



Glasgow City Region

Cabinet

Report by Director of Regional Economic Growth

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Item 5

11th August 2020

Maximising Community Benefits – Cenefits Extension

Purpose of Report:

To update the Cabinet on the progress with the use of the Cenefits system for monitoring and managing community benefits and to outline the next steps in the Cenefits pilot beyond April 2021.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is invited to:

- (1) agree that, given the positive review of the Cenefits system to date, an alternative solution should not be sought at this stage; and
- (2) note a future report will be brought to Cabinet in April 2021 seeking approval to extend the use of Cenefits system for a further 24 months beyond the pilot end date of 30th April 2021, subject to ongoing positive reviews of the Cenefits system in the intervening period.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet on the progress with the use of the Cenefits system for monitoring and managing community benefits and to outline the next steps in the Cenefits pilot beyond April 2021.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meeting on 12 February 2019, the Cabinet approved a funding allocation of up to £36,000 from within the existing PMO budget to implement a 2-year pilot IT system, to manage and maximise the delivery of community benefits secured through City Deal contracts.
- 2.2 The agreement with Wildcat Applications (WCA) offers the option of an extension for the use of Cenefits system for a further 24 months beyond the pilot end date of 30th April 2021. The option can be taken up by providing notice in writing to WCA to allow for delivery of Cenefits for this extended period.

3. Review of the Cenefits System

- 3.1 The Sole Supplier Justification used to enter into the agreement with WCA to deliver Cenefits includes a commitment to review the project by 30th June 2020 to allow for alternative solutions to be considered should the review of Cenefits find that the system is not fit for purpose.
- 3.2 An evaluation of Cenefits was carried out by the Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub and the findings of the evaluation were reported to the CEG at their meeting on 21st May 2020 and to the GCR City Deal Cabinet on 2nd June 2020. The key findings of the report were positive and highlighted a number of opportunities for future development of the system.
- 3.3 Two Contract Review meetings have taken place between WCA, representatives of the Community Benefit Support Group (CBSG) and the PMO and the main points noted were:
- the CBSG were happy with WCA's provision of the Cenefits system and it was considered to work well;
 - the system had responded to the needs of GCR City Deal; and
 - the project had met the specification contained within the contract.
- 3.4 The PMO has engaged with MAs to identify which of them currently plan to use Cenefits for their business as usual (non-City Deal) procurement activity. The table below sets out the position of each MA:

	Business as Usual (BAU) Position	Commentary
EDC	Will not be taking up the Cenefits system for BAU contracts	This does not fit with our current practices for Contract Management

ERC	Considering use for larger contracts	ERC consider that it will work better for larger suppliers with dedicated community benefits officers.
GCC	There is a strong possibility that GCC will commence using Cenefits for BAU CBs in the next few months.	The potential to use Cenefits for BAU is dependent on how the system is working for the City Deal contracts. As more Cenefits issues are resolved, it becomes more likely that BAU will follow.
IVC	No response	No response
NLC	Intention to use the system for Enterprise and Communities Services	Once City Deal requirements have been fully embedded NLC will progress to business as usual contract uploads.
RC	No intention to use Cenefits now or in the near future.	CPU team does not have budget for long term use of Cenefits or similar system therefore will continue with current no cost arrangements.
SLC	SLC has yet to decide whether the Cenefits system is the most suitable platform on which to capture and record community benefits.	SLC would like to expand the working knowledge of, and access to, Cenefits to a wider range of staff, and as such would be happy to continue with, and be part of, the free trial opportunity.
WDC	No response	No response

4. Community Benefits – Performance

4.1 The Annual Community Benefit Update for 2019/20 demonstrated significant improvements in performance across community benefit KPIs. At the end of March 2020, 145 City Deal contracts with a value above the £50,000 (>£50K) had been awarded, equating to an overall total of over £222m. Of these 145 contracts:

- 103 (71%) had contractual community benefits included, with a combined value of £210 million;
- a 10% reduction in the number of benefits not delivered from 88 (11%) of opportunities at end of March 2019 to 8 (less than 1% of all benefits); and
- at the end of 2016/17 job opportunities accounted for 10% of all community benefits secured in contracts, by the end of 2019/20, 16% of all opportunities secured are targeted employment opportunities for priority groups.

4.2 The use of Cenefits to report and monitor performance has improved the accuracy and reliability of data, and it has made the collation and analysis of data a much easier exercise.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 In February 2019 the Cabinet approved the initial funding of £36,000 for the first stage of the development of Cenefits. This funding was broken down as follows:

- subscription costs of £9,600 up to 30th April 2021; and
- £26,400 used to fund the development of features for the system.

5.2 This report seeks approval for an additional amount of £14,000 which will extend the use of Cenefits beyond the first phase and allow the system to be used by all MAs for a further two year period until the end of April 2023.

5.3 This further allocation of £14,000 will be used to pay for:

- 2 years subscription at a cost of £9,600 until the end of April 2023; and
- a development budget of up to £4,400.

5.4 The table below sets out the previous funding approved for Cenefits and the amount requested by this report to extend the use of the system for another two years:

2 Year Pilot Period 1st May 2019 to 30th April 2021 [Approved by Cabinet in February 2019]	
Total Developments Costs to Date	£26,400
Total 2 Year Subscription Costs up to 30th April 2021	£9,600
Total Costs for 2 year Cenefits Pilot	£36,000
Funding Requested for 2 year Extension up to 30th April 2023	
Total 2 Year Subscription Costs up to 30th April 2023	£9,600
Development Budget Requested	£4,400
Total costs for further 2 year extension	£14,000
Total funding for extended 4 year period from 1st May 2019 to 30th April 2023	£50,000

6. Next Steps

6.1 In line with the requirements of the Agreement with WCA, the CBSG and the PMO will continue to monitor the performance of Cenefits system and service provided by WCA to ensure that provision continues to fully meet requirements throughout the lifetime of the Agreement.

6.2 Before any commitment is made to extend the use of Cenefits beyond the initial 2 year pilot period, and in line with the review schedule set out within the Sole Supplier Justification, a further review of Cenefits system will be carried out. Recommendations based on the findings of the review will be provided to CEG for consideration at their meeting on 28th January 2021, and a further report setting out the agreed way forward will be provided to CEG for agreement before being presented to Cabinet for approval at their meeting in April 2021.

7 Recommendations 7.1 The Cabinet is invited to:

- (1) agree that, given the positive review of the Cenefits system to date, an alternative solution should not be sought at this stage;

- (2) note a future report will be brought to Cabinet in April 2021 seeking approval to extend the use of Cenefits system for a further 24 months beyond the pilot end date of 30th April 2021 subject to ongoing positive reviews of the Cenefits system in the intervening period.