



**Co-operative Councils**  
Innovation Network

# **Co-operative Case Studies**

**July 2017**



The logo features a stylized 'C' composed of several colored segments (pink, blue, green, orange, purple) arranged in a circular pattern. To the right of this graphic, the text 'Co-operative Councils' is written in a large, bold, dark grey font, with 'Innovation Network' in a smaller, regular dark grey font below it.

# Co-operative Councils

## Innovation Network

Public Sector funding continues to decline. Councils are having to find innovative ways of providing services with reducing budgets. Our Network was borne from this uncertainty – a direct response to delivering services differently, using the co-operative values and principles.

We're a non-party-political active hub for co-operative policy development, innovation and advocacy which is:

- Action-focused: a vehicle for helping councils translate co-operative policy and principles into practice
- Membership-based: funded by modest membership subscriptions from its member councils
- Open to all UK councils: members share the belief that working co-operatively with communities holds the key to tackling today's challenges
- Part of the local government family: the network is a Special Interest Group registered with the Local Government Association where we work to promote innovation in local government

**councils.coop**



@coopcouncils



@coopinnovation

comms@councils.coop

*“ We want to reclaim the traditions of community action, community engagement and civic empowerment which can transform communities and which will help us deliver radical and innovative programmes that are designed, led and delivered in partnership with communities and therefore maximise the social dividend they bring. It has also always been the purpose of the Network to share our developing good practice and to support one another in our co-operative aims and values.”*



**Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE**

Chair of the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network  
Leader of Stevenage Borough Council

Public Sector funding continues to decline. Councils are having to find innovative ways of providing services with reducing budgets. Our Network was borne from this uncertainty – a direct response to delivering services differently, using the co-operative values and principles.

These Case Studies demonstrate some of the many ways that Co-operative Councils are working with local people to build strong and resilient neighbourhoods. See more at [www.councils.coop/case-studies](http://www.councils.coop/case-studies).

## ASSET TRANSFER

# Beyond asset transfer

Newcastle City Council has been supporting the asset transfer of community buildings since 2013.

For some organisations, asset transfer has opened up new and exciting opportunities, whilst others have considered the option but have decided not to pursue asset transfer due to governance and / or financial capacity.

To continue to develop the concept of cooperative asset transfer, we are conducting a study into how successful organisations have been, post asset-transfer. This focuses on the following:

- Financial sustainability;
- Other (non-financial) challenges faced by organisations post the transfer process;
- The effectiveness of advice and support pre and post transfer;
- What outcomes for local communities have been achieved;
- What support (non-council) organisations have been able to secure;

- The benefits of creating cooperative networks of community assets.

All of this will enable Network Members to strengthen our support and practice around this important agenda. It will also help to define asset transfer policy in a cooperative context. We hope this will inspire more local organisations to go for asset transfer by highlighting success and showing what is possible through cooperative approaches.

For further information contact:

**Phil Hunter**

Senior Specialist Policy, Comms & Performance –  
Newcastle City Council

✉ [philip.hunter@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:philip.hunter@newcastle.gov.uk) | ☎ Tel: 0191 277 7802

## ASSET TRANSFER



# South Tyneside community asset transfer

South Tyneside Council is the midst of a major programme of community asset transfer which is empowering communities and charity groups to take over the running of local public assets.

Local authorities across the country have faced difficult decisions and have been challenged to find effective and efficient solutions to the continued delivery of valued local services. Proactively embracing the values and models of a Cooperative Council, South Tyneside has taken steps to prioritise community partnership initiatives and cooperative models of working, including developing a new Cabinet Portfolio for the Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Cooperatives.

Councillors and officers are determined to ensure that, in the face of immense financial and efficiency challenges, much-loved South Tyneside community spaces and services are not simply closed, dismantled and sold off to the highest bidder. Instead, the Council has worked to ensure these resources are retained within the community and used as a vehicle to grow community capacity and engagement.

This year has seen an acceleration of the cooperative agenda, with 12 formerly Council-run community associations currently being supported to draw up business plans and begin the process of being transferred directly into the hands of the local people who use them.

The process is being managed with care, with a focus on ensuring that community management is both financially sustainable and empowering and worthwhile to the individuals involved.

Business delivery plans, drawn up with Council support, identify new opportunities for commercial initiatives and routes to accessing new sources of charitable funding, with the aim of ensuring future financial independence and sustainability.

South Tyneside Council has long recognised the value of cooperating with community partners and service users to deliver services effectively. The current community asset transfer programme goes further, empowering communities with these assets, and equipping them with the skills and support needed for them to manage and set priorities for the delivery of their own spaces and activities.

For further information contact:

**Mike Conlon**

Operations Director –  
South Tyneside Council

✉ [mike.conlon@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:mike.conlon@southtyneside.gov.uk) | ☎ 0191 424 7765

## COMMUNITY BUDGET

# The Local Community Budget scheme

The Local Community Budget scheme was launched by Stevenage Borough Council in 2011 to help community groups and organisations to develop an idea, support an existing initiative or deliver a local priority.

Stevenage Borough Council Councillors each have a budget of £2,500 and the Youth Mayor a budget of £3,300: a total of £100,800 to be allocated to support initiatives across the borough.

Some examples of our community using this funding are below:

- Anti-Litter campaign as part of SET youth parliament project

The Thomas Alleyne Academy needed some more litter pickers and hoops for their anti-litter and school ecology campaign. It was part of a wider youth parliament project and campaign in Stevenage through the work of Stevenage Education Trust. Our Councillors awarded the Academy with the funding it needed to carry out this project.

- Road Safety Project for under-fives in the Stevenage North Children's Centre area

Stevenage North Group Children's Centre created a road safety initiative for families with under-fives in the area. Working with local schools, pre-schools, day nurseries, childminders and toddler groups they needed funding to run some events to teach under-fives and their families about road

safety. The project would provide every child at the events with a hi-vis arm band to wear, making the children much more visible in the dusk or dark and reducing the risk of them being involved in an accident. The Children's Centre created a fun environment for the children to play in while learning about road safety with role play areas with road safety equipment such as traffic lights and zebra crossings.

- Oak Church Stevenage Pop Up Cafe

The pop up café is an initiative by Oak Church Stevenage, a local church with a specific heart for young people.

The vision for the term-time café is to use it as a place to engage with young people who spend their time in King Georges' playing fields after school. The young people who have used it so far have had some very positive things to say about it:

'It's a great chance to hang out with people who are friendly and approachable' - Georgia, 17

'There is a great diversity that hang out in here and the guys just come and hang out and show us respect' - Mo, 18

- Community Spirit Project

The Community Spirit project was organised and run by volunteer Committee Members of St Hilda's Church, with support from volunteers of other organisations. A range of activities were on offer including family entertainment, a flower

festival, street theatre and street dance with food and refreshments on offer in the Church grounds. The event brought together local community organisations, charities, neighbourhood shops, schools and local churches and helped to raise awareness of what's available locally.

- 70th celebration of Stevenage New Town (2016/17)

In 2016 Stevenage celebrated its 70th anniversary as the first New Town in the country. To mark the occasion a funding pot was created specifically to support local groups to organise their own events and projects to celebrate the contribution they have made to the local community over the years. The groups who took part in the celebrations are below and we are incredibly proud of the difference they have made to their local areas and to local residents.

- South Stevenage Flower Club
- Friends of Hampson Park
- Fairview Road Residents' Association

- Stevenage Arts Society
- Dance Motion
- Symonds Green Community Association
- Bragbury End Residents' Group
- The Bragbury Centre
- Age Concern
- Douglas Drive Senior Citizens' Association

For further information contact:

**Emma Barron**

CNM Programme Manager and Senior Corporate Policy Officer –  
Stevenage Borough Council

✉ [emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk) | ☎ Tel: 01438 242928

## CLIMATE CHANGE



# Climate Ready Clyde

The Climate Ready Clyde vision for a city-region adapted to climate change was launched in November 2013.

The other side of the carbon coin is local adaptation to the predicted and inevitable impacts of global climate change. Glasgow is now at the forefront of action to manage excess surface water and flooding and to engage with communities to ensure that they and the city are climate ready. It has led the development of a city-regional approach, acknowledging that global climate change is no respecter of Scottish local government boundaries. This has been recognised by our peers across the EU in their decision to bring the next European Climate Change Adaptation conference to Glasgow in June 2017. Climate change is also a key feature of the city's resilience agenda (see below).

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk) | ☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

## CLIMATE CHANGE



# Delivering on local renewables projects

Glasgow has worked with its partners in SSE to construct one of the largest on-shore wind turbines in Europe at Cathkin Braes – with all Council revenues from it already pledged to support the city’s affordable warmth ambitions. Future City Glasgow has led the way with open data mapping which allows communities to see if vacant and derelict land is suitable for solar photovoltaic panels. Hydro projects are now being developed to harness the power of Glasgow’s rivers across the city.

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk) | 📞 Tel: 0141 287 3687

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Salford City Council

# Salford signs own climate change agreement

Move over world leaders – Salford has already signed its own climate change agreement!

Salford City Mayor Ian Stewart has given his backing to two groups that are promoting community-owned green energy in the city to help save money and the planet.

Greater Manchester Community Renewables Ltd (GMCR), formed by volunteers in January 2015, wants to raise up to £250,000 from a community share offer to install solar panels in three local schools and other community buildings.

Investors will get an annual return on their shares while the schools get cheaper electricity and any profits after reimbursing investors will go into a community fund to support local carbon reduction and environmental education projects.

And volunteers who set up Moss Community Energy after a series of public meetings in Irlam, Cadishead and Eccles, want to use a similar scheme to fund solar panels at Moss Lane Farm and a local primary school and use their profits to fund climate change education and fuel poverty projects. The group now has members across Salford.

City Mayor Ian Stewart praised both groups and said: “The answers to tackling climate change lie in the community so I’m delighted to sign an agreement with these two exciting and innovative groups to show the council’s full support.

“We will now work with these projects to help them identify suitable sites, consult with local communities and give people who live or work in Salford the opportunity to invest in the project.”

Salford City Council has already installed solar panels at the Civic Centre to save energy and costs and introduced a fleet of green cars to save money and emissions on business travel. It has reduced its carbon emissions by 22.5 per cent since 2009 and saved £100,000 a year in energy bills and is backing the RHS campaign Greening Grey Britain, encouraging householders to green concrete over front gardens to help soak up rainwater and minimise flooding. And it has captured the city’s ‘green’ achievements in a sustainable energy document showing how the council and its partners have cut carbon emissions and saved money.



## CLIMATE CHANGE

# Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Kate Eldridge, Director of GMCR, said: "We are really pleased to be working together with Salford City Council to bring solar panels to Salford's schools. Not only will this help schools save money on their electricity bills, it will also help children learn more about energy and climate change."

Eddie Sheehy, Director of MCE, said: "Community energy is the way forward. In the current economic and political climate, the power of local people has the potential to make real progress in sustainability. We are really pleased that Salford Council recognise the importance of community energy and have agreed to work with together with us."

Both GMCR and MCE will soon be launching share offers to raise funds for their projects. Anyone interested in receiving copies of the offer can register at [www.gmcr.org.uk](http://www.gmcr.org.uk) or contact [hello@mosscommunityenergy.org.uk](mailto:hello@mosscommunityenergy.org.uk)

The city is almost half way towards its reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions.

Latest DECC (Department of Energy & Climate Change) data shows that Glasgow has made 14% of its overall reduction target of 30% by 2020. This is derived from a 2006 baseline so is equivalent to the Scottish Government's own 42% reduction target by 2020, which starts from an earlier year. Glasgow's savings are the equivalent of 164,000 return flights from the city to Sydney, Australia. Our latest position on greenhouse gas reductions is better than any other UK city, with the exception only of Sheffield. The Council itself is making similar savings from its estate and vehicle management.

For further information contact:  
**Chris Howl**  
Policy and Equality Officer –  
Salford City Council  
✉ [chris.howl@salford.gov.uk](mailto:chris.howl@salford.gov.uk)

For further information contact:  
**Tracey Cunningham**  
Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council  
✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)  
☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

## COMMUNITY

# Funding boost in Oldham helps elderly residents become computer savvy

Elderly residents in Chadderton are becoming more computer savvy, thanks to a partnership between Oldham Council and Age UK Oldham.

Research shows more than one million people living in the UK feel lonely, out of touch and cut off from society. In an attempt to get elder people engaged in new technology and prevent digital exclusion, Chadderton District Executive has provided funding to Age UK Oldham to carry out computer classes in the area. The local charity's Technology & Us service is already creating a buzz at their weekly sessions at St Herbert's Court with an army of eager learners attending.

Councillor Graham Shuttleworth, Chair of Chadderton District Executive, said: "It's great news to hear that so many people are reaping the benefits from this service. We recognised there was a need to help elderly people from becoming digitally excluded and socially isolated. I've been told that it's making the users feel more confident, reducing boredom and more engaged in a world that relies heavily on computers and digital technology."

Age UK Oldham offer one to one tuition, a laptop/tablet rental service and the computer learning classes. A personal learning programme is devised for those who sign up – putting the user in control in an unpressured environment. Some learners have purchased their own tablets and laptops and now enjoy their new-found skill at home away from the class.

Maggie Hurley, from Age UK Oldham, added: "Technology can enhance later life, so we don't simply teach you how to use a computer, we look for the reason you need to use a computer and then show you what to do. Our volunteer tutors and mentors are patient and experienced. We understand how difficult it can be to get started, but the friendly and informal way we approach your learning journey will make learning fun. Our older learners told us that sometimes using computers can be confusing and frustrating. However, the classes have helped them to overcome the anxiousness and fear towards computers. Now, the computer has become an inseparable part of their daily routines and used as a new tool for communication."

Dorothy Gregory, aged 82, from Chadderton, said:  
“The classes have brought a great deal of pleasure into my life. Using a computer was quite scary, but now I feel more confident with the help of these classes and it has given me something to occupy my brain. I’d recommend the classes to people of my age. If they are fearful of the computer, they shouldn’t be because there’s a big world out there at their fingertips.”



For further information contact:

**Jonathan Downs**

Principal Policy Officer –

Oldham Council

✉ [jonathan.downs@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.downs@oldham.gov.uk) | ☎ Tel: 0161 770 5691

## COMMUNITY

Salford City Council

# Park opens with art and poems in Salford

Youngsters from Monton have put their arts into brightening up a £40,000 revamp of their local playground.

Year Five pupils from Monton Green primary school designed new signs for the fencing at the Shackleton Street site while Monton poet Jenny Berry composed a special acrostic poem for the fence which spells out Monton Playground and reads:

**M**ilestones of history

**O**ccur entwined with mystery,

**N**urturing the industrial revolution

**T**he canal's solution

**O**ffered transportation by boat;

**N**ow the past could stay afloat.

**P**resent Monton brings:

**L**eisure, butterflies, slides and swings,

**A** roundabout that revolves

**Y**outh that evolves,

**G**rey herons flying free

**R**ed Campion, hedge bindweed.

**O**pportunities for all and

**U**nique trails to trawl,

**N**ature so true and

**D**og walkers too

Their work at the renamed Monton Playground follows a fundraising campaign by local residents and Monton Village Community Association (MVCA) backed by Salford City Council.

Local resident Jan Phelan, of Monton Road, said: "It all started when one of our local residents Derek Hodgkinson commented that Shackleton St playground needed more swings and equipment. We went to look at the park and realised, as it's the only one in Monton, it needed revamping. We launched a fundraising campaign locally and had a fantastic response from local residents. We raised £1,800 at a charity night at Worsley Golf Club and had donations of both funds and support from local businesses Fletcher Engineering Ltd, Revive Mortgages Ltd, Home in Monton, Eccles Rotary Club, City West Housing Trust and Salford City Council. We also managed to secure £32,000 in funding from Viridor Credits Environmental Company which is a charity and environmental body that distributes money to projects via the Landfill Communities Fund."

Jan added: "We asked local schoolchildren to design signs for the fence as it's their playground and they worked with mosaic artist and metal worker Mark Mennell whose company Urban Wonder specialises in community projects. Our local poet Jenny Berry composed an original poem on the theme of the playground and that has been installed as part of the fencing too."

Salford City Council, which managed the construction of the playground, fully supported the plans to get a new see-saw, swings and climbing frame installed, along with new picnic areas and flower beds. The council will now maintain the playground.

Councillor Gena Merrett, assistant mayor for housing and environment, praised residents for all their hard work and said they should be very proud of what they have achieved. "Play is a really important part of life for children and they will really enjoy using these new facilities. I'm looking forward to seeing the playground in full swing," she said.



For further information contact:

**Chris Howl**

Policy and Equality Officer –  
Salford City Council

✉ [chris.howl@salford.gov.uk](mailto:chris.howl@salford.gov.uk)

## COMMUNITY



# Rochdale Night-time Intervention Project

A co-operative project to help keep club-goers safe and raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol and drugs has been launched in Rochdale, UK.

The Rochdale Night-time Intervention Project involves a team of officers patrolling the town centre on Friday and Saturday nights between 11pm and 6am; to help diffuse potential problems and prevent them escalating into serious crime.

Officers will provide vulnerable adults with safety advice; aiming to steer them away from alcohol or drug-fuelled trouble and get them home safely. Drug and alcohol support services information is given out during the operation.

In 2015 Greater Manchester Police (GMP) recorded 167 alcohol-related crimes in Rochdale town centre ranging from assault to criminal damage. More than a third of these happened during the weekend, an average of one incident per week.

The multi-agency operation, developed by GMP, Rochdale Borough Council, Street Pastors and local businesses, is designed to prevent alcohol and drug-related problems arising in the town centre by providing early intervention advice rather than using enforcing as a deterrent.

It is hoped that the scheme will improve perceptions of the town centre and make it a safer place for local people to visit at night.

Training on the drug and alcohol support services available, has been provided by Rochdale Borough Council's drug and alcohol team with officers attending briefing sessions before each operation to learn the best ways to interact with revellers.

Councillor Kathleen Nickson, Assistant to the Leader of Rochdale Borough Council, said: "We want everyone to have good time when they go out but unfortunately alcohol can put some people's safety at risk and this is something we take very seriously. We hope that by providing drug and alcohol information to our residents and helping them make safer choices on a night out we can stop any problems before they start."

Greater Manchester Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd said: "This is a brilliant initiative that that brings police, Rochdale Borough Council, drug and alcohol teams, street pastors together with local businesses and the community to make Rochdale town centre a great place to enjoy a night out. Vitaly, it's also about looking out for the most vulnerable, offering them a supportive hand whether that's making sure they get home safely, taking them to a place of safety or helping address drug and alcohol problems."

Chief Superintendent Chris Sykes said: "This is a fantastic initiative which shows what can be achieved when working closely with partner agencies and community groups. By working together, we are able to offer support to vulnerable

people and tackle issues surrounding alcohol and drugs while also improving safety in Rochdale town centre and making it an enjoyable place to socialise.”

Mark Foxley from Rochdale Town Centre Management Company said “The venues in Rochdale town centre are run by responsible operators who’ve achieved Best Bar None accreditation. If persons have over indulged, lost their friends, or been refused entry, this partnership initiative will help towards a safer environment, and increase awareness for knowing their limits and being more aware of their surroundings when enjoying a good night out.”

For further information contact:

**Caroline Wolfenden**

Head of Corporate Policy, Performance and Improvement –  
Rochdale Council

✉ [caroline.wolfenden@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.wolfenden@rochdale.gov.uk) | 📞 Tel: 01796 924 734

## CONSULTATION

# Children shape their local play areas

Stevenage Borough Council is working with children and young people to improve play areas across the town. In 2016/17, children and young people were given the exciting opportunity to design their local play area by choosing their five favourite pieces of play equipment. We then worked with our chosen play equipment provider to make sure that the most popular play items chosen by the children would be included in the new designs.

Six play areas have already been improved using the children's ideas. As well as swings and climbing frames, the play areas include a zip wire, basketball hoops, climbing wall, rocking boat and a dinosaur domain.

The old play areas were rated as poor or very poor by 56% of the children and young people using them. Now the improved play areas have been rated as good or very good by 100% of the children who have visited them. Levels of vandalism and misuse have decreased too.

This work is continuing as part of a bigger project to improve all council-owned play areas across the town – redesigned by local children and young people.

For further information contact:

**Emma Barron**

CNM Programme Manager and Senior Corporate Policy Officer –  
Stevenage Borough Council

✉ [emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk) | ☎ Tel: 01438 242928

## EDUCATION

# Closing the attainment gap through out of school care

Funding provided by the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network supported the City of Edinburgh Council Early Years Team to work co-operatively with Third Sector Organisation - Lothian Association of Youth Clubs and eight 'not for profit' out of school care providers across Edinburgh. We aim to contribute to closing the attainment gap associated with poverty in Scotland, by developing staff training, which will contribute to raising attainment levels in our most vulnerable children attending out of school care settings. Staff training needs were initially identified through an audit of out of school care providers and through discussion with managers of 'not for profit' out of school care provision. Practitioners attended training sessions which reinforced Curriculum for Excellence, Health and Wellbeing - Experiences and Outcomes.

### Training sessions aimed to:

- Promote children's confidence, independent thinking and positive attitudes and dispositions.
  - Help develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which children need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future.
  - Engage children in extra-curricular physical activity.
  - Empower children to make healthy food choices and understand the benefits of physical exercise.
- Upskill staff to deliver creative play experiences within their settings.
  - Link with the home by encouraging parents and carers to become Energy Club leaders.
  - Build co-operative partnerships between out of school clubs and primary schools.
  - Support staff to confidently deliver 'play in the dark' outdoor activities.
  - Build staff and children's confidence in assessing risk benefit in play activities.

### Impact – what difference has it made?

- Training sessions have been delivered in November and December 2016.
- A total of 22 out of school care staff participated in Play in the Dark and Energy Club training sessions.
- Eight 'not for profit' clubs will continue to benefit from the new skills acquired by staff who attended training.
- Around 400 – 450 children will benefit from the new skills acquired by staff who attended training.
- Five clubs who took part in the training have higher levels of economically disadvantaged families attending their provision. This is reflected

through percentages of children in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) categories 1-4 attending the participating organisations' provision.

- Clubs have been supplied with resources to scaffold the children's learning and support the sustainability of Energy Club activities within each setting.
- Twenty two staff have new skills and ideas for creative play, which can be shared with colleagues and children in their settings.
- Funding has facilitated to opportunity for ten organisations from the statutory and voluntary sectors and social enterprises to work together in a more co-operative manner.

### Next steps

- Ensure staff have the relevant Energy Club resources to embed new skills into their clubs.
- Monitor the impact of the interventions with children.
- Continue to upskill local, parent led groups and raise awareness of play activities that give children skills to lead their own play.

For further information contact:

**Christine McKechnie**

Early Years Strategic Development Officer –  
City of Edinburgh Council

✉ christine.mckechnie@edinburgh.gov.uk | 📞 Tel: 0131 469 3784

## EMPLOYMENT



# Growing a green economy

Because of Glasgow's work to become an economic powerhouse for the green economy, we now have the largest number of renewables jobs of anywhere in Scotland. A green jobs strategy is being drawn up as a key element of the city's new economic strategy and again it has a major emphasis on well paid jobs for our people as part of the sustainability and social justice agenda. In that light, an annual green jobs fair has now been established for young people from S2 and S3 classes.



For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk) | 📞 Tel: 0141 287 3687

## ENERGY

# Community groups encouraged to go green & create their own energy

Oldham Council's Cabinet is being asked to approve unique plans which will encourage community groups to go green and create their own energy.

Under the 'Generation Oldham' initiative organisations will be encouraged to install energy generating equipment and energy efficiency measures in their buildings.

The project brings together sustainability, lower energy costs for community buildings, and opportunities for communities to work together for mutual benefit.

This community-owned approach to renewable energy will help to reduce demand for council services, and encourage residents to get involved.

It is proposed that Oldham Youth Council would be directly involved in projects so they can take advantage of training and employment opportunities in the future.

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Oldham Council's Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources, said: "If approved 'Generation Oldham' will raise the

profile of sustainable energy production and energy efficiency locally and regionally. It will also go a long way to assisting us to meet our targets which we set out as part of our Climate Change Strategy. As well as helping out community groups it will also support our Get Oldham Working campaign by creating new training and career opportunities in green industries. In 2016 the council approved a strategy for "sustainable energy alternatives", which aims to maximise low carbon energy generation across the borough and generate income for community projects and programmes. It recommends a partnership approach with the council supporting community groups to improve their buildings with renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

By 2020 the council aims to cut carbon dioxide emissions locally by 48 per cent.

For further information contact:

**Jonathan Downs**

Principal Policy Officer –  
Oldham Council

✉ [jonathan.downs@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.downs@oldham.gov.uk) | ☎ Tel: 0161 770 5691

## ENERGY



# Delivering a comprehensive Energy and Carbon Masterplan for the whole city

Glasgow was one of the earliest UK signatories to several EU-wide pledges on climate change and has recently worked with other European partners to deliver an Energy and Carbon Masterplan. This is a key framework for leading Glasgow through the transition to a low carbon economy and it is a major legacy of the city's leadership that will guide the city's future development for decades to come. Its focus includes the development of low carbon heating systems, more energy efficient buildings and further renewable energy projects.

# Plymouth Energy Community (PEC)

The highly successful Plymouth Energy Community (PEC) is a perfect example of how the co-operative approach leads to real action on energy efficiency and sustainability at all levels in a local community. In line with its co-operative ethos, Plymouth City Council (PCC) recognised the potential for a community organisation to play a key role in delivering local solutions around advice on bills, affordable warmth and renewable energy.

PEC is a big-thinking, multifaceted Community Benefit Society, aiming to give Plymouth residents the power to change the way they buy, use and generate energy. Established in 2013, PEC has grown from a council initiative into a large community-led operation offering many different services addressing fuel poverty and carbon emissions.

Plymouth City Council's support through provision of start-up finance and access to funding streams, sourcing of founder members and volunteer Directors and provision of invaluable commitment of staff through an innovative shared services agreement means that PEC has acted at an unprecedented rate for a community energy group. Groups and local authorities all over the country are striving to replicate this co-operative collaboration.

With over 1200 individual and organisational members, PEC has been able to skip lengthy procurement processes and work with a range of organisations to provide and achieve the following:

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

- Helped 170 households clear over £115,000 fuel debt through a dedicated fuel debt advice service.
- Provided free training to 48 volunteers and enabled four to complete Level 3 City & Guilds in Energy Awareness.
- Provided bespoke home advice visits by a volunteer 'Energy Team' to 55 households; saving them a total of £27,000 over the next year (average £203 a year by switching and £141 through advice).
- Provided advice and support to over 3000 households through attending over 250 community events and presentations.
- Helped 700 households access grants for external wall insulation.
- Employed two energy marketing apprentices.
- Assisted 700 households to access grants for external wall insulation, saving £4.5million and 19,000t CO<sup>2</sup> over the lifetime of the measures

In 2014, PEC launched a second Community Benefit Society, PEC Renewables, to enable community-owned renewable energy installations. These benefit local organisations, generate community investment and drive an income to provide long-term support for PEC's services addressing fuel poverty and carbon emissions. Through two share offers, £1.45 million community shares have been raised from 319 local, national and international investors. In addition to £1 million loan finance from PCC, this has led to 28 schools and community buildings receiving free community-owned solar on their roofs at total generation capacity of 2MW. This has empowered the local community to own their own clean energy supply and boosted income in the city by offsetting what would otherwise have been spent by schools, businesses, households and PCC.

For further information contact:

**Giles Perritt**

Assistant Chief Executive –  
Plymouth City Council

✉ [giles.perritt@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:giles.perritt@plymouth.gov.uk) | 📞 Tel: 01725 398618

## ENERGY



# Replacement of 10,000 street lights

Glasgow signed the first deal of its kind in the UK with the Green Investment Bank to replace 10,000 street lights.

Work is being undertaken right now to replace 10,000 lanterns with energy efficient LED lights. They'll provide a 53% saving on current energy usage and help to deliver a further 3% savings on the Council's carbon emissions. The Council has also delivered a pilot project with SSE to replace 1,000 lighting columns and lamps to test out new technologies and new funding models – another example of the innovative approach to public-private initiatives from this Council.

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk) | ☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

## ENERGY

# Tommyfield Market in Oldham goes solar

Oldham Council has installed a solar array on the roof of Tommyfield Market Hall as it looks to become one of the greenest local authorities in the country – while also saving money.

Electricity generated from the 110kw solar array will be used to power the hall, which is home to more than 90 independent traders. The council will save around £9,000 a year on its electricity bill, which it plans to reinvest in the market hall.

The green electricity generated will also save around 50 tonnes of carbon dioxide – one of the main ‘greenhouse gases’ and a major contributor to climate change – from being emitted into the atmosphere every year.

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources, said: “Over the next financial year Oldham Council needs to make savings of £19m so we need to come up with innovative ways of saving money to secure the future of buildings such as Tommyfield Market Hall whilst at the same time finding clean, sustainable alternative energy sources. “The roof of Tommyfield Market is a perfect site for this solar array due to its size and will be our flagship green project for 2016. We are leading the way as a co-operative green authority, as we look to become more energy self-sufficient at a time when fuel bills are continually on the rise.”

Proposals are now also being considered to install solar panels on other council-owned buildings across the borough. The installation of the solar panels comes weeks after the council welcomed the signing of the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP21) agreement, which helps organisations manage the world’s transition to a low carbon economy. The agreement will help Oldham Council strengthen the growing partnership working that is already taking place across the borough as we all try to do our bit to tackle climate change.

Oldham already boasts the largest biomass-fuelled district heating network in the UK, and the award-winning Warm Homes Oldham scheme for residents. Oldham Council is also working with the Government on a new apprenticeship standard for community-owned renewable energy. Oldham’s own Climate Change Strategy also sets an ambitious target of a 48 per cent cut in carbon emissions by 2020.



For further information contact:

**Jonathan Downs**

Principal Policy Officer –  
Oldham Council

✉ [jonathan.downs@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.downs@oldham.gov.uk) | ☎ Tel: 0161 770 5691

## ENERGY



# Delivering on local renewables projects

Glasgow has worked with its partners in SSE to construct one of the largest on-shore wind turbines in Europe at Cathkin Braes – with all Council revenues from it already pledged to support the city’s affordable warmth ambitions. Future City Glasgow has led the way with open data mapping which allows communities to see if vacant and derelict land is suitable for solar photovoltaic panels. Hydro projects are now being developed to harness the power of Glasgow’s rivers across the city.

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

## HOUSING

# Low Carbon Social Housing Demonstrator Project

The Sunderland Low Carbon Social Housing Demonstrator Project takes a dual track approach to addressing the challenge of developing a low carbon economy. Funded through ERDF, with support through Sunderland City Council and Gentoo Group, it aimed to:

- Develop an exemplar of effective energy management within social housing.
- Support the development of new skills and capacity, specifically among SMEs to promote supply chain growth.

The objectives of the project were to:

- Increase the technical knowledge, skills and capacity of the business community to enable them to respond more effectively to the anticipated growth in demand for new energy saving products and installations.
- Enable SMEs to achieve the recognised accreditations for the various sustainable energy technologies.
- Create new and safeguard existing jobs with a similar skill set to those required for micro-generation.
- Increase demand for new energy efficiency applications, by highlighting the substantial energy savings benefits of the interventions through community engagement, evaluation work and deployment activities.

- Test, deploy and monitor a range of innovative energy and renewable technologies in Gentoo Group Ltd social housing in the City of Sunderland, responding both to market failure and future demand.
- Promote social cohesion and reduce fuel poverty by ensuring that the 'hardest to treat' social housing properties and the most vulnerable groups and communities benefit from this flexibility in the use of ERDF funding.
- Engage with residents to educate in the effective use of new, low carbon technologies and to raise awareness of the steps to be taken towards true low carbon communities.

The rationale for the project was to provide a test-case for a supply and use model in establishing low carbon communities, while building opportunities in an emerging sector in the local economy. The twin track approach was designed to simultaneously stimulate both the supply and demand side of low carbon technologies for domestic and commercial use, by installing and demonstrating low carbon technologies and increasing the capacity of the private sector.

The target area was Glebe, in Washington. This comprised c.100 1970s brick-built terraced single level dwellings in Roche Court and Wenlock, with flat roofs and poor levels of insulation. Residents fall mainly within the older

age range, and the area has suffered from poor perceptions in the past.

The area is relatively compact, with central space that was capable of being adapted to house the central boiler. Gentoo commissioned the design and installation of a communal energy centre and district heating network, powered by biomass – such as wood chippings - and by gas to provide the heat and hot water to the properties. In addition, the thermal performance of the properties was improved by installing insulated external cladding, double glazed windows and a pitched roof system with loft insulation. The components of the project therefore comprised:

- District Heating (biomass & gas)
- Insulated Pitched Roof with PV
- Improved Windows and Doors
- Insulated Cladding
- Programmable Heating Controls
- Flexi Pay Billing System

To achieve the SME engagement activities, a North-East based training and consultancy provider, Narec DE, was appointed to manage this component of the work. The activities undertaken comprised:

- Engaging SMEs (primarily micro businesses) to become involved in targeted training.
- Delivery of training courses.
- The provision of consultancy support.

The Sunderland Low Carbon Social Housing Demonstration Project is a capital and revenue funded project, delivered with funding secured from Gentoo Group Ltd, Sunderland City Council and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The total investment through this project is £3,884,861 comprising £1,942,431 of ERDF, grant funding and £1,942,430 of match funding. As a social housing demonstration project capital funding to deploy, purchase and install low carbon technologies accounted for most project spend (89%) with SME engagement, demand stimulation and diversification activities accounting for around 5% of spend.

A survey of SME beneficiaries reported very high levels of satisfaction with the support received as well as very high levels of additionality (i.e. benefits are directly attributable to project support). Responses received demonstrated several positive outcomes for SME participants, including:

Four businesses increasing their collective turnover by over £80,000 because of the training received through the project, an average of over £20,000 per business;

- At least four new jobs being created because of new work won, equating to an economic contribution of £143,210 to the Gross Value Added.
- 54% of beneficiaries selling new services.
- 92% of beneficiaries stating that the training had helped to improve their business
- Four businesses looking to invest over £42,000 to implemented changes to improve their energy performance.

Residents of the 97 social houses that have had energy efficiency measures undertaken on their properties also reported very high levels of satisfaction with the improvements with:

- 25 of the 32 households surveyed stating that the new heating system had 'made a lot of difference to the comfort of their home'; and
- 31 out of 32 reporting that the other improvements had 'made a lot of difference to the comfort of their home'.

Early data suggests the improvements have made a positive impact on residents' energy use and costs as well as improving their quality of life. For example, 24 out of 32 believe their heating bills have decreased and monitoring data from the Gentoo Group suggests that each household can expect to save at least £108 per year on their energy bills with a saving of around £59 or €80 per year on heating and hot water and £49 or €67 per year on their electricity bills.

Collectively these savings suggest a reduction in energy bills of at least £10,461 per year across the 97 households.

For further information contact:

**Charlotte Burnham**

Head of Member Support and Community

Sunderland City Council

✉ [charlotte.burnham@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.burnham@sunderland.gov.uk) | ☎ Tel: 0191 5611 147

## HOUSING



# Customer Scrutiny Panel showcase their work

The panel is a group of housing tenants who review and challenge how Stevenage Borough Council's housing services are performing.

They tell us that they enjoy investigating what the council's housing service provides and helping it to improve further. At the end of a review they produce a report with evidence that goes to the Housing Management Board that ultimately decides if the recommendations made by the panel are accepted.

The panel have developed an incredible reputation with other landlords and were invited to deliver workshops on how they scrutinise housing services to tenants at the Tenant Participation Herts and Tenant Participation Beds conferences. Sharing their experiences has helped other landlords set up their own scrutiny panels.

# Community creates a new garden for Bragbury End

In 2016 Bragbury End Residents' Association told us of a strip of land and that they would like to take over to create a community garden. The council had no other plans for the land and were pleased to accept the residents' offer to take care of it.

Green-fingered volunteers of all ages planted raised beds and bushes at the garden and have mulberry, walnut, pear and cherry trees as well as flowers and shrubs. They have created a thriving display for all residents to enjoy and used it to join in with our celebrations to mark the town's 70th anniversary.

The Bragbury End Community Garden volunteers meet on Saturday mornings for gardening sessions, and also regularly hold social events there.

For further information contact:

**Emma Barron**

CNM Programme Manager and Senior  
Corporate Policy Officer

Stevenage Borough Council

✉ [emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 01438 242928

## RECYCLING



# The Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre

The Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre is being delivered in partnership with Viridor.

Work continues apace on the GRREC, which is due to begin operations next year. It will take Glasgow from being one of the worst performing to one of the best local authorities in the country for diverting waste from landfill (with a 90% diversion rate). It will save on 90,000 tonnes of carbon emissions every year and recover enough energy to power the equivalent of 22,000 homes and heat 8,000 homes.

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

## SOCIAL CARE



# A key focus on ensuring that sustainability and social justice always go together

The city is the only one in the UK to offer an annual affordable warmth dividend to all vulnerable elderly people over the age of 80 - £100 every winter since the new Administration was elected in 2011. The Council also delivers a major domestic energy efficiency programme, leveraging in national and local funding sources to provide up to £500 a year in savings for fuel-poor residents. Now Glasgow is establishing an Energy Services Company for the city – a radical move to protect our people from market failure in the energy system by drawing on our history of municipal activism.

# Living well in later life

Local charities who work with Stevenage Borough Council were concerned that many older people do not ask for help when they first need it but instead wait until they are having a crisis. This can mean they end up having a lengthy stay in hospital which could have been avoided.

The council worked with them to devise a plan to help, and decided to pull together information on all the help available for older people in the area, to share with older people and their carers.

The guide, Living Well in Later Life, includes information on social activities, financial advice, care services, activities on offer, and emergency contacts for public bodies and charities who help older people.

More than 3,000 copies of the guide are issued each year: it is given out by charities and GPs, distributed at lunch clubs, and handed to older patients and their carers on discharge from hospital.

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

For further information contact:

**Emma Barron**

CNM Programme Manager and Senior  
Corporate Policy Officer  
Stevenage Borough Council

✉ [emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 01438 242928

## STRATEGY



# Rockefeller Foundation's Resilient Cities Network

Glasgow was chosen by former President Bill Clinton as one of the first group of cities to join the Rockefeller Foundation's Resilient Cities Network.

Glasgow is at the forefront of the global urban resilience agenda, taking our place with peer cities from around the world. The resilience agenda in Glasgow addresses the acute shocks which any city can find itself facing in an emergency, but it also focuses more on the longer-term chronic stresses and strains experienced over periods of years and decades. Glasgow's bid to the Rockefeller Foundation was very much based on the growing challenge of climate change and its anticipated long-term impacts on the city, but more recent discussion on resilience in Glasgow has also included social and economic resilience. An innovative engagement process with Glaswegian communities is currently under way as part of a broad civic conversation on what makes for a more resilient city.

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

## SUSTAINABILITY



# First city in the UK to offer free parking for electric vehicles

Glasgow is serious about encouraging low carbon travel options. That's why it became the first and only city in the UK to announce in 2012 that parking for electric vehicles would be free. At the same time, the city has expanded its own network of free charging points on the street and at Council venues. The city's own car club is acknowledged to have one of the lowest carbon fleets in the UK and will add ten electric vehicles this year. Each of our car club vehicles is estimated to keep a further twelve cars off the city streets.

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687



## SUSTAINABILITY

# Hosting a Green Year across 2015

Glasgow came a close second to Bristol for the title of European Green Capital 2015. It is one of the city's great traits that a bid like that should always have a legacy so Glasgow is during a major programme of activities and events across all twelve months of 2015 – Glasgow's very own Green Year. Each month has offered residents and visitors encouragement to live a greener lifestyle, resources to help them and fun activities to promote our positive message about more sustainable forms of urban living.

# 2014 – the greenest Commonwealth Games to date

Glasgow promised and Glasgow gave the world the greenest Commonwealth Games. The Athletes Village is a model of sustainable development, with a low carbon district heating system, energy efficient homes and an entire development designed to cope with a changing climate through the innovative use of natural infrastructure to manage rainwater. It has influenced the design of our new Sighthill development, which will also be a climate adapted community. The Games exceeded its own targets for recycling materials and diverting waste from landfill and car free zones around the venues ensured that fans walked or took public transport to them. Every one of the venues has remained in active use since the Games, ensuring that no white elephants were reared in Glasgow.

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

## SUSTAINABILITY



# Greening the city

Sustainability is all about people and all about how we tend our relationship with the natural environment. Glasgow has undertaken significant work across its parks and greenspaces to connect people to nature and to encourage biodiversity. Our award-winning Stalled Spaces programme, for instance, has taken land for which development has halted and returned it to temporary community use for a wide variety of growing projects and creative programmes. There are even two bee colonies on the roof of the building which is at the very heart of city government in Glasgow.

# Doing even more to invest in sustainable transport

The Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre is being delivered in partnership with Viridor.

Work continues apace on the GRREC, which is due to begin operations next year. It will take Glasgow from being one of the worst performing to one of the best local authorities in the country for diverting waste from landfill (with a 90% diversion rate). It will save on 90,000 tonnes of carbon emissions every year and recover enough energy to power the equivalent of 22,000 homes and heat 8,000 homes.

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

For further information contact:

**Tracey Cunningham**

Co-operative Development Unit –  
Glasgow City Council

✉ [tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.cunningham@glasgow.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 0141 287 3687

## VOLUNTEERING



# Residents clean up in Stevenage

Bedwell Residents' Group spruced up their local area with a weekend litter picking morning in spring 2017. Stevenage Borough Council offered to help publicise future litter picking sessions and provided the group with high visibility jackets, with Bedwell Residents' Group emblazoned across them, so people knew who they were and could join in.

The residents' group plan regular litter picking sessions, meeting for a couple of hours every few months. The chairman of the residents' group, said: "We want to help create a cleaner town, making our streets better to live and play in. The jackets are great as people immediately know who we are."

# Keeping the town green and clean

The Green Spaces Volunteer initiative was launched by Stevenage Borough Council in 2011, in response to a growing interest among local residents who wanted to play an active part in the maintenance and management of their local green spaces.

Volunteers are welcome to attend for as much, or as little, time as they can afford and no previous experience is required – people just need to enjoy working in the outdoors and want to make a difference to the town.

The council provides a varied programme of activities in parks, woodlands, ponds and grasslands, which can add value to scheduled council maintenance activities. Tasks include woodland coppicing, pond clearance, management of ancient hedgerows, butterfly surveys, installation of bird / bat boxes, bulb and tree planting, and help at community events.

More than 100 people have joined the Green Space Volunteers. They meet new people and learn new skills, and make a great contribution to the town's green spaces for residents, visitors and wildlife.

For further information contact:

**Emma Barron**

CNM Programme Manager and Senior  
Corporate Policy Officer

Stevenage Borough Council

✉ [emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 01438 242928

## VOLUNTEERING



# Residents help improve local park

Residents involved in the Friends of Hampson Park have been working with Stevenage Borough Council to help improve Hampson Park by:

- Applying for funding to support provision of new equipment in partnership with the council, such as an outdoor gym, skate park.
- Running events such as the annual Teddy Bears Picnic, and new this year "Music in the Park".
- Volunteering to maintain the grounds in partnership with the council, which includes shrub beds, tree planting, and general clearance as well as reporting issues such as dog fouling, fly tipping, broken fences, benches etc.

The Friends of Hampson Park committee meet once a month to plan their activities. The park now has green flag status.

For further information contact:

**Emma Barron**

CNM Programme Manager and Senior

Corporate Policy Officer

Stevenage Borough Council

✉ [emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:emma.barron@stevenage.gov.uk)

☎ Tel: 01438 242928

Find out more about the UK local authorities who are driving global municipal co-operative policy development with a common belief in the Co-operative Values and Principles

**Join us today.**

councils.coop

 @coopcouncils  @coopinnovation [comms@councils.coop](mailto:comms@councils.coop)

 People-centred councils  
driving social innovation  
putting people first

