Employability, Planning and economic Development leads from Glasgow, Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire Local Authority area's, heard from the following speakers:

Prof. Alan McGregor from the University of Glasgow. Alan's presentation looked at linking opportunity and need, and considered how to maximise benefits of physical regeneration. The presentation looked at the background to LOAN, argued the case for LOAN and went on to look at how to improve processes for LOAN.



Jo Mitchell from The Scottish Government.

Jo's presentation gave an overview of the procurement requirements in relation to LOAN, and considered some of the challenges, lessons learnt and key achievements to date.

Michael Dean from Maclay Murray & Spence.

Michael presented on the legal aspects of the procurement process, and outlined the EU Legal Framework legislation governing procurement in Scotland, including the EC Treaty principles.

Mike McNally from Glasgow City Council.

Mike presented on the Commonwealth Games related procurement, and the approach that Glasgow City Council are taking to ensure that community benefits are being incorporated.

Vikki Kewney from Clyde Waterfront. Vikki's presentation provided background on the Clyde Waterfront strategic partnership, and their role in promoting Community benefits. The presentation then outlined some of the up and coming developments within the Clyde Waterfront area.

All the presentations can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Learning Points

These key learning points were drawn from the lively workshop discussion which took place on the day.

Workshops concentrated around some key themes:

What Has Been Achieved?

- Through Partnership (Clydebank Rebuilt) have engaged with contractors. Have assumed contractor in recruitment process!
- Schools liaison linked to careers
- Through schools projects sought to deliver community benefit.
- Clyde Gateway, currently voluntary but moving towards contractual approach. Building partnership with Local Regeneration Agencies. (Three elements – Training / Community enhancement / SMEs/SEs)
- Looking at job outcomes as opposed to training provision.
- New projects coming on stream with 3% target.
- Structure, via the Commonwealth Games, established for Glasgow eg Portal
- Awareness of the agenda now better than before
- Success recorded in some major projects in Glasgow eg Silverburn.
- Local Authority is showing leadership on this but recognises more needs to be achieved



What would you like to do to achieve more community benefit from procurement in your area?

- Wider partner 'buy-in' including other departments within the local authorities.
- Specifically, more thinking on how the **wider** public and third sector can deal with this collectively eg Colleges and Universities.
- A national portal.
- Issues around sustainability of Community Benefit outcomes.
- An opportunity for CBiC practitioners to come together to share best practice and somewhere to use this to encourage others
- Need to talk pro-actively across councils to embed Community Benefits and develop a policy framework.

How Do You Build In Community Benefits to Planning Concession/Requirements

- Development brief for site with Community Benefit.
- Some authorities probably came a bit late but encouraged by emerging track record.
- Resources and ownership an ongoing issue. Changes in Community Planning present a potential opportunity and have already supported Training & Development / Recruitment outputs.
- Increasing emphasis being placed on Community Benefits (Partners often don't work together and often pulling in different directions).
- Engaged in supplier development programme.
- Need to quantify CB - jobs and training/SME etc. are the obvious benefits but what else can we achieve/look at? (e.g. community enhancement)

What do you see as the local constraints, if any, on making the most of this? How might you work your way round these, and do you have any evidence of success already?

- Need training/awareness to drive this forward
- There needs to be an expectation of CB in everything that is procured.
- Ministers need to drive the message home to all stakeholders
- Resource constraints within each local authority to deliver. Where does it sit within councils? Potential to combine/share resources

What can The Scottish Government – or other national agencies – do to help you achieve more community benefit?

- Make Community Benefit a condition of funding
- Provide a national profile for this area of work
- Disseminate best practice
- Focus on those who are not doing this and help them to get more involved
- Support to engage more effectively with private sector
- Help to identify Local Authority leverage over private sector?
- Support for shared documentation and processes?



Next steps

Delegates discussed what they thought the next steps should be after the Learning event:

- *"A follow up event focussed on progress would be helpful"*
- *"Further sharing of what has worked well and what has not"*
- *"Sharing practice around managing contracts and dealing with performance issues"*

It was agreed that a LOAN Discussion thread – would be added to the Employability Learning Networks online Community of Practice in order that practitioners can continue to share learning around Community Benefits.

You can access this discussion by clicking [here](#).

Please use the Forum to continue to share learning and expertise with your colleagues.

Further Sources of Information

Social Issues in Public Procurement

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/16601/0053331.pdf>

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>

Linking Opportunity and Need: Maximising the Regeneration Benefits from Physical Investment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/232769/0063874.pdf>

Clyde Waterfront Website

www.clydewaterfront.com

Glasgow's Commonwealth Games Website, including procurement portal

<http://www.glasgow2014.com>

'Can Do Toolkit' Targeted Recruitment and Training for social landlords

<http://www.whq.org.uk/docs/i2i/english/aboutDocE21.pdf>

Employability Learning Network Website

www.employabilityinscotland.com

