



DEVOLUTION

Devolution is becoming a reality for many of our members across the UK. Developments in Scotland and city regions in England provide a historic opportunity to transform the current overly-centralised system of political governance and enable local voice and influence to make its mark. But there is a danger that devolution simply transfers power from Whitehall to town halls, failing to empower local people.

The CCIN advocates for co-operative devolution, built on genuine, equitable outcome-focussed partnership with local communities, which also reinvigorates local democracy and fosters more prosperous and empowered communities.

Cllr Andrew Burns

Andrew has been a Councillor since 1999 and Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council since May 2012.

As Leader, Andrew is responsible for delivering the Capital Coalition's policy commitments. Edinburgh was the first Scottish member of the CCIN and Andrew was elected Chair of the Network in 2014.

"The theme of cooperation is vital to rebuilding trust between the electorate and elected members, with a willingness to listen to and work together with local communities, business and the third sector."



Dr. Carolyn Wilkins

Carolyn has been Chief Executive of Oldham Council since 2014.

Carolyn was appointed Deputy Chief Executive having joined the council in 2009. Prior to this, she was Chief Executive at Rossendale Borough Council. She has considerable public sector experience, and is taking a key role in leadership and workforce agendas for the Devolution Manchester programme.

"Devolution is an incredible opportunity for GM and its authorities. But it must bring with it the ability to integrate policymaking with the voices and experiences of our communities, connecting more intimately with place."

To help us do this we need an agile and inclusive policymaking approach focused on the art of the possible, that really does support us in improving peoples lives."



Gareth Swarbrick

Gareth has been Chief Executive of Rochdale Boroughwide Housing since December 2008.

He has led a process which has seen RBH's transformation from local authority owned ALMO into the UK's first tenant and employee owned mutual social landlord to which the Council transferred its 13,700 homes on 26 March 2012.

"The RBH mutual aims to provide a structure within which its tenants and employees can work together as members to design solutions to 21st century problems. Though developed to suit particular local circumstances there are important lessons which can be learned from the RBH experience as new forms of public service delivery are designed."



aims and objectives

The Co-operative Councils Innovation Network is a non-party-political active hub for co-operative policy development, innovation and advocacy which is:

- **Action-focused:** a vehicle for helping councils translate co-operative policy and principles into practice
- **Membership-based:** funded by fair membership subscriptions from its member councils
- **Open to all UK councils:** members share the belief that working co-operatively with communities holds the key to tackling today's challenges

- **Part of the local government family:** the network is a Special Interest Group registered with the Local Government Association where we work to promote innovation in local government

Values of the CCIN – our values are what we believe in:

Our Network is based on the Co-operative values developed by the International Co-operative Alliance: *“self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity... honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.”*

want to know more?

You can:

- Come up and chat to us, we'll be happy to help
- Check out our website at: www.coopinnovation.co.uk
- Email us for more information at: coopinnovationnetwork@oldham.gov.uk
- Call the CCIN Team on: 0161 770 5691 or 1373



@CoopInnovation



Co-operative Councils
Innovation Network

LGA Conference, Harrogate 30 June 2015

intro from the chair



As a council leader, a ward councillor, and a member of my local community, I understand the scale of the challenges that we are all facing locally.

Many communities are disengaged from local democracy; councils can seem like distant bureaucracies; and, as organisations, we as councils are struggling to manage huge funding reductions just as local people are putting more and more demand on local services.

If councils are going to survive in this context, and if communities are going to thrive, then we all need to start doing things differently. We need to work together, in genuine and equal partnership with local people. We need to step out of the town hall and back into

communities to tackle old issues in new ways. Most importantly, we must drive real innovation, with local people at its core.

This is exactly why the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network exists. The network gives us the opportunity to share what works, learning from each others' practical experiences to translate cutting-edge policy thinking into hands-on practice right across the country. Our work is defining the future of local public services – not **for** local people, but **with** local people – and putting local people back at the heart of what we do.

Cllr Andrew Burns

Leader of Edinburgh Council