Detailed Theory of Change

February 2024

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About Tech4Good South West

Established in 2017, Tech4Good South West is a network dedicated to amplifying the impact of technology used for positive social impact across the South West. Our activities inspire positive change and foster a more responsible and impactful tech industry across the region in addressing societal and environmental issues.

We are proud to lead a growing network bringing together community stakeholders across the tech and non-profit sectors, academia, local business, public sector, funders and investors to actively contribute to improving the welfare of our communities.

We believe in the power of digital innovation to bridge gaps and foster inclusion, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities to connect, function and thrive in society.

What is a theory of change?

A theory of change is a comprehensive description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context. It focuses on mapping out or "filling in" what has been described as the "missing middle" between what a programme or change initiative does (its activities or interventions) and how these lead to wider social impact[1]. Assumptions are the core beliefs that underpin any theory of change.

This report will take you through the detail behind our Tech4Good South West organisational theory of change, shown on the following page.

Our theory of change was developed across a number of months with Tech4Good South West stakeholders, supported by data from surveys, past events and feedback from members.

[1]Description modified from www.theoryofchange.org

Our **theory** of **change**

1. The Challenge

Tech for good is the intentional use of digital technology to drive positive outcomes for people and the planet, prioritising inclusion and skills to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate and thrive in a digital world.

1. Challenge

Not everyone in society has the opportunity to harness technology to improve life and work outcomes. This digital exclusion leads to skills gaps, disconnection from essential services and economic disparity.

The way tech is developed contributes to inequality and leads to unintended negative consequences.

2. What we do

Showcase
We provide a platform to showcase a regional Tech4Good ecosystem

Growth
We generate income to facilitate, support and grow support a regional tech for good ecosystem

Awareness
Increase awareness of the Tech4Good mindset & approach through sharing insights and knowledge across our community

Convene
Provide space to connect for people, projects, organisations and funders driving Tech4Good

3. Outcomes

The **tech sector** is inspired to apply its combined skills to addressing societal challenges, engaging with communities and charities and creating more ethical and impactful digital solutions for everyone.

Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector work with the tech sector to build their digital capacity and ways of working, creating innovative digital solutions and approaches that better meet the needs of the communities they serve.

Investors and funders build their understanding of tech for good and the nuances and benefits of digital funding. They increase supportive programmes and accessible investment in tech for good solutions.

The **public sector** convenes spaces and champions initiatives around Tech4Good, building it into regional policies plans and agendas to increase productivity and create a sustainable economy

The **academic sector, research organisations** and **think tanks** share their research and perspectives, find opportunities to collaborate, and mobilise/influence students through volunteering and upskilling opportunities.

4. Impact

Everyone has **equal opportunity** to connect, function and thrive in society

Tech sector across the South West is more impactful in addressing societal and environmental issues, actively contributing to improving the welfare of our communities

5. Assumptions ➡

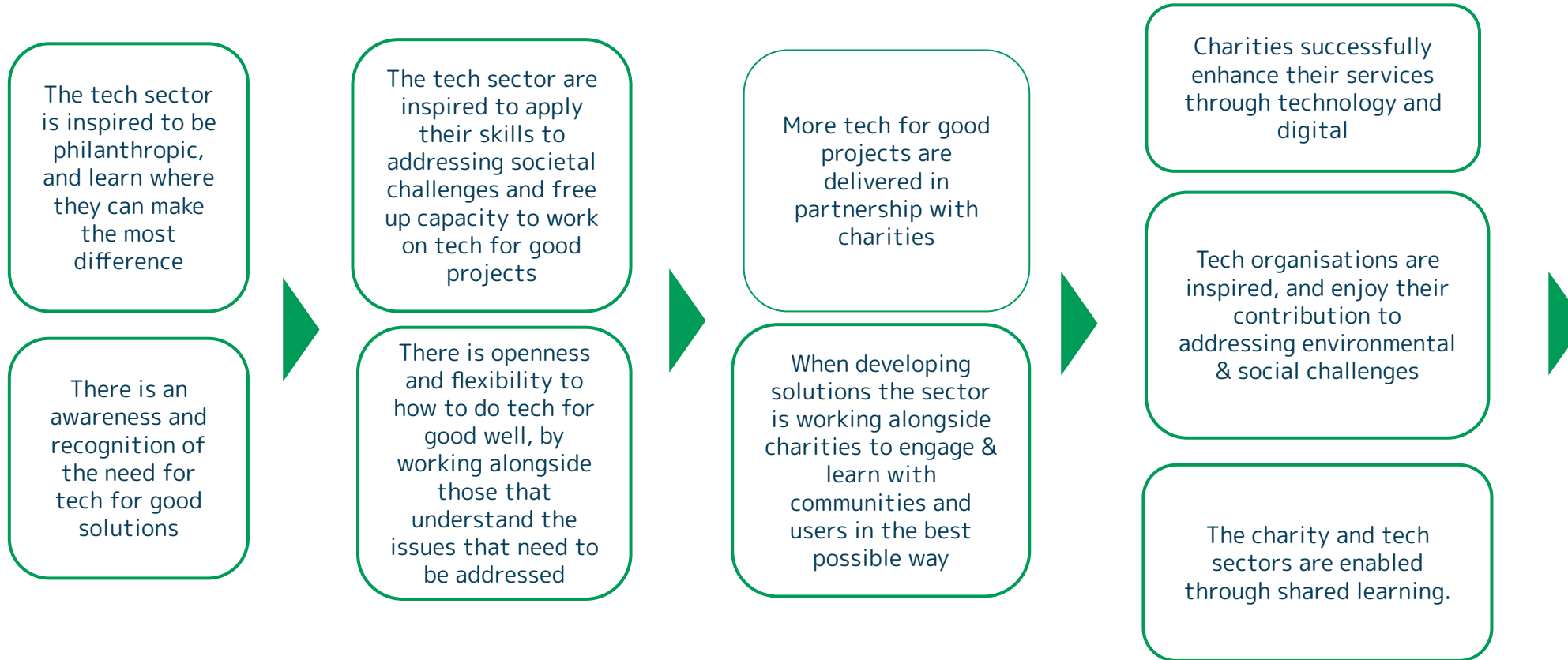|					
Stakeholders recognise the value and potential benefits of Tech4Good	Stakeholders find suitable ways in which to connect and work / collaborate with each other and recognise the mutual benefit	Stakeholders feel empowered to build relationships and partnerships	There is openness to digital approaches and ways of working	Every business and organisation understands the benefit of the Tech4Good South West	Stakeholders see the value and are motivated to drive Tech4Good momentum

Outcomes Pathways

Over the following slides we break down our outcomes and impact in more detail across different 'outcomes pathways' for the stakeholders we work with.

We also include 'assumptions' behind each of the outcomes pathways. Assumptions are the elements that we assume are already in place for the changes in the outcomes pathways to occur.

Outcome Pathway - Tech sector

The tech sector includes companies engaged in technology development, production, and application, encompassing software development, hardware manufacturing, and digital services.

The tech sector is inspired to be philanthropic, and learn where they can make the most difference

There is an awareness and recognition of the need for tech for good solutions

The tech sector are inspired to apply their skills to addressing societal challenges and free up capacity to work on tech for good projects

There is openness and flexibility to how to do tech for good well, by working alongside those that understand the issues that need to be addressed

More tech for good projects are delivered in partnership with charities

When developing solutions the sector is working alongside charities to engage & learn with communities and users in the best possible way

Charities successfully enhance their services through technology and digital

Tech organisations are inspired, and enjoy their contribution to addressing environmental & social challenges

The charity and tech sectors are enabled through shared learning.

Impact

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Tech sector across the South West is more impactful in addressing societal and environmental issues, actively contributing to improving the welfare of our communities

Assumptions

The tech sector will be inspired and back the activities of the Tech4Good South West network, they see value in contributing to the network

Tech organisations will be interested to join the network and have the capacity to engage.

Tech organisations and charities are able to find suitable ways in which to connect and work / collaborate with each other -they recognise the mutual benefit.

Outcome Pathway -
Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector

The VCSE sector comprises non-governmental, non-profit organisations such as charities, voluntary groups, and social enterprises that address social, environmental, or cultural issues, playing a key role in community development.

VCSE Sector recognises the need to deepen their engagement with technology and seek support

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VCSE sector builds awareness of support available to them (funding, software discounts, skills, resources)

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VSCE sector prioritises skills building opportunities to bring back into their organisations

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VCSE sector engage with available support and build digital skills and capacity within their organisations

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VSCE sector builds both digital resilience, and have the capacity to innovate with digital solutions and approaches within their services

Impact

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VCSE sector share challenges faced by their communities, and where they need support

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Tech sector are inspired to take action to support organisations in the VCSE sector to meet the needs of their communities

Funders deepen their knowledge and seek ways in which to strengthen support to the VCSE sector

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Tech sector is inspired to take action to support organisations in the VCSE sector to meet the needs of their communities

→

Tech sector bring their expertise and resources to work alongside the VCSE sector to address their challenges

VCSE Sector embrace digital to ensure their services better meet the needs of their communities

→

Tech and VCSE sectors invest in effective collaboration and build impactful partnerships

Organisations in the VCSE sector with similar challenges are inspired to connect

Assumptions

VCSE sector see want support / recognise where they need support, seeing value in engaging with the tech community

VCSE sector have the capacity and see value in engaging with the network, attend events or participate in projects

That enough VCSE sector will be in the network, and will be present to have, and bring their voice
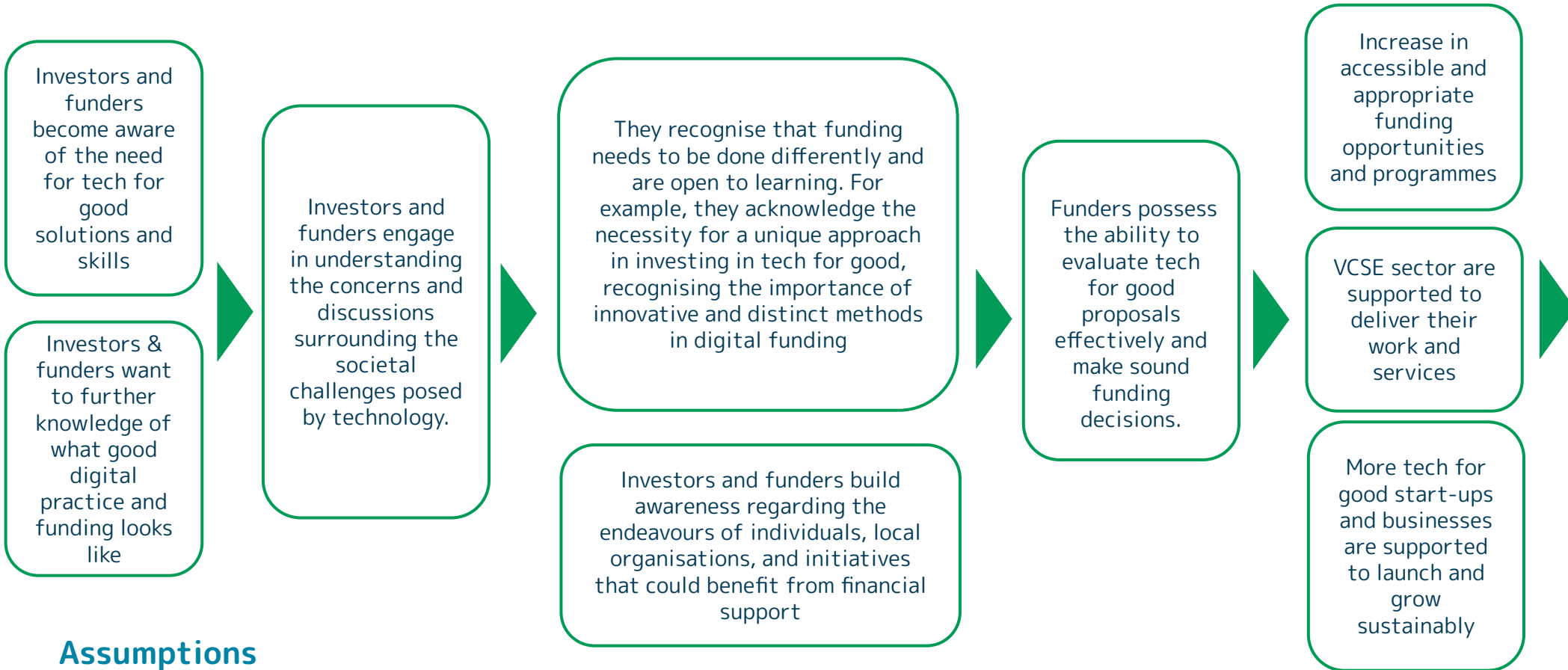
Outcome Pathway - Investors & funders

Investors and funders are individuals or entities that provide financial resources, such as capital or funds, to support and contribute to the growth and development of businesses, projects, or initiatives.

Investors and funders become aware of the need for tech for good solutions and skills

Investors & funders want to further knowledge of what good digital practice and funding looks like

Investors and funders engage in understanding the concerns and discussions surrounding the societal challenges posed by technology.

They recognise that funding needs to be done differently and are open to learning. For example, they acknowledge the necessity for a unique approach in investing in tech for good, recognising the importance of innovative and distinct methods in digital funding

Investors and funders build awareness regarding the endeavours of individuals, local organisations, and initiatives that could benefit from financial support

Funders possess the ability to evaluate tech for good proposals effectively and make sound funding decisions.

Increase in accessible and appropriate funding opportunities and programmes

VCSE sector are supported to deliver their work and services

More tech for good start-ups and businesses are supported to launch and grow sustainably

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Assumptions

Investors, funders have the capacity, prioritise, and seek opportunity to engage at a regional, and local level in the network

Investors and funders actively seek to comprehend the discussions and concerns related to funding and investment within the social sector.

Investors & funders recognise that funding for tech and digital is a priority

Outcome Pathway - Public sector

The public sector refers to government-owned and operated entities responsible for providing public services and administering policies to serve the community and citizens.

Public sector recognise the need to stay informed about technology-related initiatives addressing societal challenges

Public sector takes steps to comprehend strategies for tackling digital inclusion and skills development.

Convened spaces are available/open to the public sector to stay informed about tech for good perspectives and challenges

The public sector has opportunities to advocate for and promote initiatives, such as tech for good programmes and funding opportunities.

Public sector are actively paying attention to local communities

Public sector bring learnings back into their organisations to contribute to and prioritise future planning and initiatives

The public sector is empowered to explore how the use of digital technologies can foster a sustainable economy, boost productivity, and contribute societal benefits to the region.

Impact

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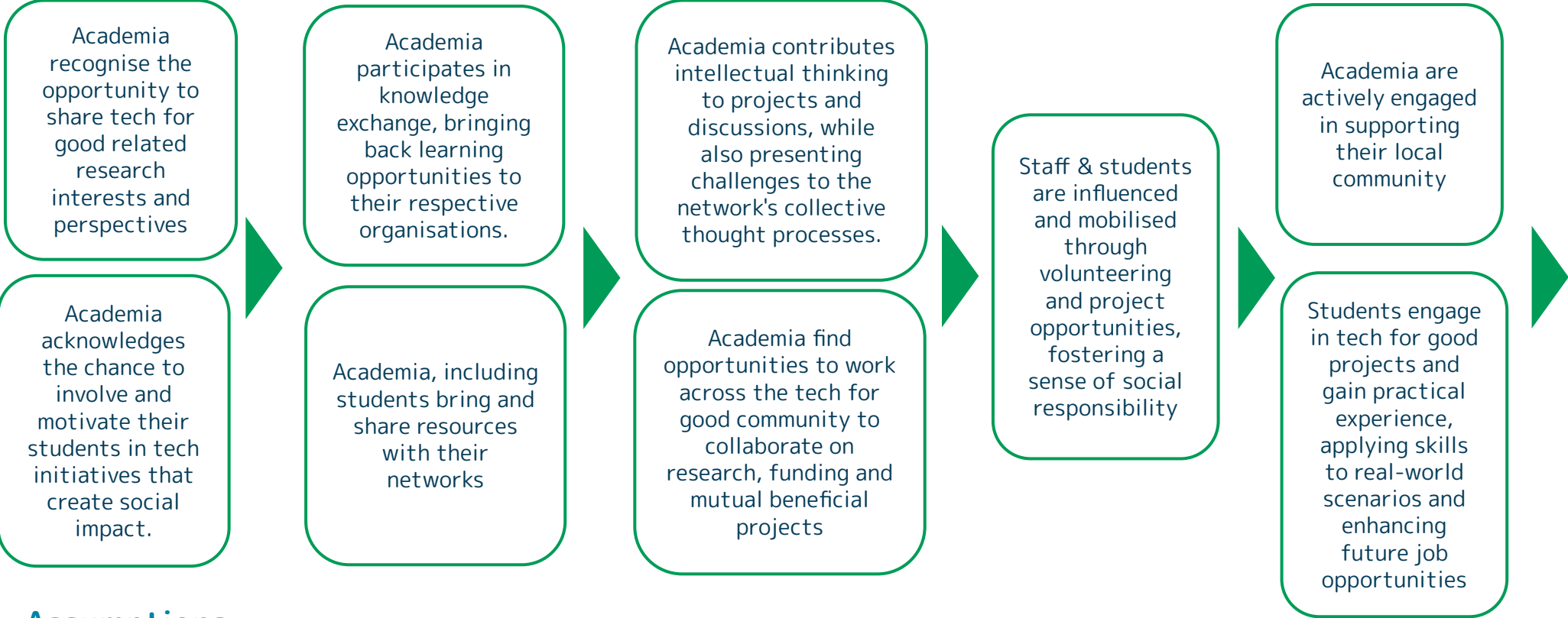
Assumptions

Public sector recognise the value from engaging with, and supporting the Tech4Good South West network

Public sector bring access to investment and support opportunities for members of the network

Outcome Pathway - Academia

Academia comprises educational institutions, students and researchers engaged
in teaching and conducting research, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in various fields.

Academia recognise the opportunity to share tech for good related research interests and perspectives

Academia acknowledges the chance to involve and motivate their students in tech initiatives that create social impact.

Academia participates in knowledge exchange, bringing back learning opportunities to their respective organisations.

Academia, including students bring and share resources with their networks

Academia contributes intellectual thinking to projects and discussions, while also presenting challenges to the network's collective thought processes.

Academia find opportunities to work across the tech for good community to collaborate on research, funding and mutual beneficial projects

Staff & students are influenced and mobilised through volunteering and project opportunities, fostering a sense of social responsibility

Academia are actively engaged in supporting their local community

Students engage in tech for good projects and gain practical experience, applying skills to real-world scenarios and enhancing future job opportunities

Impact

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Assumptions

Academia is interested in collaborating with the wider community, they see mutual benefit in this for their work, research, organisations and students

There are suitable projects that academia staff and students can actively engage in

Volunteer staff and students will be interested and have capacity to get involved in projects