

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	Co-operative Development
Committee:	Cabinet
Date:	13 November 2018
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development
CMT Member:	Anthony Payne (Director for Place)
Author:	Jane Hunt Senior Economic Development Officer
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Ref:	JH/CD/121118
Key Decision:	No
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

The purpose of the report is to gain approval for a Strategic Action Plan to double the size of the local co-operative economy in Plymouth in order to deliver Pledge 10 of the Plymouth Labour manifesto.

Next steps will be to explore how a proposed capital investment fund could be developed to facilitate the growth of the cooperative sector in line with the aspiration to double its size before 2025.

Corporate Plan

Growing Plymouth

Achieving Economic Growth that benefits as many people as possible through Co-operatives & Mutuels; Quality jobs and valuable jobs

Caring Plymouth

Through Co-operative Development, help reduce inequalities through generating new opportunities for children, young people and adults

Plymouth Plan / Joint Local Plan <https://plymswdevonplan.co.uk/policy>

Vision – Plymouth as a healthy city / Plymouth as a growing city

Policies

- DEV 1 – Protecting health and amenity
- DEV 14 – Maintaining a flexible mix of employment sites
- DEV 19 – Provisions for local employment and skills

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

Capital implications

None at this time

Revenue implications

None at this time

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

No direct implications are envisaged for the above themes but as the Strategic Action Plan is developed through the five growth areas described below, a number of key sectors could have positive impacts for Community Safety, Health & Safety and Risk Management.

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken on specific work developed in the implementation phase.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the Cabinet:-

- 1) Notes the Mapping Study
 - 2) Accepts and adopts the Co-operative and Mutuals Strategic Action Plan for doubling the size of the sector by 2025
 - 3) Supports work to explore establishment of a capital investment fund that will enable delivery of the Strategic Action Plan over 4 years. Allocation of any Plymouth City Council budget or borrowing will be subject to the normal governance procedures.
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Alternative options considered and rejected:

Option I:

Do Nothing.

Published work / information:

A final version of the Strategic Action Plan is attached to this paper.

Background papers:

The Co-operative Economy 2018 <https://www.uk.coop/economy>

NEF, Co-operatives Unleashed <https://neweconomics.org/2018/07/co-operatives-unleashed>

National Co-operative Development Strategy :-

Co-ops UK <https://www.uk.coop/tag/national-co-operative-development-strategy>

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

Sign off:

Fin	PI.18. 19.13 0	Leg	MS/ 315 34	Mon Off		HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	IT	N/ A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating SMT Member - Cllr Chris Penberthy													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													

1. **Background to the report**

1.1 This report is informed by the preparation of a mapping exercise and Strategic Action Plan documenting all the cooperatives in Plymouth. It is targeted at growing co-operatives and mutuals (both new and existing) in Plymouth and to facilitate co-operative start-up businesses.

2. **Plymouth Labour manifesto Pledge 10**

2.1 Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan will seek to deliver the Plymouth Labour manifesto Pledge 10

2.2 ‘We believe there is scope to increase the number of businesses owned by the people that employ them. As we’ve shown with community energy, people should be able to come together to use their buying power to improve the quality of the goods and services they receive. We will map the current work of co-operatives and mutuals within the city and set out an action plan to double the size of this sector by 2025’

3. **Procurement of the research**

3.1 Co-ops UK are the only providers able to provide this work and we are now part of the Cooperative Council Innovation Network and have access to their Consultancy Framework User Guide which identifies relevant consultants for co-operative development work.

3.2 Co-ops UK have undertaken this work on a national level and the Council’s brief outlined its wish for them to replicate this research at a local level.

4. **Co-ops UK work done**

4.1 The outcome of the mapping exercise shows that the co-operative economy in Plymouth reflects the national position in that it represents a small proportion of the overall business base.

4.2 Similar to the position nationally, the co-operative sector as a whole represents less than 1% of the business base, employment and output of the Plymouth economy.

5. **Report content**

5.1 Based on this mapping work, as well as recognising the wider economic strategy of the city, the following “strategic growth areas” have been identified as the most promising sectors to achieve the goal of doubling the co-operative economy by 2025

5.2 Five Strategic Growth Areas have been identified:

1. The local wellbeing economy
2. Community-owned infrastructure
3. Worker owned technology & creative industry
4. Public facing cultural and community hubs
5. Municipal Co-operation

6. **Recommended Strategic Actions**

1. Create the right conditions for Co-operative Formation
2. Promote and support pathways into co-operation for local businesses and organisations
3. Scope and apply national co-operative strategies into a local context to support health & social care, digital and freelancer workers
4. Encourage and support co-operative approaches in the local wellbeing economy

7. **Next Steps**

7.1 The next steps will be to work with the Council's cross sector advisory group to develop, resource and implement a detailed delivery plan.