



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

Values and Principles Board Meeting
9 December 2015
13.30-1700 at LGA Office, Smith Square London

Attendees

Councillors: Penberthy (Chair), Herries (Norwich) and Councillor Powers (Newcastle).

Officers: Richard McCready Co-operative Party.

Apologies: Sunderland and Bassetlaw, Co-operative College, Network of Co-operative Councillors and TUC

Welcome

Councillor Penberthy welcomed new members of the Board.

Review of the last meeting

The last meeting of the Values and Principles Board was held at the Co-operative Party Conference.

On the 23 September 2015, members of the Executive Oversight Committee met to review the strategy and delivery of the network. At this meeting the Board agreed that it was the right time to revitalise the Values and Principles Board. With the new management arrangements in place and the departure of the RSA this was seen as an opportune time to do this.

Introduction on the Role of the Values and Principles Board and the new management arrangements.

Councillor Penberthy, gave the group a brief overview of the originally agreed purpose and focus of the board in summary–

- maintaining coherence on work and approach of the CCIN network and its members with the focus on the networks Values and Principles.
- the Board will seek to build and promote co-operative good practice with the LGA organised peer review process.
- the Board will play an active role in developing the peer review process for co-operative councils.
- building and maintaining links between the wider co-operative movement including the co-operative party and CCIN.

- facilitating active debate about what values and principles look like in practice using insight gained from CCIN innovative work programmes.
- Acting as a check and balance for the EOC, to ensure that work programmes are in keeping with the values.

Membership

Part of the revitalisation of the board was to look into the membership of the Board. We are delighted to welcome Councillor Herries, Network of the Co-operative Councillors Representatives and TUC. We will look into inviting the Scottish equivalent of TUC.

Action:

- **Look into Scottish equivalent of TUC;**
- **Investigate Ealing for membership of the network and V and P Board.**

Up and Coming Activities and V and P Role

- understanding the differing approaches and focuses used by co-operative councils;
- linking in better with the officers network;
- link in with the regional leads who will be recruiting regionally to the network;
- when a proposal for a new policy lab area or commission is submitted ensure that a section includes how does this project support the aims and objectives of the network?
- Prior to the project/ policy lab being at Exec Oversight Committee V and P need to give their input;
- Include this question in case studies that are submitted for the Culture Hub part of the web.
- Review, approve and input into the new membership application form.
- Approving and inputting into the policy labs that are proposed.
- Discussed the upcoming opportunities that would be presented by individual councils, allowing them the opportunity for councils to get a monetary return on their membership by leading in an area of co-operative policy/innovation.
- Review of innovations and initiatives should take place by V and P before the project begins and towards the end to review lessons learned – with possibly a short briefing paper of how this meets the needs of the co-operative values.(not just a tick box activity) values should be worked all the way through.

Culture Hub

- Concept behind this was to create a virtual hub that allows member councils to show off the co-operative difference to their innovations;
- Utilising traffic to the website and co-operative case studies much more by “tagging”;
- Rather than writing case studies afresh we would use press releases, these would be submitted with key Members who have participated in the innovation alongside the officers;
- Members of the board where supportive of these proposals;
- The Board, wanted to establish an approved choice of tags for case studies;
- Alongside allowing those who submitted case studies to prioritise their top three values that drove their project.

Peer Review

- The Board discussed the proposal and how the concept of Co-operative Peer Review has been talked about from the networks very early days.
- It was thought that values and principles were critical for the development of this process, so they should be involved in both the initial phases of design and the final.

Co-operative Charter Mark

- The group discussed the proposal submitted by Edinburgh Council that the CCIN should explore developing a Cooperation Charter Mark or Coproduction Charter Mark based on the CCIN's Values and Principles.
- This co-operative badge could be used to promote the CCIN's Values and Principles, providing a framework to allow local authorities and other organisations to determine the extent to which they put the CCIN's values into practice.
- The Charter Mark could help the CCIN to quickly identify and recognise the impact of the CCIN's co-operative values, demonstrating best practice across the network.
- Co-operative schools currently use a similar Charter Mark (appendix I), developed by the Co-operative College and the Schools Co-operative Society to support schools in embedding the values within all aspects of their work.
- the CCIN Charter Mark could be awarded at one of four levels, for example: Emerging Co-production; Developing Co-production; Established Co-production; Leading Co-production.
- CCIN members and partner organisations could apply every year to progress through the levels.
- Members expressed some concern around the definition of co-production as it may mean different things to different people;
- They also felt that co-operation and the co-operative difference meant allot more than just co-production;
- The group discussed the breadth of terminology used when schools receive the charter mark – emerging, established, developing and leading.
- Group discussed how the schools terminology could be used interchangeably with a co-operative charter mark.
- They also discussed TUC and their guidance on mutualisation and how this could interlink;

Action

- **The board requested that they need further work done on this in terms of defining the concepts;**

Future Meetings

- **Future meetings to be planned;**
- **The board recommended that another CCIN conference should be organised for June/July.**