



CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT



Enterprise and
social economy



Innovation

Preston City Council

Advancing a Shared Economy in Preston

In April 2022 Preston City Council launched a new programme to strengthen institutional capacity in Preston to underpin a more democratic and collaborative economy. Funded by Preston City Council and Power to Change, **Advancing a Shared Economy in Preston** builds on learning from the Open Society Foundations (OSF) programme. Increased collaboration between Preston's anchor organisations, strengthened community capacity for cooperative activity and an enhanced and independent cooperative development function in Preston are the three expected outcomes of the new programme.

Specific projects will contribute to each outcome. The focus for anchor collaboration will be to engage anchors in a collaborative project with a specialist delivery partner commissioned from the renewables / decarbonisation sector. The objective will be to identify an opportunity in Preston for public, cooperative and community development of decarbonised energy systems and develop this through feasibility and detailed project development stages to delivery readiness.

Projects developed to strengthen community capacity for cooperative and collaborative activity will focus on community initiatives to address food poverty; a community/anchor partnership to support cooperative enterprise within the construction sector; and the development of the Leighton Street Traveller Cooperative (LSC) as a robust cooperative vehicle to operate and manage the Leighton Street Traveller Site in Preston.

Delivery of an enhanced and independent cooperative development function in Preston will be achieved by providing the Preston Cooperative Development Network (PDCN) and the Preston Cooperative Education Centre (PCEC) with grants to develop their offer and profile,



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with an explicit focus on educational activity to raise awareness in Preston about cooperative enterprise. The PCDN will target its activity on the further and higher education sectors, as well as local business advisors. The PCEC will focus on trade union education and will co-develop a new programme with Unite the Union's learning services and the Bakers and Allied Food Workers to raise awareness about worker coops and associated employment opportunities.

For further information contact:

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