

# 'Making a Mark'

## Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

### Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce

Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce is the largest network of businesses in the South West – small, medium and large organisations who want to be better at business.



We help you connect with other businesses, support your company's growth with our expertise and use our knowledge to help you succeed, all while campaigning on your behalf. We provide business support, events & training and unparalleled expertise in everything from access to grant funding to international trade.

Our mantra is to help you Connect, Grow and Succeed.

Below are examples of how Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

### Supporting businesses of all sizes

If you are a small business, you do not have to do it alone. We can help you in good times and bad, connecting you to the people who will support you. If you are a medium-sized business, we have the tools to help you scale and start working on the business, rather than in it. And if

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you are a large enterprise, we can help you take off – trade around the world, form influential relationships and lobby for changes that make a real difference to our region’s infrastructure and business climate.

## Improving skills, education and training

Firstly, we are a Gateway Organisation for the Kickstart Scheme, which will assist hundreds of people who are furthest from employment into work. Alongside this, our team members sit on other boards for third sector organisations, including for example the YMCA, offering our skills for free to help third sector organisations. Moreover, the Chamber brought the Tall Ship Pelican to Plymouth and sent out 16 young people, many of whom were from under privileged backgrounds, to learn about the sea and the environment. When they returned 75% of them said they wanted a career in marine science or in the maritime industry. We have worked with schools colleges and universities to ensure that the skills and education they provide match the needs of employers, greatly enhancing their chances of employment. We have directly helped young people into work promoting apprenticeships and placements, including taking on our own apprentice. Finally, we have helped numerous businesses to start and grow, increasing employment and life chances. Our Kickstart work has secured 376 filled placements and of those completed, 81.5% are in employment or education.

## Promoting sustainable and green growth

Promoting local and sustainable procurement (with measurable social impacts) and clean growth are key pillars within our organisation. The ways we have had positive impact is firstly supporting the National Marine Park and helped attract investment from the Transforming Cities Fund that improves access through sustainable solutions such as cycling. We helped launch the Plastic Free Plymouth initiative and the reduction of single use plastics has been huge, helped by our partnership and our events at which we have experts to give practical hints and tips to business while promoting the benefits of reduced environmental impact, including the use of green energy. We are helping our businesses with events and advice that provides practical tips to reduce their carbon footprint and help achieve the net carbon zero target.

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