Delivering Good Growth: Projects, approaches and learning shared by iED members

As part of the iED's Delivering Good Growth work, and specifically the online member focus groups held during 2026, members shared projects, programmes, approaches and learning from across the UK and internationally. The examples below are organised around the themes explored through the Good Growth programme. They are intended as a practical resource for economic development practitioners, policymakers and partners.

The resource brings together examples featured in the Delivering Good Growth report and additional projects and approaches shared by members through the focus group process.

Finding out more

The examples below were shared by iED members through the Good Growth focus groups.

As many of these initiatives continue to evolve, we have not included direct website links. This helps ensure that readers access the most up-to-date information available and avoids the need to maintain a large number of external links over time.

In most cases, further information can be found by searching online using the project, programme or initiative name.

Please note

All information below is based on comments made by participants at the time of the focus groups, which took place between March and September 2026, and on information supplied by members for the Delivering Good Growth work. Details may have changed since. This summary was created with the help of AI.

What is Good Growth?

Enterprise Facilitation in Blaenau Gwent: Aligning Economic Development with Bottom-Up Community Growth. A listening-first, client-led approach to supporting new enterprise, based on the Enterprise Facilitation model. *In the Delivering Good Growth report*.

Delivering Growth in a Local Economy

Greater Manchester: Building Futures Together through Integrated Business Support. Integrated business support and workforce development delivered by the Growth Company with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. *In the Delivering Good Growth report*.

"Outstanding Success in Delivering Growth": Haringey High Growth Business Programme. A pilot offering intensive one-to-one support to high-growth and growth-potential local businesses.

Sheffield City Council: Increasing the Productivity of Sheffield's Business Base with Productivity and Digitisation Grants. Match-funded grants and advice helping SMEs improve productivity and adopt new technology.

Delivery in an Urban Setting

Oxford City Council: Life Sciences, High-Growth Real Estate and Section 106 Community Employment and Procurement Plans. Section 106 plans securing local jobs, training and supply chain opportunities from major developments. *In the Delivering Good Growth report*.

London Borough of Wandsworth: Supply Wandsworth and Fit to Bid. Local procurement support helping SMEs win work from developers and their contractors.

North Somerset: Section 106 and the Epic investment. Section 106 contributions from a major investment directed towards economic development.

Manchester City Council: community wealth building and social value by design. Building community and health outcomes into the design of places, working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies.

Oxford: skills strategy. A skills strategy developed with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, weighing innovation parks against anchor institutions.

Coalfield Regeneration Trust (Newcastle-under-Lyme). A community-based, whole-family approach to youth unemployment.

Sure Start. A whole-family early support programme cited by members as a model for preventative work.

Building Europe's Data Capital: Edinburgh's Data-Driven Innovation Success Story. The Data-Driven Innovation programme within the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal.

Industrial Towns in Transition

Barnsley's Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy 2025-30: Building a Borough of Possibilities. An inclusive growth strategy shaped by a board of business, major employers and skills providers. *In the Delivering Good Growth report*.

Walsall: Spark and town centre regeneration. Industrial and logistics space on a former industrial site, alongside a town centre masterplan.

Bradford: Bradford Built Different and UK City of Culture. Culture-led regeneration building on the city's existing assets.

Castleford and Wakefield: regeneration partners and skills links. Strategic regeneration partners and links with the Heart of Yorkshire education group.

Northumberland: Amble, Berwick and Blyth. Hyperlocal, community-driven regeneration in Northumberland towns.

Chapelcross, Annan (Dumfries and Galloway). A masterplan and development partner for the site of a former nuclear plant.

Net Zero Living (Innovate UK). A programme supporting places to deliver net zero locally, with councils as conveners.

The Catalyst at Ashton Old Baths (Oxford Innovation Space, Greater Manchester). A public, private and civic partnership for innovation and enterprise.

Community wealth building and community asset ownership. Includes the Plunkett Foundation and community funding through Pride in Place.

Stranraer (Dumfries and Galloway). Reinventing the town as a water sports hub after the ferry terminals moved.

Rural Economies

Hinkley Point C and Somerset Council: Capturing Supply Chain Value and Legacy Skills from Major Infrastructure. Capturing local supply chain and skills benefits from a major energy infrastructure project. *In the Delivering Good Growth report*.

Bridgwater: Morrisons distribution development. A local labour agreement used in place of a Section 106 agreement.

Northumberland: data centre social value framework. A social value framework agreed between a data centre developer and the council.

North East Combined Authority: rural uplift in adult skills funding. A rural uplift recognising the higher cost of delivering adult skills in rural areas.

East Hampshire: rural apprenticeship scheme. Section 106 contributions used to part-fund apprentice wages and travel costs.

East Hampshire: New Directions rural outreach programme. A return-to-work programme delivered in villages and community venues with FedCap.

Epping Forest: Section 106 apprenticeship targets. Apprenticeship obligations in Section 106 agreements, with financial values attached.

Luleå, Sweden (international). Data centre development linked to a local university and start-ups.

Supporting Those Most Difficult to Reach

Leeds City Council: Tackling Food Insecurity and Inequality with Community Shop. A community centre converted into a hub with a community store, kitchen and advice services. *In the Delivering Good Growth report*.

Free bike schemes. Free bikes, training and led rides for residents in deprived areas, evaluated by Volterra.

Leeds: business support for underrepresented groups. UK Shared Prosperity Fund-supported programmes delivered by community-based organisations, including Start Up and Grow and Unity.

South Cambridgeshire: low-income family tracker. A tracker to identify residents who may not be claiming support, offering one-to-one help.

Scottish Government food insecurity pilot. A pilot testing locally designed approaches that combine cash support with wraparound help.

Further programmes worth exploring

- **Big Local** (see Driven by Communities).

- **Pride in Place:** the government's community-based programme.
- **Liverpool City Region:** the legacy of Objective 1 funding in its most deprived communities.
- **Preston and Scotland:** community wealth building.

Driven by Communities

Leeds City Council: Empowering Female Entrepreneurs through SheCanShine. A six-month enterprise programme for women in a disadvantaged ward of Leeds, delivered by Harehills CIC. *In the Delivering Good Growth report*.

Big Local (National Lottery). Long-term funding for resident-led partnerships in disadvantaged neighbourhoods across England.

Scotland: Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme. A Scottish programme funding derelict land projects led by the public sector with community partners.

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea: co-production. A co-production approach to the council's inclusive economy strategy.

Scottish community ownership and council partnerships. Community-owned land and assets in Scotland, with council partnerships in City of Edinburgh, Orkney, Clackmannanshire and Ayrshire.

Cambridge: local plan as a driver of good growth. Using the local plan to open up employment and skills opportunities from development.

Greater Manchester: Good Growth Fund and everyday economy programme. Greater Manchester investment programmes aimed at delivering more from growth for local communities.

Learning from the Improving Inclusive Innovation Outcomes (i3o) programme. A comparison of how four cities have approached community agency in innovation districts:

- **Belfast:** community development infrastructure and the Belfast Region City Deal.
- **Medellín:** social urbanism built into city strategy.
- **Helix, Newcastle:** an innovation district alongside neighbouring communities.
- **Hazelwood Green, Pittsburgh:** foundation-funded support for communities around an innovation district.

Dutch land pooling and value capture (international). Land acquired, serviced and sold back at original cost, so the uplift in value benefits the public.

Skills and Employment

Trafford Council and Community Computers: Hyper-Local Digital Upskilling and Hardware Reuse. Refurbished donated devices paired with local digital skills training through Tech4All. *In the Delivering Good Growth report*.

Oxfordshire: apprenticeship levy transfer to SMEs. Large employers' unused levy funds reallocated to small employers through Enterprise Oxfordshire.

Greater Manchester: Good Employment Charter and Growth Hub skills support. An employment charter, and Growth Hub support linking employers to skills provision.

Oxfordshire: community employment plans and the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership. Local employment requirements in planning conditions, and a cross-sector partnership on inclusive growth.

Greater Cambridge: Included project. A mission-based, cradle-to-career approach to inclusive opportunity, inspired by Camden.

Test Valley: Test, Learn and Grow in Andover. A place-based pilot with New Local testing new approaches for 16 to 25-year-olds.