
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	9 August 2022
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/60/22
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 2710
Subject:	Co-operative Councils Innovation Network		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to note that the Council has received an invitation to join the Co-operative Council's Innovation Network, and to note that further assessment of this will be undertaken, with a report being brought back to the next meeting of the Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes:-

2.1.1 the invitation the Council has received to join the Co-operative Council's Innovation Network; and

2.1.2 that officers will arrange a briefing for elected members from the Network, in advance of bringing a report back to the next meeting of the Committee to consider whether or not the Council should join the Network.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 Cllr McCabe, as Leader of the Council, received an invitation for the Council to join the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network ("the Network"). A copy of the invitation is annexed to this report.
- 3.2 More information on the Network can be found on its website.
<https://www.councils.coop/about-us/>

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Network, established in 2012, describes itself as "the fastest-growing network in local government", having over 100 councils, organisations and supporters from across the UK. According to the information made available to the Council, City of Edinburgh Council and Glasgow City Council are members of the Network. The Network states that member councils are committed to reforming the way they work by building an equal partnership with local people based on the values and principles of the International Co-operative Alliance.
- 4.2 The Network is open to all UK councils, and at a time of notable challenge for all local authorities, regardless of their location in the UK, the ability to access new networks and ideas for transformation could be of assistance to the Council.
- 4.3 It is to be noted that the Council already has access to similar networks, in particular through its membership of COSLA, the Improvement Service, Scotland Excel and APSE. Officers do, however, believe this proposal is worth further consideration. As such, the Committee is asked to note the invitation from the Network and that officers will arrange a briefing for elected members from the Network, in advance of bringing a report back to the next meeting of the Committee to consider whether or not the Council should join the Network. Officers have already sought feedback from the Improvement Service, City of Edinburgh Council and Glasgow City Council.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	X		
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)			X
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

The current annual membership fee for joining the Network would be £6,000. There is no identified budget for this. However, this would be considered as part of the report to the next meeting of the Committee, as part of the assessment as to whether or not the Council should join the Network.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

None.

5.4 Human Resources

None.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.



Cllr Stephen McCabe
 Leader of the Council - Inverclyde Council
 Municipal Buildings
 Greenock
 PA15 1NB

21 June 2022

Dear Cllr McCabe

Invitation to join the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network

Congratulations on your election as Leader of Inverclyde Council. On behalf of our Chair, Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE, I am delighted to invite Inverclyde Council to join the fastest-growing network in local government.

Established in 2012, the Network was the brainchild of Steve Reed OBE, MP (now our Honorary President), who, together with Jim McMahon OBE, MP and Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE (our Chair), turned the idea into reality. Today the Network comprises over 100 councils, organisations and supporters from across the UK and is the fastest-growing network in local government.

There is an increasing interest, across the political spectrum, in sharing power and responsibility with citizens, supporting the development of community and civic life and finding more cost-effective ways to create thriving and resilient communities. The Network is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association and is open to all UK councils.

Our members believe that the unprecedented challenges facing the public sector and local communities mean that traditional top-down governance models and economic growth are no longer fit for purpose. They want to reclaim the traditions of community action, community engagement, and civic empowerment that can transform communities. This approach will help deliver radical and innovative programmes designed, led, and delivered in partnership with communities and other sector partners, maximising the social dividend they bring. It has always been the purpose of the Network to share our developing good practice and support one another in our cooperative aims and values. Councillors and Officers are encouraged to participate in Network discussions and events, sharing ideas and best practice across the UK.

Each year CCIN Members are supported to suggest projects where they can work with other members to find cooperative policy solutions to the challenges facing local government. We are open to all ideas, the more innovative, the better! More information on our projects can be found here: <https://bit.ly/CCIN-projects>.

Our latest reports are:

Understanding the Digital Divide (2022) - Led by [Cheshire West & Chester Council](#), this practical toolkit helps tackle Digital Poverty and the Digital Divide. The gap between those who can confidently and conveniently go online and those who cannot. <https://bit.ly/CCIN-digital>

Cooperative Approaches to Reaching Net Zero (2022) - Led by [Kirklees Council](#). Reaching Net Zero is the biggest and most crucial shared challenge we face globally and locally. This report and toolkit showcase how Co-operative Councils achieve this and provides resources to implement approaches most applicable to your places rapidly. <https://bit.ly/CCIN-Net-Zero>

The Co-operative Difference in Care (2022) - Compiled by [Peopletoo](#). The wide variety of work undertaken by our Members highlights how the cooperative principles can be applied to create new and effective ways of working, help support communities and become part of a solution to the care crisis. <https://bit.ly/CCIN-care>

Community Economic Development Plans (2022) - Led by **Birmingham City Council** and **Cooperative Futures**.

Community economic development planning or CEDP is a process of economic development within a specific geographic area to make the economy in that area work well for that community. This report shows the value of councils cooperating with communities to undertake community economic development planning.

<https://bit.ly/CCIN-comm-econ-devt-plans>.

You can access a copy of the 2022 edition of our Case Studies Pack: <https://bit.ly/CCIN-case-studies-22>.

Our members lead our Governance. We will be holding elections at the end of the year:

<https://www.councils.coop/about-us/governance/>.

The benefits of joining the Network are:

- access the **latest ideas** and think about putting Cooperative principles into practice
- position your council as an **innovator**
- help to **influence** policy thinking at a national level
- share examples of projects and initiatives and **learn from others** about what works
- co-produce **tools and techniques** to support the development of cooperative approaches
- be invited to **Cooperative Conferences** around the country where you can meet and work with peers
- join an **officer network** who are leading the development of new approaches
- have access to a cadre of ambitious **political leaders** who are trying to bring change to their communities
- access a growing body of **resources** on the new CCIN website
- join the **debate** on our active social media platforms
- access our multi-supplier **Dynamic Purchasing System** of specialist organisations to help you develop policy, implement prototypes and build capacity when you need to move quickly and flexibly
- profile your council's **achievements** nationally

Based on the figures provided, the membership fee for Inverclyde Council is £6000. Subscriptions are invoiced in September; our membership year runs from August to July. If you joined now, you would not be invoiced until later in the year.

I would be happy to arrange a presentation to your Cabinet (on Zoom) if that would be useful. Let me know if you would like me to send a hard copy of our Case Studies Pack.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Nicola

Nicola Huckerby
Operations and Communications Lead
Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network

[councils.coop](https://www.councils.coop) | **Twitter:** [@CoopInnovation](https://twitter.com/CoopInnovation) | **Facebook:** [@CoopCouncils](https://www.facebook.com/CoopCouncils) | **Mob:** 00 44 7813 687 292

Chair, Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE – Leader of Stevenage Borough Council
Accountable Body: Oldham Council

UK councils who are driving global public policy using Co-operative Values & Principles

Introduction

Established in 2012, the Network was the brainchild of Steve Reed OBE, MP (now our Honorary President), who, together with Jim McMahon OBE, MP and Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE (our Chair), turned the idea into reality. The Network comprises over 100 councils, organisations and supporters from across the UK and is the fastest-growing network in local government.

Our members believe that the unprecedented challenges facing the public sector and local communities mean that traditional top-down governance models and economic growth are no longer fit for purpose. They want to reclaim the traditions of community action, community engagement, and civic empowerment that can transform communities. This approach will help deliver radical and innovative programmes designed, led, and delivered in partnership with communities and other sector partners, maximising the social dividend they bring. It has also always been the purpose of the Network to share our developing good practice and support one another in our cooperative aims and values.

There is a growing interest, across the political spectrum, in how to share power and responsibility with citizens, support the development of community and civic life and find more cost-effective ways to create thriving and resilient communities.

The Network is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association and is open to all UK councils. Councillors and Officers are encouraged to participate in Network discussions and events, sharing ideas and best practice across the UK.

From coop councils to coop places

Council policy is informed by experience and practice, drawing on, influencing, and framing national and international policy and political debates about the future of public services, local democracy, and communities across the country. It has enormous

Our Members

Our Member Councils represent 9.2m citizens and hold an annual directly managed budget of £14.8bn.

Barking & Dagenham Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Birmingham City Council
Brent Council
Bristol City Council
Cardiff Council
Cheshire West & Chester Council
City of Edinburgh Council
Glasgow City Council
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Royal Borough of Greenwich
Hull City Council
Kirklees Council
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Lewisham Council
Liverpool City Council
Milton Keynes Council
Newcastle City Council
North Hertfordshire District Council
Oldham Council
Oxford City Council
Preston City Council
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Salford City Council
South Ribble Borough Council
South Tyneside Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Stroud District Council
Sunderland City Council
Tameside Council
Telford and Wrekin Council
Torbay Council
Wigan Council
Worthing Council

potential for sharing its approach elsewhere in the UK and overseas. Our work recognises the need to define a new model for local government built on civic leadership, with councils working in equal partnership with local people to shape and strengthen communities; replacing traditional models of top-down governance and service delivery with local leadership, genuine cooperation, built on the founding traditions of the co-operative movement: collective action, cooperation, empowerment, and enterprise.

The cooperative business model allows people and communities to meet their needs and aspirations, offering a unique answer to contemporary problems. The model is a proven self-help model.

Cooperative enterprises play a significant role in driving our economy, showing resilience in tough economic times by creating jobs, adapting to social change, and continuing growth and success.

Statement of Values & Principles

Member Councils are committed to reforming the way they work by building an equal partnership with local people based on the values and principles of the [International Co-operative Alliance](#).

Our Co-operative Values are what we believe in:

Whilst not a registered co-operative, the CCIN has adopted the ICA values of *self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity*. *In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.*

Our Co-operative Principles guide the way our members put our values into action:

The Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network endorses the principles of the International Co-operative Alliance:

- voluntary and open membership
- democratic member control
- member economic participation
- autonomy and independence
- education, training, and information
- cooperation among co-operatives and
- concern for community

In acknowledging that **Councils are not in themselves registered co-operatives**, we have developed Principles that have grown from those of the International Co-operative Alliance and are relevant within the context of local government.

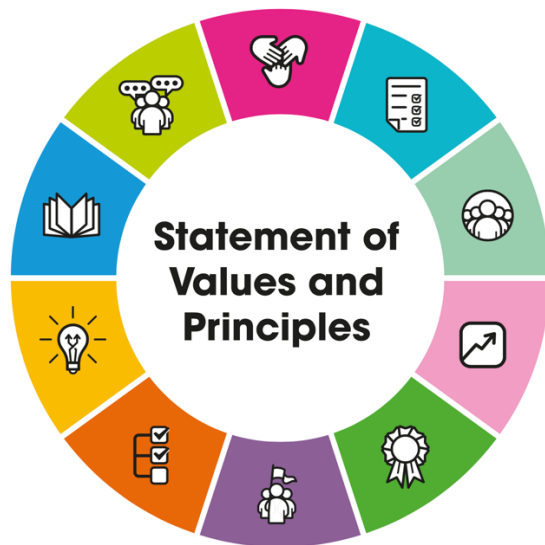
Associate Members

Billingham Town Council
Burntwood Town Council
Gloucester Labour Group
Great Dawley Town Council
Halewood Town Council
Hillingdon Labour & Co-op Group
Kingsgrove Town Council
Medway Labour & Co-op Group
Newcastle-U-Lyme Labour & Co-op Group
North Warwickshire Labour Group
Peterborough Labour Group
Plymouth Labour Group
Polesworth Parish Council
Renfrewshire Labour Group
Seaton Valley Community Council
Silverdale Parish Council
Staffordshire Labour & Co-op Group
Winsford Town Council
Witney Town Council
Woughton Community Council
York Labour Group

Affiliate Members

4OC
The Active Wellbeing Society
Anthony Collins Solicitors
Bates Wells
Beartas
The Behaviouralist
Branding.coop
C.Co
Co-operative and Mutual Solutions
Co-operative Care Colne Valley
Co-operative College
Co-operative Futures
Co-operatives UK
Cooperatives West Midlands
Community Broadband Network Limited
Constellia
Cwmpas
Demos
Development.coop
Evenbreak
Governance International
Greenwich Cooperative Development Agency
ICS.AI Ltd
Ideas Alliance
Lambeth GP Food Coop

The CCIN Statement of Values & Principles



See the full details here: <https://www.councils.coop/about-us/values-and-principles/>.



Locality
 Marks Out Of Tenancy
 Mutual Ventures
 Oxygen Finance
 Peopletoo
 POhWER
 Power to Change
 Public Service Transformation Academy
 RedQuadrant
 Royal Society of Arts
 SBI/E3M
 Social Value Exchange
 Stir to Action
 Trueman Change
 Unlimited Potential
 Value Match
 West and West
 Workers Educational Association

Our Supporters

Individuals

Chris Bain
 Stephen Barry-Stanners
 Stephanie Baxter
 Michael Bell
 Andy Boys
 Paul Byrne
 Richard Eason
 Sandra Hamilton
 Christin Marshall
 Cllr Keith Martin
 Cllr Thomas Mewies
 Rani Moorcroft MBE
 Ben Procter
 Cllr Mike Roberts
 Peter Sagar
 Glyn Thomas JP FRSA

Organisations

Community Catalysts
 The Finance Innovation Lab
 Midcounties Co-operative Gloucestershire & Swindon Co-op Party Council
 Resonance Ltd
 South West Peninsula Party Council
 Southwark Co-operative Party



Our Projects

Each year CCIN Members are encouraged to suggest projects where they can work with other members to find cooperative policy solutions to the challenges facing local government. We are open to all ideas, the more innovative the better! Find out more about the process here: <https://www.councils.coop/funded-projects/>.

From Co-operative Councils to Co-operative Places (2017) - Led by **Oldham Council working with Collaborate**. “We know more about what we don’t want than what we do...” It is up to Co-operative Councils to take the intellectual and policy risks required of their strong social ethos. <https://bit.ly/CCIN-coop-places>

Community-Led Housing (2018) - The Housing Commission was led by **Croydon Council**, with a practical focus on encouraging local authorities to foster cooperative, community-led solutions to the housing crisis. <http://bit.ly/CCIN-housing>

Cooperatives Unleashed: as seen from the Grassroots (2020) – Led by **Plymouth City Council**, this project was designed to inspire ambition and tenacity – with the people, policy, funders, projects, and business ideas and training – to put wealth directly into communities. <http://bit.ly/CCIN-unleashed>

CCIN Action Learning: Co-operation through Covid-19 2020 - The unprecedented impact of Covid-19 on communities throughout the UK has meant that councils have had to respond in quick and innovative ways. This publication has Case Studies from 15 Member Councils. <http://bit.ly/CCIN-Covid>

Beyond Asset Transfer – harnessing community asset transfer to create stronger local communities (2021) - Led by **Newcastle City Council** and completed by **Mutual Ventures**. Transferring assets to communities or not-for-profit organisations is not always easy, even when you know it is the right solution. This report seeks to demystify the Asset Transfer process and encourage more councils to be bold in their plans for community assets. <https://bit.ly/CCIN-Asset-Transfer>

Understanding the Digital Divide (2022) - Led by **Cheshire West & Chester Council**, this practical toolkit helps tackle Digital Poverty and the Digital Divide. The gap between those who can confidently and conveniently go online and those who cannot. <https://bit.ly/CCIN-digital>

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Membership Benefits

- access the **latest ideas** and thinking about putting Cooperative principles into practice
- position your council as an **innovator**
- help to **influence** policy thinking at national level
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- profile your council's **achievements** nationally

Join here: <https://www.councils.coop/how-can-i-join/>.

Our Governance

The Network is politically driven, with elected councillors chairing and forming the Executive Oversight Committee and Values and Principles Board and representatives of our Associate and Affiliate Membership. Elections take place every two years.

Read the CCIN Constitution: <https://www.councils.coop/about-us/governance/our-constitution/>.



Executive Oversight Committee 2021-22



Cllr Paul Stewart
Cabinet Member
Sunderland City Council



Cllr Shabir Pandor
Leader
Kirklees Council



Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE
Chair of CCIN
Leader, Stevenage Borough Council



Cllr Peter Bradbury
Vice Chair of CCIN
Cabinet Member Cardiff Council



Cllr Barbara Brownridge
Cabinet Member
Oldham Council



Cllr Steve Darling
Leader
Torbay Council



Cllr Leanne Feeley
Cabinet Member
Tameside Council



Cllr Louise Gittins
Leader
Cheshire West & Chester Council



Cllr Sue Smith
Cabinet Member
Rochdale MB Council



Cllr Clare Gamble
Chair
Billingham Town Council



Jonathan Bland
Managing Director – Social
Business International/E3M



Cllr Joyce McCarty
Newcastle City Council
Chair of V&P – Ex-Officio

Representatives from the national cooperative sector sit alongside elected Members on our Values and Principles Board, providing insights and expertise.



Cllr Joyce Welsh
South Tyneside Council



Cllr Frank Walsh
Knowsley MB Council



Cllr Joyce McCarty
Chair of V&P
Newcastle City Council



Cllr John Fahy
Vice Chair of V&P
Royal Borough of Greenwich



Cllr Rae Evans
Telford & Wrekin Council



Cllr Sue Woodward
Vice Chair of V&P
Burntwood Town Council



Cllr Peter Curling
Hillingdon Labour &
Coop Group



Cllr Michael Stubbs
Newcastle-U-Lyme
Labour & Coop Group



Cllr Hayden Phillips
North Warks Labour
& Coop Group



Cllr Donna Fuller
Woughton Community
Council



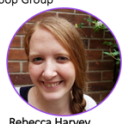
Gus Della Porta
Vice Chair of V&P
Bates Wells



Michael Curnow
Peopletoot



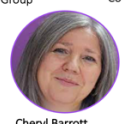
Vacancy



Rebecca Harvey
Co-operative News



Neil Calvert
Co-operative College



Cheryl Barrott
Co-operatives UK



Richard McCready
Co-operative Party



Jo White
Co-operative Futures



Paul Bell
Unison

The Network has an 'Officer Group' which meets monthly to discuss topical issues of mutual benefit.

Types of Membership

In addition to the [Member Specific Benefits](#), by becoming a member of the Network, you will:

Full Membership

- Local councils (Unitary, County, District and Borough) in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- Combined Authorities and Police and Crime Commissioners

Affiliate Membership

Our Affiliate Membership scheme is open to non-governmental organisations and corporations wishing to show their support and engage in developing innovative Co-operative Councils. The values and principles of Affiliate Members align with the Networks. They support the development of cooperative policy and practice and can demonstrate they deliver a positive social impact to local communities.

Associate Membership

Our Associate Membership scheme is open to the following organisations:

- Town and Parish Councils in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- Groups of elected representatives engaged in local councils (Unitary, County, District and Borough) in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales:
 - Minority administrations of local councils where opposition parties block membership and the administration, therefore, join as a political group
 - Opposition groups will seek to become Full Members if they take control of their local authority
- Other elected authorities:
 - The devolved administrations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
 - Local and regional government within Europe and beyond

Contact: Nicola Huckerby - Operations and Communications Lead, CCIN

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