

**Local Value-Add Case Study  
Glasgow University Campus**

*Drawing from local knowledge and skills,  
delivering local value*

Project: **University of Glasgow Campus Development**

Contract value: **£298m**

*A very Scottish institution*

**The largest development in the University of Glasgow's history involves local knowledge, local skills and local value**

The University of Glasgow's campus development project is the largest ever undertaken in the institution's 600-year history. Led by global construction company Multiplex from its Glasgow operation, it's pulling on the knowledge and expertise of some of Scotland's leading architects, design consultants and civil, structural and MEP engineers, along with an extensive Scottish supply chain. The final result will be a world-class higher education facility delivered in tandem with a carefully planned and implemented programme of social value projects.



## THE BACKGROUND

The University of Glasgow is in the process of developing and expanding its campus in the West End of Glasgow, running a number of projects across a 14-acre site, creating new buildings and a campus-wide infrastructure and landscaping project.

*The benefits of employing local talent on a project like this include a deep understanding of local building and planning regulations and legislations, an established network of business relationships and the flexibility to be available whenever needed, not to mention an understanding of how the project will affect the local and wider communities.*

New buildings include the James McCune Smith Learning Hub learning and teaching facility, the Advanced Research Centre (ARC), the Clarice Pears Building to house the Institute of Health and Wellbeing and the Adam Smith Business School. Infrastructure and Landscaping works cover

demolition at the site of the former Western Infirmary, cut and fill, installation of services and hard and soft landscaping.

Work is underway across the site with international construction experts Multiplex acting as programme delivery partner from its Glasgow operational base.

## A TEAM WITH LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

The project has pulled together a broad team offering a wealth of Glaswegian and Scottish expertise, including architects, civil, structural and MEP engineers and specialist design consultants like landscape architects and fire and acoustic engineers.



Drawing from expertise at a local level has ensured the team benefits from a thorough understanding of Scottish building regulations and building control requirements, as well as local and national planning process.

It also means most of the team members have worked with each other on previous projects, or at least have been involved in some of the same projects, the Scottish construction sector being a relatively tight-knit and interconnected community. That creates the necessary atmosphere of collaboration and trust, with each partner willing to work co-operatively rather than competitively to get the job done.

Over the course of the project Multiplex has developed strong working relationships with many local contractors, who continue to benefit from repeat business and trusted partnership status.

## GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN, LOCAL MATERIALS

While a project of this size will inevitably need a global supply chain to fully meet its needs, upwards of 80 per cent by volume of materials across the project to date have been locally sourced.

A significant volume of material was also sourced directly from the site of the former Western Infirmary. More than 25,000m<sup>3</sup> of inert material from the demolition works was repurposed to provide a working platform for the new buildings, and an extensive cut and fill strategy was devised to re-profile the site.

*Local solutions offer a proven supply chain that provides the flexibility fast moving and complex projects need, as well as cost benefits and local manufacturing capacity that can readily adapt to requirements.*

## IMPACTING POSITIVELY ON LOCAL LIVES

Outside the figures, social investment translates into real impact on people's lives. And while some of the planned activities have had to be put on hold in light of COVID-19 restrictions, Multiplex recently ran a virtual work experience programme for job seekers, career changers and students.

It delivered an introduction to the construction industry, guest speakers from the project supply chain, client, and industry groups and employability sessions offering mock interviews and CV development. Some of the participants went on to gain work on the project.

When restrictions allow, the Construction Learning Programme for secondary schools offers a 12-week engagement with local schools, giving school teams a project brief and asking them to put together a bid. The teams create a construction company and, with help from a mentor, assign roles, research and answer the client brief, finishing with a tender presentation event.

The aim is to develop employability, communication, and teamwork skills and to provide access to the construction industry as both a means of learning and a potential career path. It's also an opportunity to introduce pupils to the University of Glasgow, and showcase what it has to offer.

The University's own students aren't forgotten — a key part of the project has involved engaging with the student and academic body, and allowing the project to be used as a 'living laboratory' for guest lectures, site visits and work experience. Educational interaction like this has engaged with more than 2,800 pupils, students and academics to date.

The project team works with social enterprises and supported businesses like GTS Solutions, the only social enterprise in the UK security sector, who provide site security and employment training opportunities.

They also work with Street and Arrow, a social enterprise by Police Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit, that helps offenders back into the workforce. Ex-offenders have the opportunity to work with chefs and mentors and learn personal and employability skills on the Street and Arrow food truck, which provided



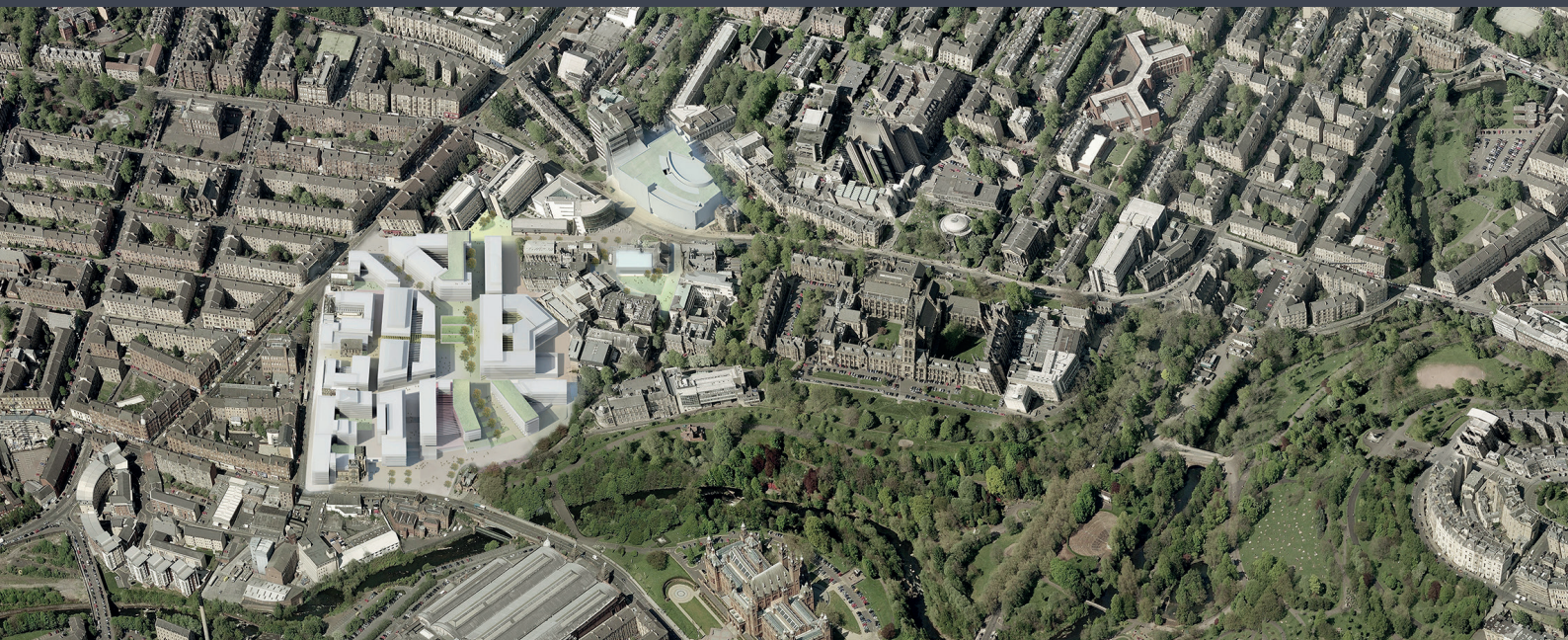
catering on the construction site until the COVID-19 lockdown began. The programme has seen some of the participants find work in the project supply chain and as part of the University's own catering department.

Multiplex have established a community partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions. Working with the project supply chain, they source opportunities for people struggling to get into the jobs market.

*"By contracting with businesses with a social purpose we can help to remove barriers to sustainable employment and make opportunities accessible to those farthest from the job market,"* said **Kieran Ronnie**, Multiplex Social Value and Community Manager.

*"Each project in the campus development programme has social value targets that aim to maximise the positive impact of operations by delivering employment and skills outcomes, responsible procurement activity and supporting community and academic stakeholders."*

*"On this project our client shares our goal of delivering industry-leading positive impacts for the Glasgow community. This partnership approach has been a key driver of our success."*



## THE CAMPUS PROJECT COMMUNITY IMPACT AT A GLANCE

To date the Multiplex/University of Glasgow partnership has delivered:

- Over **£1million** spent with social enterprises and supported businesses
- **Support into work for 100+** unemployed people
- **100+ work placements** for jobseekers and students
- **Employment** for 21 graduates
- **£114,000 in donations** to local charities and causes
- **47% local spend** (Greater Glasgow & Clyde)
- **33% SME spend**

*This case study was prepared by Construction Scotland Innovation Centre on behalf of the Scottish Construction Leadership Forum – March 2021.*

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