

### **A Co-operative Inclusive Economy Charter**

Proposed Layout and Content V1

On 29 January 2020, Stevenage Borough Council unanimously passed a motion in support of Community Wealth Building. This charter forms a key part of this commitment, helping to bring people and organisations together to create a more cooperative and inclusive economy.

#### **What do we mean by community wealth building?**

Community Wealth Building focusses on how much money is held and reinvested in an area for the benefit of local communities. Ways of stopping money leaking out of an area include making contracts accessible to small and medium sized businesses and connecting local people to well paid jobs.

#### **What do we mean by a cooperative inclusive economy?**

A cooperative inclusive economy is one that encourages communities, organisations and businesses to work together, helping to shape the economy and to share the benefits of growth.

#### **How do we build a cooperative inclusive economy?**

We have identified two key benefits, although we expect more to follow as the charter develops and new partnerships form.

- A fairer society, as people become more connected to their economy.
- A more resilient economy, as people cooperate to create sustainable growth.

#### **Who should sign this charter?**

This charter is for anyone who is committed to improving the lives of Stevenage residents, such as local residents who shop locally, community groups who support volunteers, and businesses who employ local people. Since Covid-19, it is also a Charter that will help us to monitor if the recovery is working for everyone.

#### **What happens next?**

Pages 2 and 3 provide ideas on how we can work together to create an inclusive economy in Stevenage. There is then a space for you make your commitment. Page 4 explains how we will measure and report on our progress.

Thank you for supporting a cooperative inclusive economy in Stevenage.

If you would like to know more about our approach email:

There are lots of way for you to support an inclusive economy in Stevenage. On this page, we have provided some examples, but please come up with your own ideas or tell us about the good work you are already doing. The next page provides you with a space for this.

**A fairer society, as people become more connected to their economy.**

***This might include:***

- Providing career advice in schools.
- Mentoring someone who wants to become self-employed.
- Offering work placements to people who need extra support.
- Supporting employers to become disability confident.
- Shopping locally or volunteering with a community group.

**A more resilient economy, as people cooperate to create sustainable growth.**

***This might include:***

- Working with communities to break down barriers to training.
- Purchasing goods or services from others in the local area.
- Becoming a trustee with a voluntary group or social enterprise
- Investing in local charities to provide wellbeing training for your staff.
- Pooling budgets and involving local people in how they are spent.
- Working with partners to develop local supply chains.

Please use this space to sign up to the Stevenage Cooperative Inclusive Economy Charter.

You need to tell us about the type of commitment you are making and how we can get in touch with you.

When we contact you, we will ask if we can include your name in our register of supporters. We might also ask if we can use your work as a case study, which will help to inspire other people and businesses.

I pledge my support to the Stevenage Cooperative Inclusive Economy Charter.

Name	
I am signing on behalf of myself	
I am signing on behalf of my organisation	
Telephone	
Email	
Yes, I am happy to be contacted by Stevenage Borough Council.	

Please tell us in no more than 50 words how you will support a Cooperative Inclusive Economy in Stevenage. You can choose from the list opposite or choose your own examples.

*Example 1: my company will support a cooperative inclusive economy by working with a local charity to provide work placements for young people.*

*Example 2: I will pledge to "buy local" wherever possible.*

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**Action 1: official launch**  
**Proposed by end of August 2020.**

**Action 2: 50 registered supporters**  
**Proposed by end of September 2020.**

**Action 3: charter helps at least 3 new initiatives to form**  
**Proposed by end of December 2020**

**Action 4: first review of progress made**  
**Proposed by end of March 2021.**