

# COOPERATIVE FUTURES

business for good

## About us

Co-operative Futures is a business development consultancy specialising in co-operative, mutual and community led businesses. Founded in 2000 it was set up to provide direct advice and support services and to engage in debates to find mutual solutions for challenges being faced by communities.

## Co-operative Solutions

Co-operative Futures has been involved in the development of national and regional co-operative and social enterprise policy throughout the UK since 2001.

Through our extensive knowledge and experience we are able to provide guidance to councils and communities that has co-operative values and principles at its very core. Nationally our partners/networks include: Co-operatives UK, The Co-operative College, The Co-operative Party, The Plunkett Foundation, Power to Change, Locality, Co-op and Community Finance and Co-op News. These networks enable us to bring current thinking and innovation to our work.

Co-operative Futures has worked with a wide range of organisations to develop co-operative ideas and ways of working. This has included everything from embedding community economic development processes into regeneration schemes to implementing co-operative development support in community wealth building policies to designing pathways towards education, training, volunteering or work, including self-employment and co-operative for individuals who are currently dealing with circumstances that are potentially causing barriers to work and move these people closer.

## Co-operative Support

We give practical, hands-on advice and support at every stage of an organisation – from initial idea through business planning, capital raising, growth planning, strategy, and governance. We have been supporting co-ops, community businesses and charities in the retail, leisure, community asset transfer, renewable energy, producer groups, social care, and many other sectors for over 20 years.

Co-operative Futures are approved providers for **The Hive**, a business support programme for co-ops and community businesses, the **Community Business Bright Ideas Fund** which aims to give community groups in England the support and tools to start setting up their community business, and are recognised **Community Shares Practitioners**. Co-operative Futures has a longstanding relationship with **Midcounties Co-operative** to provide support in their trading areas.