The CCIN Year in Review: 2016-7

# Introduction

This year we have been working hard to grow the CCIN’s profile and showcase the valuable contribution the Network makes to municipal policy, at a time when local government is faced with the challenge of providing good and effective public services with ever diminishing resources.

It has been another busy twelve months as we have moved the delivery of the Network in-house securing the CCIN’s future as a member-driven organisation able to capitalise on the strong foundation that we have built over the last five years. We have exhibited at more events than previous years as we seek to raise our profile and grow the Network. We’ve also launched Associate, Affiliate and Supporter Membership schemes and our Consultancy Framework, and we also have seen the delivery of our first edition of Policy Labs and Prototypes.

We’ve picked out some of our highlights to share with you.

# Moving the delivery of the Network in-house

In June 2016, we moved the delivery of the Network in-house. Oldham Council acts as the Accountable Body providing governance, administering the Officer Network and managing the CCIN’s communications through the appointment of Branding.coop via the Consultancy Framework.

Developments include:

* a consistent brand for our online and offline presence including a new domain councils.coop and use of the global co-operative Marque in our own strapline, joining coops in 106 countries.
* Over 70 Case Studies are now searchable on the website along with an Events Calendar, blogs and links to Member Councils
* A digital monthly newsletter and ESP communications to extend the reach of the Network
* a social media personality for Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn
* creation, management and dissemination of a Network contacts database
* positioning CCIN members as experts in delivering Council services in innovative ways using co-operative values and principles and providing support for individual councillors leading on co-operation/co-operatives in their authority.

# Membership

At the AGM in Cardiff it was agreed to launch three new categories of Membership along with the associated application processes, membership benefits and fees; there are now four categories of membership:

Full Members | Associate Members | Affiliate Members | Supporters

This decision allows smaller councils, minority administrations, opposition groups, devolved administrations and local and regional government within Europe to join as Associate Members. Non-governmental organisations, corporations and individuals wishing to show their support and engage in the processes of developing innovative Co-operative Councils are welcomed as Affiliate Members and Supporters.

We currently have 20 Full Members, with South Tyneside and the Royal Borough of Greenwich joining during the year. We continue our dialogue with a dozen other council’s and look forward to welcoming further members in due course.

Interest in the Associate and Affiliate Membership scheme has been strong with two political groups and seven NGOs / corporations signing up since the launch at the LGA Conference in July.

# Policy Labs and Policy Prototypes – Round 1

In 2016 the Network welcomed applications to deliver two types of project. Eight projects were agreed. Policy Labs which were bigger collaborative pieces of work that CCIN members worked on together, and eligible for up to £10,000 of funding, the following were delivered:

* [Beyond Asset Transfer](http://www.councils.coop/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Asset-transfer-Beyond-Asset-Transfer-Newcastle-City-Council.pdf) – Newcastle City Council
* [Co-operative Performance Framework](http://www.councils.coop/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Co-operative-Performance-Framework-Oldham-Council.pdf) – Oldham Council
* [Co-operative Peer Challenge](http://www.councils.coop/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Item-6b-Cooperative-Peer-Challenge-Offer.pdf) – Plymouth City Council
* [Housing Commission](http://www.councils.coop/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Housing-Commission-Croydon-Council.pdf) – Croydon Council. The final report will be launched later in the year.
* [From Co-operative Councils to Co-operative Places](http://www.councils.coop/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Co-operative-Councils_Places-Report_Collaborate-and-Oldham-Council.pdf) – Collaborate & Oldham Council

Policy Prototypes which were smaller projects delivered in a locality on behalf of the Network and eligible for up to £1,500 of funding:

* [Welcoming and helping refugees and asylum seekers (Culture School)](http://www.councils.coop/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Culture-School-City-of-Cardiff-Council.pdf) – Cardiff Council
* [Closing the Education Gap](http://www.councils.coop/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Education-Closing-the-Education-Gap-City-of-Edinburgh-Council.pdf) – The City of Edinburgh Council
* [Telford Mental Health Forum](http://www.councils.coop/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Telford-Mental-Health-Forum-Telford-and-Wrekin-Borough-Council.pdf) – Telford & Wrekin Council

# Policy Labs and Policy Prototypes – Round 2

At its meeting on 15 November 2016, the EOC agreed to support two Policy Labs for 2017, and that £10,000 – £15,000 of funding be available for each. The two areas of work are:

* Health and Social Care
* Impact of Devolution, Combined Authorities, Metro Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners on the Co-operative Council agenda

The EOC received presentations from a range of co-operative organisations in July to kick-start the work on Health and Social Care. There is still more work to be done. We would welcome any interest in supporting our thinking in this area so that we can scope out the content of the task to be delivered.

On the second piece of work our aim is for our Chair to meet with some of the newly Elected Mayors to see where the Network can support the agenda of Regional Government in delivering jobs and boosting the economy and to see how we can work together to create new social enterprises and overcome the exploitation of workers in the ‘gig economy’.

# Events

During the last 12 months, we have attended more Conferences and Events than in previous years seeking to promote the Co-operative Council message to a wider audience and grow the Network:

* + Co-operative Party Annual Conference – Cardiff – 9-11 September 2016
  + South West Peninsula Society Co-operative Party Council – Plymouth – 21 October 2016
  + Co-operative Party Local Government Conference – Manchester – 12 November 2016
  + CCIN Annual Conference and Co-operative Showcase – Cardiff – 15-16 November 2016
  + Co-operative Councils & West Midlands Co-operative Region debate – Birmingham – 8 December 2016
  + Scottish Labour Party Conference – Perth – 24-26 February 2017
  + Gloucestershire Co-operative Party meeting – Gloucester – 25 March 2017
  + Co-operative Party Local Government Conference - Birmingham – 24 June 2017
  + Co-operative Congress, Wakefield – 30 June – 1 July 2017

Planned Events:

* + CCIN Annual Conference and Co-operative Showcase – Oldham – 5-6 September 2017
* Labour Party Conference – Brighton – 25-27 September 2017
* Co-operative Party Centenary Conference – London – 13-15 October 2017
* National Association of Local Councils Annual Conference – Milton Keynes – 30-31 October 2017

# Consultancy Framework

In early 2016 we undertook a tender process to find organisations that could:

* inspire and design innovative co-operative policy over several policy areas and themes, with a focus on delivering differently and redesign of public services in line with cooperative values and principles
* demonstrate the ability to build capacity and leave a legacy that continues to deliver outcomes even after the funding and supporting resources have moved out
* bring credibility and profile to the work of the CCIN reaching across a wide range of sectors and agencies.

Launched in July 2016, our multi-supplier Framework allows all CCIN Members and Associate Members (and the CCIN itself) to select from a specialist, prescribed pool of organisations to help in developing policy, implementing prototypes and building capacity, both in communities and inside the organisation. Further details on the Framework and how to use it can be [found on our website.](http://www.councils.coop/resources/consultancy-framework/)

We have had an excellent year in raising the profile of the Network but we know that next year can be even better. We are member led, so everything we do is driven by you, our members. We want to make the member experience even better, and strengthen the opportunities you get. So, if you have any ideas for events, workshops or just want to contribute a positive co-operative news story, please get in touch.

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