



# Co-operative Councils

## Innovation Network

## COVID-19 Plymouth City Council

### Resurgam: Local Economic Plan for Recovery

Resurgam is the city's response to the lockdown and its economic impact, developed in collaboration with local business.

#### Context

Plymouth is ranked as the 64th most deprived local authority out of 317 Local Authority districts (2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation). For people in some of the most deprived wards, Covid-19 places them in an increasingly uncertain and precarious financial context which will only worsen already prevalent inequality within the city. The city's Resurgam programme was announced in May in response to the lockdown and its economic impact. Developed in collaboration with local business, its local economic recovery plan aims to deliver a more equal, sustainable and prosperous city through protecting jobs and helping residents.

#### Development

Resurgam brought together the Council's economic resources as well as a range of sector partners, including the Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, Heart of the South West LEP, Plymouth Social Enterprise Network, universities, partnerships and a range of national bodies. The Council adopted a pragmatic sector-based approach to recovery to fully leverage the infrastructure, partnerships and good relationships already in place with the business community and anchor organisations. Plymouth City Council worked closely with a range of sector partnerships to co-produce a series of sector action plans that tailor support specifically to the needs of each sector. An early action was to establish a Sector Recovery Hub with a range of partners where best practice could be shared as part of a coordinated response. The four stages of development were:

- Acute Immediate Response
- Analysis and Reflection
- Recovery Phase
- Return to Long Term Prosperity and Resilience

It developed the programme in line with its current Corporate Plan values which fully align with the co-operative values and principles – democratic, responsible, fair and co-operative.



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driving social innovation  
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Because it has operated this way for a number of years, the Council already had strong collaborative partnerships in place, enabling successful co-development and rapid delivery.

### Implementation

In order to implement the Resurgam programme, six key delivery pillars were identified:

- Spend 4 Plymouth: A focus on local procurement for local jobs and ensuring contracts maximise social value; with clear benefits for people, the city and the environment. The Council set a target of committing to a 10% increase over the next two years and are working with other local procurers to do the same
- Build 4 Plymouth: An ambitious capital programme and economic stimulus to support construction jobs and create 2,500 new jobs over the next two years
- Skills 4 Plymouth: Extensive new support for young people and retraining the workforce for future jobs.
- City Centre Renaissance programme: Support for the city centre and a regeneration plan
- Sector action plans: Bespoke package of support for 13 key sectors
- Resurgam Beacons: A focus on the future by seeking to create new jobs in the marine and cultural sectors along with a new green deal for jobs.



Plymouth

### Review

In the initial acute response phase, it was an economic first responder to over 4,000 businesses by providing immediate help, signposting to government support and directly administering the Covid-19 small business grants scheme. Its strong acute response was effective in encouraging new collaborations between partners. The aim now is to learn from this and ensure that long-term co-operative solutions can evolve. As the Council already has a team in place with a stated aim of developing co-operatives, it is ideally placed to develop these new collaborations and help them to flourish. Feedback on Skills4Plymouth has been overwhelmingly positive and it has already supported nearly 900 people. It recently launched the 'Skills Launchpad', supporting adults and young people with careers and skills advice. Working with partners across the city, the scheme has brought all the support available into a single one stop shop. This has been a true partnership effort with all partners bringing everything together for the first time to support schools, employers and local people. It is in the process of developing a Resurgam Charter focused on the equality and

sustainability aspects of the programme. Action plans are currently being developed and rolled out and it will be looking to embed the co-operative values and principles within these. Once established, progress will be monitored regularly against key delivery milestones. The Recovery and Return phases will ensure the city does not just survive but thrive as it comes out of the Covid crisis, looking to the future, placing green and fair growth at the heart of Resurgam's legacy.

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