

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 On 12 September 2023, the Network announced two vacancies on its Executive Oversight Committee. In respect of this there were 3 candidates, none of whom were members of a Scottish local authority. Each member council had the right to exercise a vote for up to two candidates. The votes had to be exercised by Noon on 19 September 2023.
- 3.6 In December 2022 a similar use of delegated powers was exercised to enable the Council to exercise its vote, again through Cllr McCabe, to elect a Chair of the Network. This was reported to the January 2023 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee. <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2525>

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 As a member of the Network, it was considered important that the Council exercised its right to vote on the election of two new members to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Network. As such, and in light of the timescales associated with that election, on 13 September 2023, the Chief Executive used their powers under the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to agree that the Council cast its vote to elect two new members to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network. It is a requirement of the constitution of the Network that such a vote is cast by the Leader of member local authorities. <https://www.councils.coop/about-us/governance/our-constitution/>

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		x
Legal/Risk		x
Human Resources		x
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		x

Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		x
Environmental & Sustainability		x
Data Protection		x

5.2 Finance

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no legal risks/implications arising 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 None.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None