

# ++++++ IT ALL ADDS UP ++++++

A CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS IN WESTERN SCOTLAND

**Project Title**            **Greater Govan Community Academy**  
**Project Sponsor**       **Govan Initiative Limited**

## **PROJECT ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Hills Trust School was set up by a wealthy merchant, Abraham Hill in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Over the years the school provided education to many of the poorest families in Govan.

The school passed into the hands of Glasgow City Council and eventually became surplus to requirements. Govan Initiative then offered some training provision from the old school, as well as offering accommodation to local community and learning services. The building, however, was showing its age and in need of refurbishment. Looking to the future, Govan Initiative began to seek ways in which the original ethos of the Hills Trust could be maintained, while the building itself could be given a new lease of life for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Govan Initiative took the lead in establishing a partnership of public and private sector backers to refurbish the old school building, and fit it out with the very latest in modern IT and learning equipment. Key to this was consultation with local people and industry to find out what their respective needs were, and partnership to secure funding and in-kind support to actually deliver the project.

Local individuals and community groups now have access to a state of the art learning facility that provides industry centred content. Marginalised individuals are able to gain intensive support, guidance, and qualifications that allow them to go directly into higher skilled, higher waged employment than is normal for Govan residents.

## **PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The capital project refurbished the Hills Trust building creating a Multifunctional Community Learning Facility. It now offers a range of benefits including local access to online learning and vocational training, and opportunities for further community capacity building in line with local area strategies including that of Govan Social Inclusion Partnership.

## **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

The Academy targets local marginalised individuals, who have low or outdated skill levels, and have often had previous negative learning experiences.

Activities offered:

- lifeskills support and personal development training for ex-offenders, people with a history of drug/alcohol misuse, and people with numeracy and literacy needs
- individual guidance and support
- a range of technology based qualifications including; Cisco Certified Network Associate Programme, Microsoft Official Curriculum, Hewlett Packard IT Essentials, and European Computer Driving Licence.

- modern apprenticeships in IT Services, IT Repairs, Customer Systems Support and Using IT.

### PROJECT STRUCTURE

The Academy is managed and staffed by Govan Initiative. The Academy can cater for up to 200 students at one time. Students can work their way gradually through a series of industry standard qualifications as appropriate to their interests and ambitions. Employer placements are a key part of the curriculum in order to assist students to experience the requirements of a modern working environment.

### PROJECT FINANCE

Funding Partners	Govan Initiative Limited, Scottish Enterprise Glasgow, Scottish Enterprise National, Glasgow City Council Landfill tax credits, Ikea
Eligible Costs (£)	£805,470
ERDF/ESF Support (£)	£402,735
Priority/Measure 3.1	Community based regeneration

### PROJECT PERFORMANCE

The project performed well.

The capital works were completed to time and on budget.

Students are now passing through the Academy and gaining a wide range of industry standard qualifications.

Often students are able to progress directly to IT-related employment, on terms and conditions that are well in excess of the norm for entry-level jobs. Their future prospects are good.

Indicator	Target	Achievement	% Target Achieved
Total sqm of training/learning facilities enhanced	640	640	100.00%
Total no of training spaces provided	30	30	100.00%

### PROJECT FUTURE

The capital works require only maintenance funding for the period beyond the life of the project, although upgrading of IT equipment will be required on a regular basis. A budget was built into GI's annual revenue budget and it was anticipated that maintenance costs would be covered by contributions from projects delivered at the location.

An endowment fund is planned in order to provide a sustainable vehicle to fund future students/courses at the Academy.

Work has begun on developing links to the creative industries, a key local employment growth area. A Digital Animation Academy is being developed alongside support to businesses around the Pacific Quay site. Links to the financial sector, and the hospitality, tourism and construction industries are also being developed.