

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Plymouth's Strategic Action Plan picks up on national policy recommendations for development of the co-operative sector.

A National Co-operative Development Strategy was published and launched in 2017 by Co-operatives UK. This development strategy for the UK is intended to promote the take-up of the co-operative model.

The National Co-operative Development Strategy identifies a series of early actions and partnerships focusing on three sectors of the future UK economy:

1. Supporting freelancers to come together in today's 'gig' economy
2. Digital ventures, or 'platform co-ops' using new technology for shared ownership services
3. Meeting needs for social care through new models of co-operation

The New Economics Foundation (NEF) launched an independent report in summer 2018, commissioned by the Co-operative Party, setting out an ambitious vision for a UK co-operative sector; double the size it is today. It outlines five steps that policy makers could use to achieve this aim:

1. A new legal framework for co-operatives
2. Finance that serves a co-operative agenda
3. Deepening co-operative capabilities through a Co-operative Development Agency
4. Transforming business ownership
5. Accelerating community wealth building initiatives

For the full strategy visit www.visitplymouth.co.uk/invest/why-plymouth/key-sectors/co-operatives

DOING IT OURSELVES

An executive summary of our strategic action plan to double the local co-operative economy in Plymouth by 2025



In November 2018, the Council commissioned a strategic action plan to respond to a key pledge to increase the number of businesses in the city that are owned and run co-operatively. Nationally the turnover of the co-operative sector is measurably larger in 2018 than it was in 2010. But since around 2014 growth has stalled. Delivering this plan will help to turn around this trend and will develop a local co-operative development strategy that raises the profile and grows the impact of co-operatives across five strategic growth areas.

WHAT WE WILL DO

Create the right conditions for co-operative formation

FINANCE

Find the right type of finance for new start co-operatives

SUPPORT

Get Councils and Co-operatives working together to deliver the Action Plan

INFORM

Promote the 'Co-operative Option' through an awareness programme

Promote and support pathways into co-operation for local business organisations

FINANCE

Support those involved in potential buyout opportunities to identify their finance options

SUPPORT

Develop a local 'business succession strategy' to include co-op transition and identifying specialist support and advice

INFORM

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

FINANCE

Consider a local 'seed fund' for tech start-ups that wish to structure as a co-op

SUPPORT

Test co-organising models with the creative and digital sector to develop a 'virtual incubator' for freelancers

INFORM

Showcase organisations employing co-operative models and facilitate replication in the Plymouth economy

Encourage and support co-operative approaches into the local wellbeing economy

FINANCE

Explore how local co-operatives can participate in local supply chains

SUPPORT

Capacity build frontline practitioners, users, families and communities to increase their input to and ownership of, wellbeing and care services

INFORM

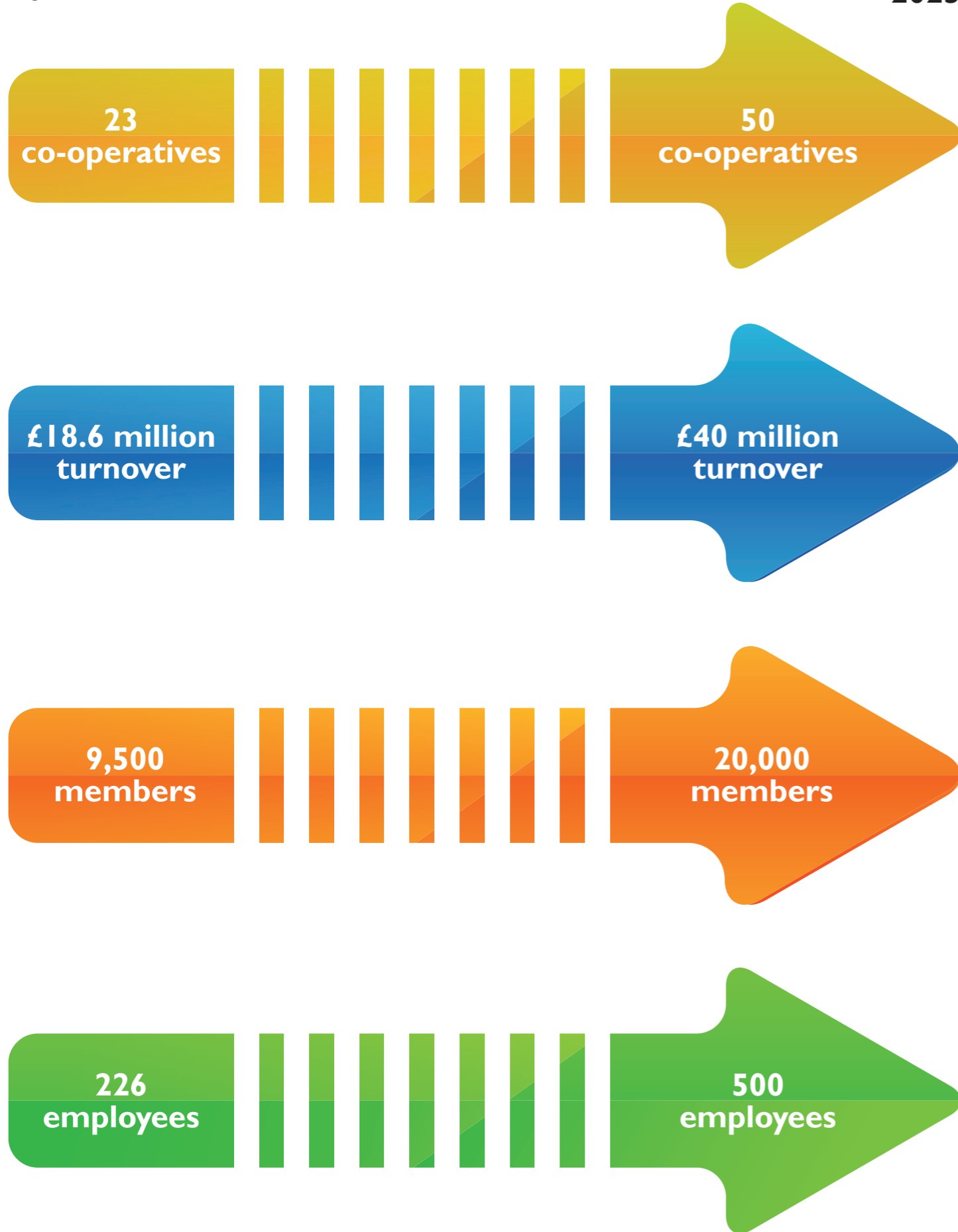
Showcase activities that can improve livelihoods, wellbeing, community and ecology as an active 'Community Economic Development' programme

DOUBLING THE LOCAL CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY

The scale and scope of the co-operative economy in Plymouth and targets...

2019

2025



STRATEGIC GROWTH AREAS IN PLYMOUTH

Based on the existing sector, as well as recognising the wider economic strategy of the city, and strengths in co-operatives elsewhere, five 'strategic growth areas' have been prioritised

THE LOCAL WELLBEING ECONOMY



COMMUNITY OWNED INFRASTRUCTURE



WORKER OWNED TECHNOLOGY AND CREATIVE INDUSTRY



PUBLIC FACING AND CULTURAL HUBS



MUNICIPAL CO-OPERATION

