

A9 Dualling

Luncarty to Pass of Birnam Project

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report 2019



Balfour Beatty

JACOBS



Introduction

Investing in local communities is a key factor in Balfour Beatty's sustainability strategy. The A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project is being delivered with an unprecedented focus on community benefits and a commitment to bring meaningful and measurable change to the communities surrounding the project.

The targets we set ourselves during the tender process were ambitious and were designed to build on our existing relationships within the Perth and Kinross local authority area. Our aim was to enhance this joint approach to community benefits by expanding our reach and engagement within local communities, to create real and lasting benefits to the people of Perthshire.

The A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project will provide a safer and more reliable transport link for road users north of Perth and is a key component to the Scottish Government's wider A9 Dualling Programme. Our goal is to ensure that the project delivers more than just a road, by leaving a substantial legacy for the surrounding area through stronger communities, positive environmental impacts, sustainable job opportunities and local economic growth.

This report provides an overview of achievements from the first year of the project and looks forward to the challenge of building on these benefits during 2020. If you would like any further information about any of the outcomes delivered to date or if you would like to discuss working together in 2020, please contact the project team: A9L2B@balfourbeatty.com



Ken Brown,
Corporate Social
Responsibility Manager,
Balfour Beatty



Project highlights

27 work experience placements	4 jobs created through FairStart Scotland programme	44 new job opportunities
45/45 + 1 Innovation point - Considerate Constructors Score	1000 days worked by apprentices	2 jobs provided to young people through Barnardos Works programme
30 days of placements provided to rehabilitating offenders	58 school, college and university engagements	42 days of volunteering
2 full time positions provided to rehabilitating offenders	475 weeks of training	870 days worked by graduates
		£8565.36 donated to local good causes

As part of the construction contract awarded to Balfour Beatty to upgrade 9.5km of the A9 from single to dual carriageway between Luncarty and the Pass of Birnam, the delivery of Community Benefits was included as part its requirements.

The public sector procurement process has been designed to ensure that wider social and economic concerns are taken into account when awarding major infrastructure projects, as was the case for the A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project.

Sustainable Procurement is a key requirement of the procurement of large infrastructure projects. To maximise the inclusion of Community Benefits in all our procurement activities, Transport Scotland is ensuring that all relevant contracts deliver a range of Community Benefits that can be measured and provide a legacy for future generations, following construction.

In doing so, Transport Scotland plays a crucial role in maximising sustainable employment opportunities and investing in skills and supporting young people, adults and businesses in Scotland to support the economy.

Our supply chain is responding positively to Sustainable Procurement and as a result, is supporting local communities by creating opportunities and economic benefits for local people, schools, colleges and universities, community groups and projects, and other key stakeholders.

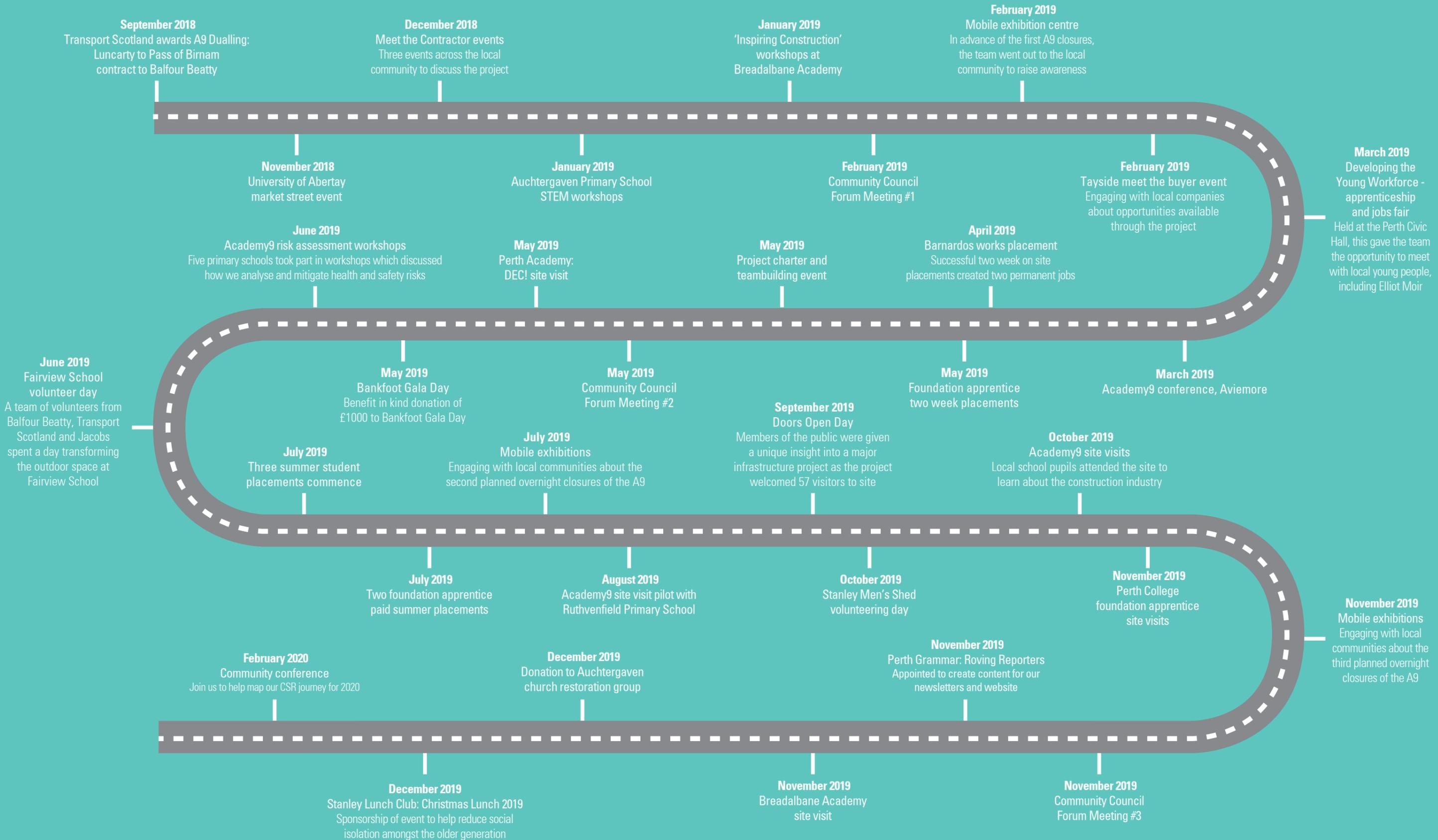
From an employment perspective, this includes supporting new starts, apprentices and graduates, increasing the workforce with opportunities to gain recognised qualifications and the use of sub-contracts including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), supported businesses and third sector enterprises.

Transport Scotland continues to investigate ways to further increase community engagement, provide improved community benefits, and further develop its engagement with the third sector and supported businesses. With the help of our delivery partners on this project and future A9 contracts, we hope to create a legacy for the A9 Dualling Programme that is truly world-class.



John MacIntyre,
Head of Procurement,
Major Projects,
Transport Scotland

Our CSR journey 2018/19



2019 highlights

Apprentices and graduates

The project team includes six apprentices and seven graduates, including one apprentice and one graduate employed specifically to work on the A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project. To date, our apprentices have worked more than 1,000 days on the project and our graduates have completed 870 days on site. All Balfour Beatty's graduates will complete Balfour Beatty's bespoke Emerging Talent programme, which includes a focus on working with the local community.

As well as traditional apprenticeships and graduate opportunities, the project has built on Balfour Beatty's relationship with Perth College to support the Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) programme by offering work placements, site visits and classroom support. The FA placements went so well that we invited the students back to paid placements over the summer.

Maintaining a pipeline of high-quality talent is important to the future of the engineering industry and that is why our professional teams invest a significant amount of their time at colleges and universities around Scotland, talking to students, discussing their career opportunities and inspiring the next generation of infrastructure experts.



Volunteering

In 2019, the project staff delivered 38 volunteering days to support a wide range of community initiatives. As well as being a great opportunity to make a real difference to a worthwhile cause, volunteering days can present an ideal teambuilding exercise.

In June, a group of 14 volunteers from Balfour Beatty, Transport Scotland and Jacobs transformed the gardens and outside space at Fairview School – Perth's school for children with additional support needs and severe disabilities.

The work included:

- Initial donation of 10 tonnes of wood chippings, recycled from site
- Preparation of ground, weeding and laying of terram

- Laying edging to plant beds
- Transporting and spreading 10 tonnes of wood chips
- Planting approximately 30 trees
- Weeding monoblock paths
- Trimming back over 100m of hedge and bushes

In October, a further eight volunteers helped Stanley Men's Shed towards its goal of creating a community orchard by collecting soil samples from the proposed site at Stanley Mills. The cost of the soil analysis was met by Balfour Beatty and has enabled the organisation to progress its plans.



Community engagement

Ongoing engagement and communication with local people about the progress of the project is key to ensuring that we are able to complete our works whilst minimising disruption to local residents, businesses and road users.

To that end, the project team has delivered numerous events offering local people the opportunity to speak directly to the project team and raise any questions or concerns they may have. This has included: Meet the Contractor events, several mobile exhibitions, Community Council Forums as well as presentations and talks to local groups throughout 2019.

We are proud that we have been able to make a good impression throughout the first year of the works. Whether supporting the Bankfoot Gala Day, providing expertise to a local voluntary group to help the planning for a cycle path between the two local villages of Luncarty and Stanley, donating funds to replace public defibrillator pads in Luncarty or sponsoring the local football team, we have donated more than £8,000 in cash donations or benefits-in-kind.



Work placements

During the first year of the project, 27 work placements were facilitated for individuals from a variety of backgrounds.

Four students from Perth Academy completed a one week accredited Industrial Cadet placement. As part of their accreditation, all the pupils delivered a presentation at the end of their placement.

In addition, we have continued to build on our relationship with the Scottish Prison Service by offering five placements to individuals being liberated from HMP Perth. Stable employment is recognised as a fundamental factor in breaking the cycle of reoffending and the opportunity of a work placement is the first step in getting individuals in to work and transforming their lives.



Schools, colleges and universities

The project has engaged with more than 3,000 pupils and students from nursery to university and everywhere in between. Whether delivering a donation of building materials to Pitlochry Nursery School for the kids to construct their own A9 or mentoring fifth year students at Napier University through their final year project, the team have delivered 55 separate events – that's more than one a week.

Our partnership with Perth Academy continues with our support for the Design... Engineer... Construct! (DEC!) course which is now in its third year. We also worked closely with Transport Scotland to help develop its overarching educational programme, Academy9, to reflect the shift in the A9 Dualling Programme as the design phase moves into construction. We delivered the first Academy9 Construction Classroom activity to the pupils of Luncarty, Murthly, Stanley and Auchtergaven primary schools, where the pupils learned about the journey of concrete on a construction site.



2020 vision

Although we are extremely proud of what the project has delivered to date, the second year of the project presents the opportunity to achieve even more. Below is a selection of initiatives we currently have planned over 2020 which your organisation could potentially support, but equally, we want to hear from you as to how you can help us raise the bar and go beyond our achievements of 2019. If you would like any further information, please contact our project team: A9L2B@balfourbeatty.com

Community benefits conference

We will start the year by bringing together our supply chain, partners in the local community and the third sector, to celebrate the successes of the first year of the project and share best practice. We will use this event to establish new links between our supply chain and our community partners to create new opportunities to deliver more and lasting benefits to the local community in 2020.

Bumblebee Conservation Trust – Biodiversity workshops

We will deliver a series of workshops at local primary schools in partnership with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. At these workshops, we will explore both the waste hierarchy and the importance of bees to our biosphere. We will also upcycle materials that would have been recycled on-site to create wildflower planters that will encourage bees to visit the local area.

Academy9

We will continue to work closely with Transport Scotland and the Academy9 team to develop site-based educational materials by building new and exciting activities and engagement opportunities in addition to the current programme. Our professional engineers will use their expertise to support Academy9 in the delivery of construction-based programmes for future projects.

Roving Reporters

Our Roving Reporters, a team of three media students from Perth Grammar, will deliver a suite of content for the Spring and Summer 2020 project newsletters, providing them with the opportunity to develop their communication skills out of the classroom environment. In turn, we hope that their content will provide a new outlook on the works and engage new audiences.

Gender balance events and activities

We are currently planning a number of activities to be delivered this year with the aim of encouraging more females to consider careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths (STEM) and construction. These events will be delivered at local schools and colleges and will provide practical, hands-on opportunities to learn about engineering and construction.

Construction academy for veterans

In the second half of the year, we will work with our partners at the Armed Forces Covenant to facilitate a Construction Academy for service leavers. The course will offer participants the chance to develop employability skills, complete a number of essential courses and qualifications, including Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) certification and the opportunity to complete a work placement.

Circular economy workshops

With the climate emergency at the forefront of many people's minds, we have been working with Zero Waste Scotland to plan events promoting the concept of the circular economy to local communities. The project will offer local community organisations the opportunity to claim materials from site that would otherwise be sent to recycling and use them for innovative upcycling projects. We intend to use this activity as a springboard to encourage participants to consider the opportunities that reducing waste and creating a more cyclical system can create.



Ken Brown

Corporate Social Responsibility Manager

Telephone: 07900 405 411

Email: ken.brown@balfourbeatty.com