**Council Action Plans**

The strategic approaches to co-operative sector development that we found in councils, were either strategic regeneration programmes that included co-operative models as a key delivery mechanism, or they took a view of the current size, strengths and opportunities for their co-operative sector and planned targeted interventions to build on those areas. One thing that they have in common is political leadership. Council intervention is often through generic business support, financial business support or business support through their own council officers and Members.

**Flow chart for action plan development**

Research and develop an understanding of the size and shape of your social economy / cooperative economy.

Map your current cooperative economy, preferably using the same mapping methodology used by Co-operatives UK. Number, Turnover, Employment and Membership.

Review the Co-operatives UK data available on the UK-wide co-operative sector.

Set realistic goals and milestones to grow your local co-operative economy to bring it in line with or ahead of the national benchmark.

**Download: Mapping the co-operative economy**

This proposal was submitted to PCC by Co-operatives UK to help map the current co-operative economy within PCC boundaries in preparation for a strategic action plan, it could be used to design a brief with the purpose of recruiting a consultant to map the co-operative economy of your council.

**[TEMPLATE 3 Council Action Plans: Consultant Specification Template**

**Template: Action Plan**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Finance** | **Support** | **Inform** |
| **Create the right conditions for co-operative formation** |  Find the right type of finance for new start co-operatives |  Get Councils and Co-operatives working together to deliver the Action Plan | Promote the ‘Co-operative Option’ through an awareness programme |
| **Promote and support pathways into co-operation for local business organisations** |  Support those involved in potential buyout opportunities to identify their finance options |  Develop a local ‘business succession strategy’ to include co-op transition and identifying specialist support and advice | Work with key partners and networks to help model future business succession opportunities |
| **Scope and apply national co-operative strategies into a local context to support workers** | Consider a local ‘seed fund’ for tech start-ups that wish to structure as a co-op  | Test co-organising models with the creative and digital sector to develop a ‘virtual incubator’ for freelancers  | Showcase organisations employing co-operative models and facilitate replication in the Plymouth economy |
| **Encourage and support co-operative approaches into the local wellbeing economy** | Explore how local co-operatives can participate in local supply chains  | Capacity build frontline practitioners, users, families and communities to increase their input to and ownership of, wellbeing and care services  | Showcase activities that can improve livelihoods, wellbeing, community and ecology as an active ‘Community Economic Development’ programme |