

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

A CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS IN WESTERN SCOTLAND

Project Title Westercommon Community and Economic Regeneration Project
Project Sponsor Queens Cross Workspace

PROJECT ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

Queens Cross Housing Association acquired the Westercommon Estate from Scottish Homes in April 1997. As part of the appraisal process conducted by the Association, a social study was undertaken. The study highlighted high levels of economic inactivity, low levels of educational attainment, low levels of marketable employment skills. In addition there were identifiable concerns over security and safety in the area particularly at night and from women. There was however a hitherto under-utilised resource of the resident's commitment to actively participate in proposals aimed at enhancing the opportunities within the community. In order that this resource could be fully developed the community required to be convinced that their input was of value and would be treated as such.

From the outset of this project in 1997, members of the community were key participants in all aspects of the project development, from the identification of service requirements, the physical redevelopment, its design and construction to the management of the facilities which were completed in 2002. Through this involvement the project delivered a community resource centre which incorporated a range of facilities and activities aimed at enhancing the economic prospects of those living on the estate and providing a number of learning and recreational activities. In addition works carried out to the surrounding landscape make the area safer and provide a more attractive environment for residents.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Support lifelong learning, job and training access.
- Promote a range of opportunities for community participation in regeneration and estate management.
- Reduce the impact of poverty through increased availability/accessibility of information and advice.
- Reduce exclusion and inequality.
- Improve cultural and recreational opportunities.
- Promote community safety, in particular road safety.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Employment Training and Guidance, Financial Inclusion, Community Capacity Building, Childcare, IT familiarisation and upskilling, recreational facilities, enhanced public transportation access and community safety.

PROJECT FINANCE

Funding Partners Queens Cross Housing Association, National Lottery Charities Board, Glasgow City Council, Scottish Homes

Eligible Costs £855.809

ERDF/ESF Support £385,690
Priority/Measure Measure 5.1 Community Economic Development

PROJECT PERFORMANCE

Indicator	Target	Achievement	% Target Achieved
No of community employment/learning projects supported	22	12	54.55%
No of gross new jobs created for women	8	9	112.50%
Total no of gross new jobs created	8	11	137.50%
Total no of childcare places created	20	20	100.00%
Number of training places	36	36	100.00%

PROJECT FUTURE

With the securing of revenue funding and the gradual introduction of activities into the Centre, the implementation plan for full usage is well on the way to being achieved. Demand for access to services from the Westercommon community is high as is participation on the facilities management committee. Requests for access to the facility and its services from the surrounding communities in Hamiltonhill, Firhill and Possil are increasing and it is anticipated that usage will exceed original estimates.