



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING



Enterprise and
social economy

Co-operatives UK working with the South Yorkshire Combined Authority

Empowering co-operation

As the voice of the UK's co-operative movement, we empower and support co-ops with specialist knowledge and expertise. By giving our members a stronger voice, delivering effective support services, and demonstrating that co-ops do business better and improve lives, we will grow the co-operative economy and create a fairer society.

We know co-ops. Our expert advice team support co-ops with incorporation, governance, HR, membership strategy and much more. In 2021 we helped bring 113 co-ops into existence, a 33% increase from the previous 12 months.

We also work with partners and funders to deliver co-op development programmes covering general co-operative business support, while also focusing on priorities such as worker co-ops, community shares and the platform economy. Our innovative work is externally funded and in 2021 we secured £1.68 million to advance the sector.

We proactively encourage national and local policymakers to target co-operative growth and are ready to partner with local authorities to help them take practical action. For example, following our successful campaign to build cross-party support, Scottish government is now committed to supporting co-operatives in its policy programme and strategies. And we are enabling local support for co-operatives through our Ownership Hub programme. A joint project between Co-operatives UK and the Employee Ownership Association, the Ownership Hub promotes and supports worker co-ops and employee ownership at a city-regional level. In June 2021, the South Yorkshire Combined Authority became the first city-region to join

the programme. We are now working hard to replicate the success across other authorities and will be making further announcements in 2022.

Also in 2022, we will be launching major new programmes to support investment in co-ops and position co-ops in local economic transformation.

For further information contact:

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