

Examples of community solutions to tackle the cost of living

Small scale street & neighbourhood level solutions

- 1. Community Batch Cooking Initiatives:**
 - Residents come together to prepare meals in bulk, sharing both the cost of ingredients and the cooking effort. The project can be funded through small grants or community fund contributions, and participants can pitch for additional funds to expand into meal delivery for vulnerable residents.
 - 2. Neighborhood Child Care Exchange:**
 - A community-driven childcare swap where residents offer each other support in caring for children during work hours or emergencies. Members of the exchange could pitch for funds to create a shared resources pool, such as toys, learning materials, or child-safe spaces within local community centres.
 - 3. Tool Libraries and Repair Cafés:**
 - Set up a tool library where residents borrow tools for home repairs, gardening, or DIY projects. Organise monthly “repair cafés” where people can learn basic repair skills and share knowledge. Funding from community grants or crowdfunding can help with the initial setup, purchasing tools, and covering venue rental.
 - 4. Bulk-Buying Cooperatives:**
 - Local residents pool their resources to bulk-buy groceries or household essentials at lower prices. This can involve setting up a cooperative model where each member contributes to a shared fund for bulk orders, or crowdfunding to secure initial capital for bulk purchases.
 - 5. Local Crowdfunding Events (e.g., Community Pitch Nights):**
 - Organise events where local groups can pitch their projects to the community to gain funding. Each attendee donates a small amount as a “ticket,” and the funds collected go to support the winning project. These events foster community involvement and provide seed funding for multiple small initiatives.
-

Scaling existing projects and new economic models

- 1. Community-Owned Renewable Energy Initiatives:**
 - Set up solar panels or small wind turbines funded and owned by community members, with profits reinvested into neighbourhood projects or energy cost reductions. This model could be scaled using a cooperative structure, where residents contribute as members and receive returns on investment.
- 2. Shared Workspace for Local Makers:**
 - A cooperative model for a community-run workspace or “makerspace” that provides tools, equipment, and space for local artisans and small business owners. Membership fees fund the space, while additional revenue could come from renting equipment, organising workshops, or selling member-made products.
- 3. Crowd-Equity Funding for Social Enterprises:**
 - Social enterprises or cooperatives can raise funds through crowd-equity platforms where community members become shareholders, with the aim to

expand services. For example, a local affordable childcare project might use crowd-equity to open additional locations or improve facilities, distributing returns to investors.

4. Community Land Trust (CLT):

- A model where the community collectively owns land or buildings to ensure affordable housing or local amenities. Members of the CLT can raise initial funds through grants or matched funding from the Council, while ongoing revenue comes from affordable rents or co-ownership agreements.

5. Multi-Stakeholder Cooperatives:

- Existing groups can scale by forming multi-stakeholder cooperatives that include different types of stakeholders (e.g., employees, community members, and funders) with shared decision-making power. This model is particularly useful for scaling services like food banks or local food co-ops where various stakeholders contribute.

6. Match-Funded Crowdfunding Campaigns:

- Groups could use match-funded crowdfunding platforms, where the Council or other funders provide matched funds to community contributions. This amplifies local support and increases project viability, attracting both community and institutional investment.

7. Community Investment Funds:

- A model where residents collectively pool funds that can be invested into local businesses, social enterprises, or property development with a commitment to reinvest profits back into the community. This structure can also work with match funding from external organisations or the Council.

The Nesta report "[Making It Big](#)" outlines several types of scaling for social innovations, each with unique approaches to expanding impact. Scaling Out involves replicating successful programs in new locations, often through partnerships or franchises—like the way a successful mentoring program might be implemented across multiple schools. Scaling Up seeks to influence broader systems or policies by integrating innovations into government or institutional frameworks; for example, embedding a community health initiative into national healthcare policy. Scaling Deep focuses on deepening impact within a community to change culture or values; an example might be a local arts program that strengthens community identity and social cohesion over time. Scaling Through Others leverages partnerships or networks to spread ideas without direct control, such as when a sustainability model is adopted by multiple cities independently after being showcased in one. Each approach ensures that social innovations grow in ways that best support sustainable and meaningful impact.