

A Cooperative Inclusive Economy Charter for Stevenage



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.



What are the benefits of 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.



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

This might include:

- Providing careers 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.
- Supporting cooperatives to start-up and grow.
- 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.

How to make a pledge

We hope that this charter has inspired you to make a pledge, and to tell us about the great things you are doing to support a cooperative and inclusive economy in Stevenage.

Making a pledge is easy and it only takes a few minutes. Simply visit www.stevenage.gov.uk/town-and-community/community-wealth-building and complete the My Pledge form.

If you would like more information about the charter and community wealth building in Stevenage, please email community.development@stevenage.gov.uk

Next Steps

First 100 days

Towards a fairer society and more resilient economy



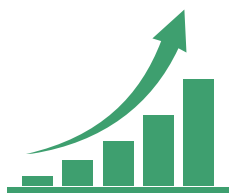
**Summit held to
launch charter**



100 pledges made



**Community
balance sheets
piloted***



**First impact
report published**



**Charter inspires
3 new initiatives**

*community balance sheets
are an innovative way of
capturing social value