

THEME: Co-operative Development

Plymouth City Council

**Title: Glasgow Co-operative Development Unit**

Co-operative Glasgow was established in 2013, with two main aims. These were to:

-Make Glasgow a Co-operative Council, by aiming to grow co-operative businesses and social enterprises, and devolve power to our people;

-Establish a Co-operative Development Unit (CDU) within the Council’s Development and Regeneration

Services to promote the development of co-operatives and other social enterprises in the city.

The CDU team is committed to developing co-operative organisations and co-operative ways of working across Glasgow and within Glasgow City Council (GCC). It delivers against GCC’s Strategic Plan and the Fairer Glasgow objectives of the Glasgow Economic Strategy and also contributes to Scotland’s Economic Strategy, particularly inclusive growth and the Social Enterprise Strategy.

A Co-operative Champions Network provides effective strategic support to the work of the CDU and the objectives of Co-operative Glasgow. The Network comprises representatives from across the Council and its arm’s length external organisations. Its remit includes identifying potential co-operative service delivery opportunities and communicating ‘Co-operative Glasgow’ internally and with external partner organisations.

The Network is chaired by the Executive Member for Health and Social Care, with additional political representation from the Deputy Leader of the Council, who was previously the Network’s Chair.

Alan Davidson, Principal – Economic Initiatives was asked in 2012 to develop the co-operative sector. He previously worked for the third sector. His first job in GCC was working with the City’s Credit Unions. At the time of an evaluation in 2017, the sector had grown by 17% to 122 since 2014, with an 8% rise in employment, and 35% rise in turnover.

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**For further information contact:**

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