

Foundational economy:

- Developed as a new industrial strategy for Wales and northern England. The foundational economy' provides the infrastructure of towns, cities and local economies and indeed sustains everyday life.
- Development work to support the foundational economy is best managed at a regional level through collaborative networks.
- The social economy in Wales operates in many areas of the foundational economy.

Current and emerging practice in Wales

Current and emerging practice that could be supported to develop further through the Collaborative Economy include:

- Community co-operatives such as Cyfarthfa Fruit and Vegetable Co-operative
- Community Share Issues such as 4CG
- CDFIs such as the Robert Owen Community Banking Fund
- Community renewable energy initiatives such as Egni
- Community Land Trusts such as West Rhyl CLT
- Social co-operatives such as Community Lives Consortium

A Collaborative Economy for Wales

The report recommends that the collaborative economy focuses on developing the following sectors:

- Community Co-operatives as a focus for regeneration and local participation
- Community energy development through co-operative ownership solutions
- Community recycling as a generator of jobs for disadvantaged groups
- Social co-operatives for a broad range of social and health care services
- Home improvement partnerships and low carbon retrofit services
- Co-operative and mutual housing solutions, including Community Land Trusts.

Proposals for supporting the development of this include:

- Further developing the public policy and legislative framework
- The development of collaborative economy systems
- The development of social financing and co-operative capital solutions
- The development of peer to peer systems of support and collaboration.

The full report is available to download from www.wales.coop.



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A Collaborative Economy for the Common Good - Executive Summary

By Pat Connaty

In the context of uneven growth and imbalanced recovery from the downturn across the UK, the report explores a new economic strategy for Wales. It draws on best practice and lessons from international case studies and what is currently emerging in Wales to develop the Collaborative Economy Model – an economic and regeneration strategy developed specifically for Wales. The Collaborative Economy model draws upon the Social Solidarity, Community Economic Development, and Foundational Economy models.

Social Solidarity model

Key factors in the success of the model in these regions include:

Emilia Romagna

- Local authorities and the co-operative sector working together to develop a strategy to revive the region
- Development of several forms of co-operative innovation including co-operative consortia, the strawberry patch principle, Mutual Guarantee Societies, co-operative investment funds and public social partnerships. These models have the potential to be replicated elsewhere.

Quebec

- The development of labour solidarity funds assisting development of the co-operative economy
- Co-operation and collaboration between public, private and co-operative sectors enabled the co-design of new policies and programmes for employment.

Community Economic Development [CED]:

- CED grew out of the US Civil Rights movement as a strategy focused on overcoming racial discrimination in access to housing, employment, insurance and banking.
- Out of this campaign, Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) were developed. These provide capital for investment in communities.
- Community Land Trusts (CLTs) were developed alongside CDFIs.
- The success of CLTs in the US has been aided by collaboration and the sharing of knowledge. Pioneering CLTs have worked to establish new CLTs.
- CLTs support wider regeneration initiatives such as community energy schemes and local food production.