



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

FINANCE



Social Partnership



Enterprise and
social economy



Maximising
social value

Oxygen Finance working with Co-operative Councils

FreePay: accelerating payment to small and micro businesses

FreePay realises social value outcomes by helping councils accelerate payment to small and micro suppliers, getting cash to the local businesses that need it most.

The issue

Small and micro businesses are the lifeblood of the UK economy, but many struggle to get paid. FreePay delivers true social procurement, supporting local economies by treating suppliers fairly and responsibly, and in the process helping public authorities achieve their social value goals.

Unlike other products which levy a discount on suppliers, FreePay does exactly what it says: it allows public sector buyers to pay small business invoices early without charge. Over £1billion has been paid to local firms to date.

As a small business, good cash flow is essential.

“I’ve worked for my local council for well over ten years. I take photos and videos at events such as festivals, openings of libraries and new leisure centres, right through to the occasional royal visit. It’s all part of letting local people know what’s happening in their local community.

“I’ve been part of the FreePay scheme at the local council for just over a year and it’s been fantastic. Not only knowing that I’ll get paid quicker, which is great for cash flow. It’s also having that certainty that I will get paid. I work for many different clients and sometimes I



People-centred councils
driving social innovation
putting people first

E: comms@councils.coop | T: [@CoopInnovation](https://www.coopinnovation.co.uk) | W: [councils.coop](https://www.councils.coop)

end up chasing unpaid invoices which is time consuming and stressful at times, so just knowing that I'm going to get paid is brilliant.

“As a small business, good cash flow is essential. Payments from the local Council have always been quick, but now they are even quicker, often within two or three days which is brilliant. I'm really pleased to be part of the scheme.”

Stewart Turkington, Owner of Stewart Turkington Photography



For further information contact:

Simon Whittle

Sales Director – Oxygen

simon.whittle@oxygen-finance.com | 0121 2954038 | oxygen-finance.com