

Growing the Co-op Economy

Co-operatives Unleashed from the grassroots

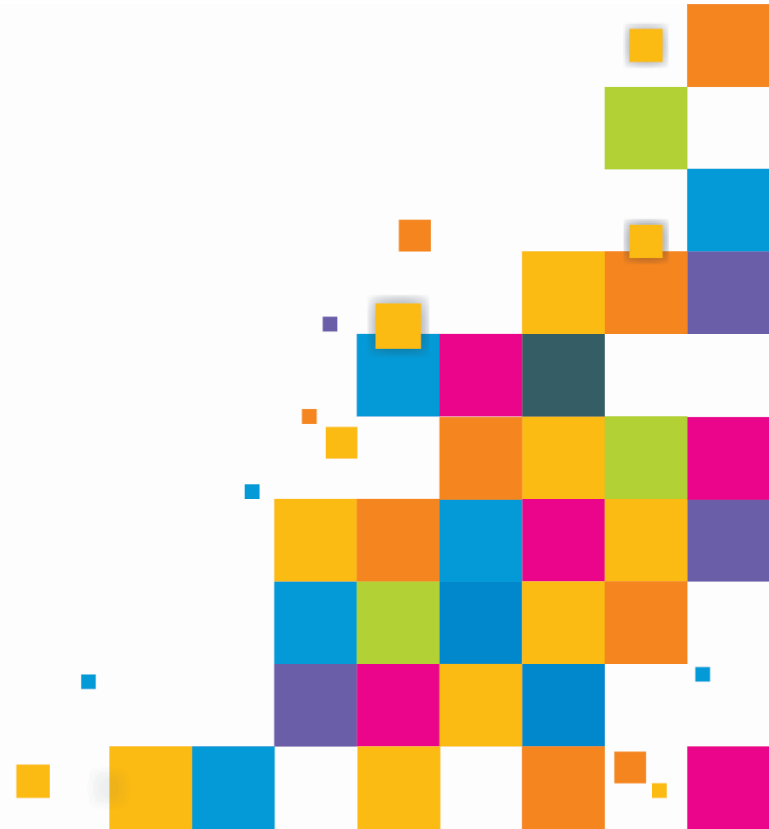
Presentation to North Hertfordshire District Council

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Growing the Co-op Economy

@coopinnovation

#coopunleashed

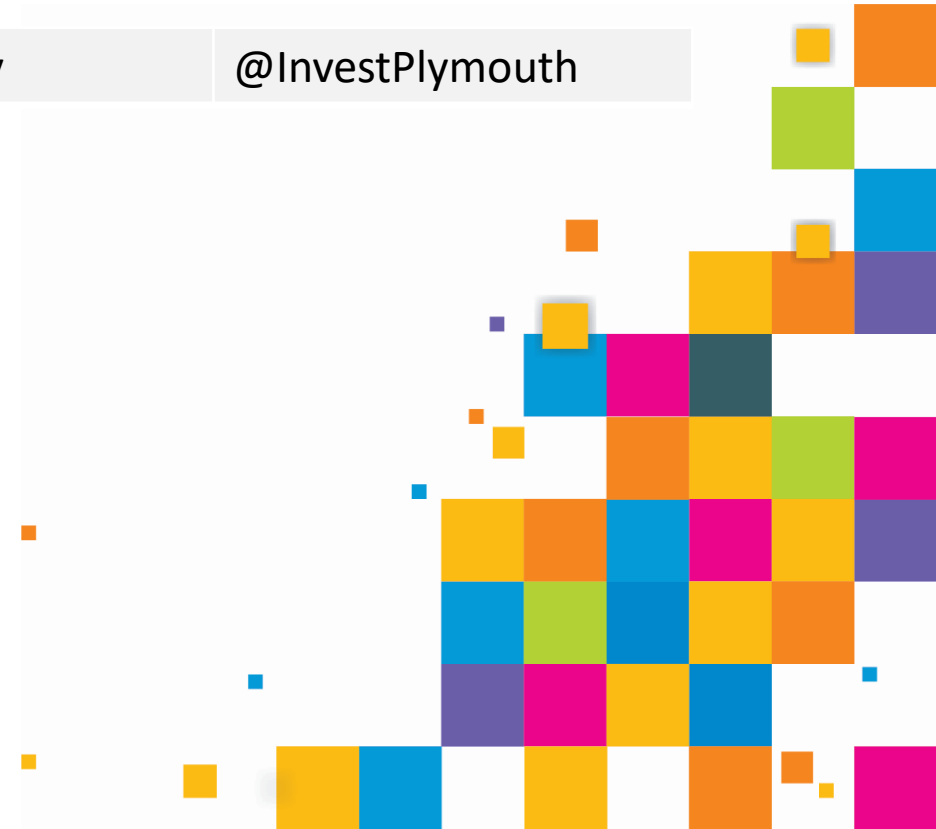
Presentation

Anna Peachey

@InvestPlymouth



Co-operative Councils
Innovation Network



Project Background

- Inspired by Co-operatives Unleashed
- “How can strategic council participation support the doubling of the co-operative economy before the end of the next parliament?”
- <https://www.councils.coop/coops-unleashed/>



What is a Co-op?

Principles

Voluntary Membership.

Ownership and control is by members. The business exists to serve them, with membership open to anyone who is eligible to join and willing to take on the responsibilities that come with it.

Democracy

Every member has one vote, no matter how much of a financial or political stake they have.

Financial Participation.

The business is financed by the members pooling their resources. As members, they work together to control the capital and decide what to do with profits.

Autonomy and Independence.

Ownership is independent of investors, government or other organisations so that control is with the members

Education, Training, and Information.

Members and staff are trained in running a high-performing business and in their role of participating in its governance.

Cooperation among Cooperatives.

The business values these principles and seeks to uphold them through its supply chain, and the transfer of any assets.

Concern for Community

The business benefits the community and the environment by implementing sustainable policies that have been accepted by their members.

Values

- self-help
- self-responsibility
- democracy
- equality
- equity
- solidarity



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Practice

- Co-operatives are businesses owned and controlled by their members, who can be customers, staff, suppliers, local residents or a combination of these stakeholders
- Members have an equal say in how the business is run
- Members choose what to do with profits, whether distributing among members, reinvesting in the business or giving to the community

What is a Co-op?



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Opportunities for development

Assets

Sectors

Anchor Institutions



Support

- Awareness Raising
 - Social Enterprise Day 19 November
 - Co-ops fortnight June/July #joinacoop
- Business Support
 - Growth Hubs and Enterprise Agencies
 - Specialist providers
 - <https://www.uk.coop/the-hive/>



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