



# Co-operative Councils

## Innovation Network

## FINANCE

### Preston City Council

## Making Spend Matter

Building on seven years' work around the progressive procurement strand of Community Wealth Building (CWB), Preston City Council have for the last three years, been the Project Lead for Making Spend Matter Transfer Network<sup>1</sup>. Through this Network, Preston has worked with six European cities<sup>2</sup> to help them understand more about their procurement spend – how much they spend, where it goes geographically and who they spend it with in terms of type and size of business (“**spend analysis**”) – and to use this understanding as a basis to enable their procurements to become more sustainable and have greater impact, for example through supporting smaller businesses and delivering social value (economic, social and environmental benefits).

In Preston as a result of the project activities, the procurement practitioners' group (which includes a number of local authorities, local anchor institutions and business support organisations) has developed an Action Plan to guide their work for the next 12 months. The Action Plan is focused on how to further improve engagement with businesses, for example through raising visibility of procurement opportunities and providing training on how to bid for tenders, and how to increase the delivery of social value in their procurements.



<sup>1</sup> The Transfer Networks were funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the URBACT programme (which is a European Territorial Cooperation Programme enabling cities to work together to develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges).

<sup>2</sup> Bistrița, (Romania), Kavala (Greece), Koszalin (Poland), Pamplona (Spain), Schaerbeek (Belgium) and Vila Nova de Famalicão (Portugal).

An output of the project is the Making Spend Matter Toolkit, which brings together guidance, lessons learned, and recommendations from all the project activities. (<https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/3275/Making-Spend-Matter-Toolkit>), and includes the Spend Analysis Tool, developed by CLES (the Centre for Local Economic Strategies) who have worked with Preston since the beginning of their CWB journey, and the Making Spend Matter Spend Analysis Guide, developed by the Making Spend Matter partners, to provide step-by-step support for any city wishing to understand more about their own procurement spend.

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**For further information contact:**

Tamar Reay

Policy officer - Preston City Council

[t.reay@preston.gov.uk](mailto:t.reay@preston.gov.uk) | 0177 2903409 | [www.preston.gov.uk](http://www.preston.gov.uk)