

The CCIN Review of the Year: August 2018 – July 2019

Introduction

The Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network is a Local Government Association Special Interest Group and is open to all UK Councils. Members of the Network are local authorities committed to reforming the way we work through building an equal partnership with local people, driving real innovation. Those councils are supported by Associate and Affiliate members.

As a Network we strive to ensure that our member councils uphold and strengthen the co-operative values and principles of the International Co-operative Alliance. Our membership approval and self-assessment process reflects this commitment.

Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network members believe that the unprecedented challenges facing the public sector and local communities mean that traditional models of top down governance and economic growth are no longer fit for purpose.

We agree that we urgently need to create a new approach, and that the founding traditions of the co-operative movement – collective action and co-operation, empowerment and enterprise – offer a foundation for fresh and innovative solutions which can be built on to tackle the challenges of today.

Although drawing on the traditions of the past, much of this remains uncharted territory for local government. Members of the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network (CCIN) are committed to helping each other translate co-operative principles into solutions that work for our communities and places.

The CCIN Membership year begins in July so that we can invoice in September.

Highlights of the Year

The CCIN has had another exciting twelve months. By the end of July 2019, we had 26 Full Council Members, 10 Associate Members (which included two Town and Parish Councils), 19 Affiliate Members and two Supporters.

We have continued to grow the CCIN's profile and showcase the valuable contribution the Network's Members are making to municipal policy development.

Highlights include:

- A three-fold increase in Membership over the last three years
- Contested elections for roles on our Executive Oversight Committee and Values & Principles Board
- Competitive bids for our 2019 Policy Lab Funding

- Case Studies on our website increased from 155 to 215 giving our members recognition with new audiences
- Bumper issues of our bi-Annual Case Studies Pack
- 75 delegates at our Annual Conference in Croydon with speakers from all levels of Government
- Strategy Session in Bristol to develop a CCIN Action Plan
- Exhibited and participated in over 20 conferences, events and meetings
- South Tyneside Council won the Co-operative Council of the Year Award

Membership

In July 2017 we launched three new categories of Membership as we sought to extend the reach of the Network. This allowed 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.

The schemes we offer are:

[Full Members](#) | [Associate Members](#) | [Affiliate Members](#) | [Supporters](#)

26 Full Members as at 31 July 2019	10 Associate Members as at 31 July 2019
Bassetlaw District Council Brent Council Bristol City Council Cardiff Council Croydon Council Glasgow City Council Hull City Council Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Lambeth Council Liverpool City Council Milton Keynes Council Newcastle City Council North Hertfordshire District Council Norwich City Council Oldham Council Plymouth City Council Preston City Council Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council Royal Borough of Greenwich Salford City Council Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Southampton City Council South Tyneside Council Stevenage Borough Council Sunderland City Council Telford and Wrekin Council	Edinburgh Labour & Co-op Group Gloucester Labour Group Greater Manchester Combined Authority Halewood Town Council Hillingdon Labour & Co-op Group Newcastle-U-Lyme Labour & Co-op Group North Warwickshire Labour Group Peterborough Labour Group Staffordshire Labour & Co-op Group Woughton Community Council

19 Affiliate Members as at 31 July 2019	Supporters as at 31 July 2019
Bates Wells Connected Space The Behaviouralist Branding.coop CIPFA C.Co The Co-operative College Co-operatives UK Governance International Ideas Alliance Locality Oxygen Finance PeopleToo Perform Green Public Service Transformation Academy RedQuadrant Royal Society of Arts SBI/E3M Sporting Assets Unlimited Potential	Thomas Mewies Glyn Thomas JP FRSA

Co-operative of the Year Awards



A record 33,000 votes were cast in the national awards, organised by Co-operatives UK. The CCIN sponsored the Co-operative Council of the Year Award, and other Awards were sponsored by the Co-operative Bank with nominations and votes coming from large and small businesses, members, customers and co-operators across the sector. The awards were announced at the start of Co-operatives Fortnight (24 June to 7 July) which raises awareness of the valuable contribution that co-ops make to the UK economy and the communities in which they are based.

The 2019 'Co-operative Council of the Year' Award was presented to South Tyneside Council by Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE, Chair of the CCIN and Nick Mathews, Chair of Co-operatives UK. (Pictured L-R: Paul Baldasera, Councillors Nancy Maxwell & Cllr Joyce Welsh)

South Tyneside Council proactively supports and empowers local people to take positive action. It fosters local community pride via its [#LoveSouthTyneside](#) campaign, which celebrates initiatives that stem from a passion for the borough. The other categories and Award winners were:

- Breakthrough Co-op of the Year – [Bristol Wood Recycling Project](#)
- Inspiring Co-op of the Year – [The Schools' Energy Co-op](#)
- Leading Co-op of the Year – [The Co-operative Group](#)
- Lorraine Power from [Leeds Bread Co-op](#) and [Daily Bread Co-op](#) founder Roger Sawtell were the winners in brand new categories that recognise individual contributions to the co-op movement.

Policy Labs 2019-20

Each year CCIN Members can apply for up to £10,000 to deliver a Policy Lab or Prototype, which are smaller pieces of work which attract up to £1,500. Full Council Members are encouraged to submit bids which they can deliver in partnership with other Members where they will seek to find co-operative policy solutions to the challenges facing local government.

Ten bids were submitted at the end of 2018 for consideration for funding in 2019/20. A joint meeting of the Executive Oversight Committee and the Values & Principles Board was held in Bristol in January 2019 and members received presentations on each of the bids that had been submitted. It was agreed to fund four Policy Labs and support another which was suggested by Peopletoo one of the Network's Affiliate Members. This project is looking at increased awareness and understanding of social value and maximising social outcomes across local government.

These successful projects were:

1. Co-operative Approaches to Sustainable Food – lead: Oldham Council (2019)
2. Co-operatives Unleashed: as seen from the grassroots – lead: Plymouth City Council (2019)
3. Co-operative Neighbourhoods – lead: Stevenage Borough Council (2019-20)
4. Promoting the Cities of Service model of social action to CCIN members – lead: Plymouth City Council (2019)



Case Studies Pack 2019

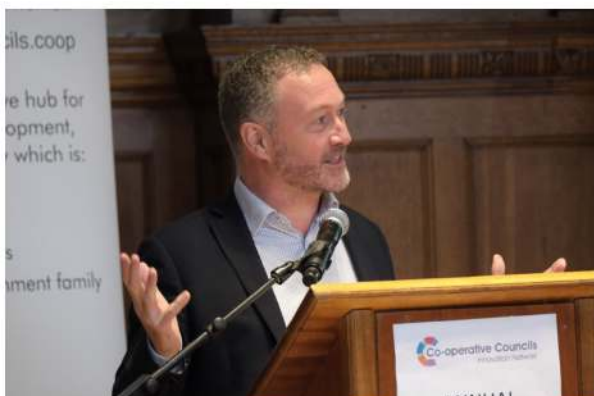
The CCIN profile at events has been supported by the 5th edition of our Co-operative Case Studies pack which featured Case Studies from Members, Associates and Affiliates and included information on our key messages and the CCIN Statement of Values and Principles.

The Spring/Summer edition is available to download from www.councils.coop/resources.

Events

During the last 12 months, we have attended and exhibited at more than 20 Conferences and Events promoting the Co-operative Council message to a wider audience, and engaging councils and political groups in the work of the Network. These have included:

- Meeting with Mayor Marvin Rees in Bristol – 29 August 2018
- Labour Party Conference – Liverpool – 23-26 September 2018
- CCIN Annual Conference and Co-operative Showcase – Croydon – 3-4 October 2018
- Co-operative Party Centenary Conference – Bristol – 12-14 October 2018
- Towards a Co-operative Gloucestershire presentation – Gloucester – 10 November 2018
- Strategy Session for Member Councils – Bristol – 9 January 2019
- Labour Local Government Conference – Coventry – 8-9 February 2019
- Scottish Labour Conference – Dundee – 8-10 March 2019
- Ways Forward Conference – Manchester – 5 April 2019
- Co-operative Party Local Government Conference – Newcastle - 8 June 2019
- PSTA State of Transformation Conference – London – 18 June 2019
- Co-operative Congress and Co-operative of the Year Awards – Manchester – 20-21 June 2019
- Local Government Association Annual Conference & Exhibition – Bournemouth – 2-4 July 2019
- Celebration of Co-operatives Fortnight – Plymouth – 5 July 2019
- GMCA Co-operative Commissioners meetings – various dates





Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2020

All members were invited to a facilitated session in Bristol City Hall in January 2019 to review progress on the CCIN Strategy and prepare an Action Plan with named contributors. Representatives from councils attended giving direct input to a draft 3-year Strategy and Action Plan for the Network. This event was followed-up in January 2018 by a joint meeting of the Executive Oversight Committee and Values & Principles Board which agreed the Outputs identified in the event report.

We are really pleased at the immensely positive response we receive from organisations enquiring about our work. Being a Co-operative Council is definitely something to be proud of, demonstrating a genuine commitment to co-operative innovation, best practice and the communities we serve. We look forward to



welcoming many new members to the CCIN over the coming year, joining a cohort of likeminded local authorities committed to delivering the best local co-operative public services to our communities.



If you are a CCIN Member, please use our Member specific logos and help promote the Network. Contact comms@councils.coop to request your copy.



We know that the Member experience can be even better as together we seek to share the innovative practices that our Members have developed with wider audiences. 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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