



# Co-operative Councils

## Innovation Network

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16 November 2016

9.30 – 10.30 Room D City Hall, Cardiff

#### Attendees

**Councillors:** Phil Bale (Cardiff), Chris Penberthy (Plymouth) - Chair, Peter Bradbury (Cardiff), Barbara Brownridge (Oldham), Chris Herries (Norwich), Tony Newman (Croydon), Chris O'Hare (Knowsley), Stephen Powers (Newcastle),

**Officers:** Laura Amey (Cardiff), Jennifer Barker (Oldham), Christine Boston (Cardiff), Alison Comley (Bristol), Fiona Gibson (Cardiff), Nicola Huckerby (CCIN), Sue Jarvis (Knowsley), Giles Perritt (Plymouth), Di Robinson (Bristol), Huw Williams (Newport).

**Guests:** Cllr John Fahy (Greenwich), Cllr Tony Kennedy (Birmingham), Tracy Millard (Gloucestershire), Cllr Matt Rodda (Reading).

#### Apologies

**Councillors:** Andrew Burns (Edinburgh), Allen Brett (Rochdale), Susan Elsmore (Cardiff), Richard Farnell (Rochdale).

#### Welcome

##### **Cllr Phil Bale, Leader City of Cardiff Council**

- Cllr Bale welcomed those in attendance and referenced the bus tour of the previous day.
- There are interesting times ahead for all of us – the LGA issued their Statement regarding Brexit last week. The transfer of powers needs to be meaningful for local communities and that is what CCIN is about.
- Cardiff has seen significant changes over the last few years and there's more change to come – the city has the largest predicted population growth of all UK major cities. At the same time the Council is facing significant budget pressures with cuts of £200million already made over the last 10 years, and another £78m of savings to be found over the next 3.
- Councils have to find new ways of working collaboratively.
- There is lots of good stuff happening in Cardiff, for example the time-banking scheme has resulted in 3,000 volunteer hours.

## **Cllr Chris Penberthy, Plymouth City Council and Vice Chair of the CCIN**

- Cllr Penberthy welcomed everyone especially the potential CCIN members in attendance.
- The network has 21 Members representing 5.6 million people, with approximately £8billion being spent supporting co-operative values and principles.
- If the potential members joined, the Network would represent a further 2.1 million people.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held at Rochdale (included in the papers) were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.

### **Review of the Year 2015/16**

Cllr Penberthy referenced that the Review was included in the AGM papers and the following was noted:

- Thanks to Edinburgh, Cardiff, Croydon and Sunderland for their officers' work as regional leads.
- Thanks also extended to Oldham and Plymouth who have provided the administrative support for the Network including governance, membership and accounts.
- The officers' network has proved to be very valuable – putting the ambitions of Members into practice. Workshops have been held on:
  - Energy
  - Mutuels and Co-operatives
  - Performance Management Framework
  - Co-operation and Social Enterprises in Economic Growth
  - Impact and Opportunities of the Government's Legislative Programme on Co-Operative Councils

Thanks to Knowsley, Plymouth and Oldham for hosting the various sessions.

- Thanks extended to all those members on the Executive Oversight Committee and the Value & Principles Board for their time and efforts.
- The Network launched the first set of Policy Labs last year which are beginning to bear fruit.
- Cllr Penberthy offered a personal tribute to the current Chair, Cllr Andrew Burns, who will retire from political life at the end of the municipal year. The Network thanks him for all his hard work and sends best wishes for the future.
- No questions were raised regarding the Review.

### **Accounts**

- Thanks offered to Oldham for their base budget forecast (included in the papers); some funds still to be allocated but budget position remains in a healthy position.
- The aim is to carry forward the reserve so that new ideas can be explored in the year ahead.
- No questions were raised regarding the accounts.

### **Plans for 2016/17**

- **Procurement Framework:** As requested by members, Oldham have developed a procurement framework based on co-operative principles. This is available to all members and is intended

to be used for day-to-day decision making. Thanks to Oldham for going through this process and developing this framework. Using this framework will enable us to build a body of expertise within the Network.

- **Policy Labs for 2016/17:** The link between policy labs and policy prototypes is to be strengthened – they should feed into each other. £10–15k of funding is available for each Policy Lab. Two areas of work were agreed by the Executive Oversight Committee at the meeting yesterday:
  - Health and Social Care - this is an increasingly important area and it would be interesting to see the difference a co-operative approach could make. Members will be invited to pitch ideas from next week. We need to get greater input into the national debate.
  - How we handle devolution – what do devolution deals mean? What does it mean to have elected mayors and Police & Crime Commissioners? Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have experienced this. The Policy Lab could investigate where we as a Network go and how co-operatives fit.

Both Policy Labs have strategic importance and should produce something important for the Network to say in both national and international debates.

- **Events:** More events are planned. Thanks to Nicola Huckerby for all her hard work with the Network's marketing and branding.
- **Peer Review:** The review process is being launched today and members are encouraged to sign up to be reviewed and/or to be a reviewer.
- **Approved New Members Categories:** Consideration is to be given around allowing organisations other than Councils being able to join the Network e.g. LGA, third Sector, parish/town Councils. We want to broaden and deepen the range of people involved in the Network; members of the co-operative movement should become more involved.

## Election

The following vacancies currently exist:

- Chair of the Executive Oversight Committee
- 2 x Vice Chairs
- 6 x Member spaces for Executive Oversight Committee
- 5 x Member spaces for Value and Principles Board

Papers will be issued shortly.

## Any Other Business

- None reported