
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	1 December 2022
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/112/22
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Appointment to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 At the 20 September 2022 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee it was agreed that the Council should apply to become a member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network. This membership was confirmed in October.
- 1.3 Following consultation with the Chief Executive and the Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Cllr Cassidy recently stood for election to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network. It was confirmed on 28 November that Cllr Cassidy has been successful in being elected subject to the approval of the Chair of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network, whose approval is necessary given that Cllr Cassidy is not a Council Leader or Portfolio Holder/Cabinet Member, as those positions are understood in English local authorities. The election of the Chair of the Network requires to go to a ballot, which means that the identity of the Chair will not be known for two weeks or so.
- 1.4 Under the Council's Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration, the approval of the Council is required for the appointment of any member to an outside organisation. The timetable for the election meant that Cllr Cassidy was unable to seek the Council's approval, to his standing for election, in advance of the nomination deadline. As such, Cllr Cassidy stood for election on the basis that, if successful, the approval of the Council would be sought following the election being held.
- 1.5 As such, the purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to the appointment of Cllr Cassidy, following his election, this appointment being subject to the subsequent approval of the Chair of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the appointment of Cllr Cassidy to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network, following his recent election, this appointment being subject to the approval of the Chair of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network.

Iain Strachan, Head of Legal & Democratic Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 At the 20 September 2022 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee it was agreed that the Council should apply to become a member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (the Network). This application was approved in October, and all councillors advised on 2 November. <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2487>
- 3.2 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. 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. In particular, the Network promotes the transformation of communities through community action, community engagement and civic empowerment.
- 3.3 More information on the Network can be found on its website: <https://www.councils.coop/about-us/>
- 3.4 The most senior tier of the Network’s governance structure is its Executive Oversight Committee. More information on this Committee, comprising elected members from different local authority members, can be found on its website, including its terms of reference. The Executive Oversight Committee meets quarterly, in person or remotely.
- 3.5 The Network recently announced vacancies on its Executive Oversight Committee. Following consultation with the Chief Executive and the Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Cllr Cassidy stood for election to the Executive Oversight Committee. It was confirmed on 28 November that Cllr Cassidy had been successful in being elected, subject to the approval of the Chair of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network, whose approval is necessary given that Cllr Cassidy is not a Council Leader or Portfolio Holder/Cabinet Member, as those positions are understood in English local authorities. The Chair of the Network requires to go to a ballot, which means that the identity of the Chair will not be known for two weeks or so.
- 3.6 Under the Council’s Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration, the approval of the Council is required for the appointment of any member to an outside organisation. The timetable for the election meant that Cllr Cassidy was unable to seek the Council’s approval, to his standing for election, in advance of the nomination deadline. As such, Cllr Cassidy stood for election on the basis that, if successful, the approval of the Council would be sought following the election being held.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Further to the above background, it is recommended that the Council approves the appointment of Cllr Cassidy to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network, following his recent election, this appointment being subject to the subsequent approval of the Chair of the Network.
- 4.2 It is understood that through Cllr Cassidy’s appointment, if ratified, the Council would be the only Scottish local authority to be represented on the Executive Oversight Committee. Cllr Cassidy’s appointment, if approved by the Council and the Chair of the Network, is for a period of two years.
- 4.3 It is to be noted that whilst budget has been identified for the Council to be a member of the Network for 3 years, it was agreed by the Policy & Resources Committee that this would be reviewed after 1 year. As such, there is the potential that the Council’s membership could cease before the term of Cllr Cassidy’s appointment is fully served. If that was to happen, then Cllr Cassidy would need to step down from the Executive Oversight Committee.

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

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					

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no legal and risk implications arising directly from this report.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no human resources implications arising directly from this report.

5.5 Strategic

There are no strategic implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 N/A