

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING



Social Partnership



Enterprise and
social economy

Kirklees Council

Partnership approach sees £500k Business for Good West Yorkshire programme established to promote cooperatives and social enterprises.

West Yorkshire has a new programme supporting start up and growth of cooperatives and social enterprises – Business for Good West Yorkshire (BfGWY). The £500k, 18-month partnership-delivered programme delivered by Third Sector Leaders Kirklees (TSL), aims to create 25 new businesses, provide non-financial support to 90 businesses and see a total of 26 jobs created or safeguarded. It is the result of a successful bid to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's (WYCA) open call for pilot proposals to support 'alternative business models', and is part funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

The bid built on the work TSL, the local VCSE Infrastructure organisation, has done over the past few years in establishing a Social Enterprise Sounding Board following development of the Kirklees VCSE Investment Strategy (IS) – a shared strategy to strengthen the third sector in Kirklees. While the Council has directly supported the creation of Cooperative Care Colne Valley and the Dewsbury Arcade Group – who plan to take on management of the Dewsbury Arcade as the first community-run shopping centre in the country, TSL has delivered and promoted the Kirklees Social Enterprise Competition to profile social entrepreneurs in the borough.

When the open call was released, the Council were clear that the proposal should – if at all possible - address both cooperatives and social enterprises, but also that in line with Priority 2 of the IS "Invest in whoever is best placed to provide the service or support" that TSL should take the lead. The Council's role was to support and enable the development of the



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proposal. TSL built the third sector partnership through participation in proposal development sessions with VCSE partners from across West Yorkshire and the School for Social Entrepreneurs while Kirklees Council liaised with the other West Yorkshire councils to understand their priorities and build support for a West Yorkshire-wide proposal. This approach was possible due to the existing relationship of trust between the organisations and key individuals involved. The resulting partnership led by TSL Kirklees, includes local specialist organisations Participate and Voluntary Action Leeds, See Ahead and Co-op Culture and two national organisations Co-operatives UK, School for Social Entrepreneurs, as well as CCIN affiliate member Stir to Action.

The involvement of Co-operatives UK and cooperative partners, was facilitated by the Council identifying a common aim across all partners of breaking down the siloed way of working and approach to individuals and groups who want to establish alternative businesses with clear social or community purpose that support both people and places. This brought significant partners from the coops sector locally and nationally into the proposal and also leveraged assets such as the Coop Option Training previously funded by CCIN. We hope this programme will go some way to breaking down barriers between the worlds of cooperatives and social enterprise and to development of a rounded view of the relative benefits of the two different approaches.

The programme consists of four strands:

1. Free enterprise coaching and start up workshops for individuals or groups with a new idea;
2. Free enterprise coaching and Growth & Resilience grants of up to £2,499 for existing alternative businesses;
3. Support to grow or safeguard existing jobs through a Growth & Resilience Learning and Development programme delivered jointly by Co-operatives UK and the School for Social Entrepreneurs; and
4. Free business options training for business advisors and other business support professionals.

As a VCSE-led programme there is a significant focus on driving an inclusive economy, with the clear intention of engaging marginalised communities. This is being done through six place-based Alternative Business Advisors – Enterprise Coaches – building on the trusted relationships of local VCSE groups and specifically – the existing community anchor networks.

The programme is overseen by an advisory group that brings together representatives from the councils and VCSE from all five districts as well as WYCA and Co-operatives UK. As well as providing oversight of delivery the group has a clear focus on developing a long-term vision for the role of alternative business models in West Yorkshire and funding and design of a long-term programme to succeed the pilot that can bring this vision into fruition.

Part of doing this will involve the group's engagement in the development of the emerging West Yorkshire Economic Strategy as well as the Kirklees Inclusive Economy Strategy and those of other districts.

The partnership is realistic that the current pilot has restricted capacity and timescales and must deliver against the UK SPF outcomes listed in the table below. That said, the programme aims to build local assets and infrastructure so that, with or without future funding, the democratic and social economy can continue to grow in West Yorkshire.

Business for Good West Yorkshire UK SPF Interventions, Outputs, Outcomes and Targets,

UK SPF Intervention	Output (OP) / Outcome (OC) Description	Number (EDI Targets)
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	OP14: Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready	60
		BAME: 22
		Women: 40
		Disabled: 5
E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators	OP24: Number of enterprises receiving grants	25
		BAME: 8
		Women: 12
	OP23: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	91
		BAME: 31
		Women: 58
E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises	OP18: Number of people attending training sessions	45
		BAME: 5
		Women: 15
		Disabled: 0
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	OC1: Jobs created as a result of support	5
	OC26: Number of enterprises adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	5
	OC27: Number of enterprises engaged in new markets	15
	OC23: Number of new enterprises created as a result of support	25
E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators	OC1: Jobs created as a result of support	7
	OC2: Jobs safeguarded as a result of support	14
	OC28: Number of early-stage enterprises which increase their revenue following support	20



Funded by
UK Government

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UP**

The Business for Good West Yorkshire project is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, delivered by TSL Kirklees. In West Yorkshire the West Yorkshire Combined Authority leads the implementation of the Fund as part of the Mayor's ambition to make West Yorkshire the best place to work, learn and live.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

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