

VALUES & PRINCIPLES BOARD

MINUTES

1300 – 1500, 9 September 2020

Online – Zoom call

Present:

Cllr Chris Penberthy	Plymouth City Council (Chair)
Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Burntwood Town Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Ken Dalton	Halewood Town Council
Cllr Hayden Philips	North Warwickshire Labour Group
Cllr Sean Donnelly	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Michael Curnow	Peopletoo
Simon Parkinson	The WEA (Vice Chair)
Nick Matthews	Co-operatives UK
Dr Cilla Ross	Co-operative College
Jo White	Co-operative Futures
Rebecca Harvey	Co-operative News

In attendance:

Lucy Davies	Plymouth City Council (Officer Lead)
Rob Gregory	Stevenage Borough Council
Graham Hunt	Burntwood Town Council
Nicola Huckerby	CCIN (Minutes)

Apologies:

Cllr Peter Curling	Hillingdon Labour & Co-operative Group
Cllr Stephen Stanners	Seaton Valley Community Council
Cllr John Fareham	Hull City Council
Emma Hoddinott	Co-operative Party
Kathryn Mackridge	TUC

The meeting began with a Minute of Silence in memory of our dear friend and cooperative colleague Chris Herries who had sadly passed away in August. Chris had been a member of the Values & Principles Board from December 2015 – December 2017 representing Norwich City Council. See: [Obituary in the Coop News | CCIN Statement](#).

Two sites have been set up for people to leave their memories of Chris:

[Coop Funeralcare – Tribute to Chris Herries](#)
[Facebook Group to Celebrate Chris' Life](#)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1. Councillor Chris Penberthy (CP) welcomed everyone to the meeting and they introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Curling (Hillingdon Labour & Co-operative Group), Cllr Stephen Stanners (Seaton Valley Community Council), Cllr John Fareham (Hull City Council), Emma Hoddinott (Co-operative Party), Kathryn Mackridge (TUC).

It was noted that Kathryn was leaving her role at the TUC, and we would be advised of a new replacement.

2. Minutes from meeting on 19 June.

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from meeting on 19 June

3.1. Retail Society representation on V&P

CP explained that as agreed at the last meeting a Subgroup had meet to discuss potential candidates/organisations that we could approach to introduce the Network and see if there was interest in joining the Board on behalf of the Retail Sector to bring a broader perspective. These were:

- Central England Co-operative Society
- Midcounties Co-operative Society
- Southern Co-operative Society

Action: CR, RH and NH to speak with individuals identified to take this forward.

Following the Co-operative Group's recent announcement to review its funding for core co-operative organisations including Co-operatives UK, the Co-operative College, and the Co-operative Press, all of which sat on our Values & Principles Board, it was agreed that we would not engage with the Group regarding representation. Further information: [Co-op Group reviews funding](#).

It was agreed that once the implications on the future funding of Co-operatives UK, the Co-operative College, and the Co-operative Press were better understood, that the V&P Board might wish to write to the Group regarding their actions in neglecting to abide by the Co-operative Values and Principles with the wider movement.

4. Policy Lab 2019/20 Work Programme

4.1. **Achieving Social Outcomes (Lead: Peopletoo)** – MC gave an update: South Tyneside has agreed to lead on this project on behalf of the Network, Birmingham City Council and Newcastle have also agreed to participate. They were looking for two more councils, and a geographical spread to move the project forward.

MC gave a fulsome description about the difference between Social Value and Social Outcomes: **Social Value** – is what 'councils do' where they are seeking to deliver the maximum benefit to their community. Govt legislation has focussed this on procurement – where SV is what that provider will give in addition to part the contract for the same cost.

Social Outcomes/Social Benefit/Social Good – seeks to maximise the Outcomes where a council is delivering a service in-house or in-sourcing, for example creating apprenticeships, supporting vulnerable groups, using sustainable business practices, it's wider than procurement. One of the outputs will be a library of best practice which the CCIN will hold on its website. MC asked what other outputs from the project V&P would like to see eg a document, a framework to try and support the decision-making process in councils.

Jo White made the point that there was no opportunity in council procurement frameworks to demonstrate your "co-operative difference" – and this included the CCIN's own DPS. At the moment bidders are having to make tenuous links to their co-operative status and their values and principles when bidding for contracts because CCIN council contracts do not seek to encourage bids from co-operative organisations.

It was agreed that MC should contact the Procurement Leads at Member Councils who were also members of the Social Value Portal to explain what we were seeking to do with a view to including 'Social Outcomes' on there. This would then have a broader impact on the local govt sector. It was

suggested that if there was something on 'ownership' and 'governance' as part of the National Themes Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) Framework, then this would have a big impact. MC agreed to send a note to V&P on progress once he'd had his discussion with South Tyneside and Birmingham.

Action: MC and NH.

4.2. Co-operative Approaches to Sustainable Food (Lead: Oldham Council).

CP introduced the Draft Policy Lab report, which had been produced by the University of Salford on behalf of Oldham Council. He explained the role of the V&P Board in reviewing Policy Lab & Policy Prototype reports as they were developed, this included making comments on any final draft from a Co-operative Values and Principles perspective, both on whether the work has met the original brief and also whether it shows the V&P of the co-operative movement in practice, and where that makes a practical difference to local councils.

It was acknowledged that a lot of time and effort had been invested in researching and preparing the report, for which the authors should be thanked.

SW felt that the report was 'valuable in and that it was real and honest', she felt it was good to highlight the gaps that need to be addressed.

CR also wanted to thank the authors of the report for the work they had done, she felt that the report was robust and thoughtful, and that the case studies were of interest. What particularly struck her was the ambition of the report to connect CCIN Members with UN agencies (FAO), and that it looked replicable and scalable across the Network. It was clearly an academic report and would require a big commitment from the Network if it were to be deliverable.

CP commented that this report was a big piece of work and would need to sit alongside other Policy Lab Reports. As he has Cabinet responsibility for Poverty Relief & Sustainability in Plymouth, he had read the report asking, 'whether it would be helpful to him?' He felt that although the authors had mentioned coops, it was a little vague, and what he found difficult was to read across from what they were talking about to Values & Principles and the role that councils have within that, as opposed to the work of the Sustainable Food Cities Network, which some, but not all, Co-operative Councils are members of. CP felt that:

- it would be difficult to highlight the report as a Co-operative Council approach to the sustainable food agenda
- the role of councils was very light eg, in Greenwich where the council has an important role in the coop development agency, that was brushed over, and this lack of coop council positioning is unhelpful.
- Having reflected on what the original bid said that they would do, and the Member Councils that they said they would talk to and showcase, these were not mentioned in the report (Southampton, Oldham, Cardiff, Plymouth, Greenwich to a lesser extent).
- There were a number of discrepancies in the report including the:
 - Bristol Pound has closed down and the paper currency ceases to exist in 2021
 - Naming George Ferguson as The Mayor of Bristol, when he left office in 2016
- All the sustainable projects mentioned had required substantial grant aid, so these are not an economically sustainable set of models
- Brighton was mentioned, but not Hisbe a sustainable supermarket in the city.
- There are plenty of examples out there to show how a sustainable food chain works and could be replicated elsewhere eg: how Tamar Grow Local feeds into supply chains for coops like CATERed, who work with Food Plymouth on education and summer holiday programmes.
- There was also no reference to Evergreen Cooperative in Ohio, although that had been the basis for the Preston Model and that had been mentioned.

In conclusion, perhaps because this was more of an academic study it came across as an academic review of some of these projects rather than how could we, as Co-operative Councils, take the agenda forward. CP felt that it was not in a form that was ready to recommend to EOC.

NM noted that there was a lot in the report, although it was not clear what evidence they have used to make their case. He does think that there is a very important discussion to be had about the food economy and the role of co-ops and local authorities in that space. He felt that the report takes the sustainable food agenda, but it doesn't address the key issues ie councils have a key responsibility for space/place – so what are the spaces and places where cooperative producers of food and cooperative consumers of food can come together and exchange their products for money and create a more healthy food economy.

NM also felt that the report should not be distributed in its current form until it had gone through a parallel process, or we, the Values & Principles Board have had the chance to think about the parallel process, of the kinds of activities and dynamics that local authorities can actually engage in that can facilitate and encourage that kind of market interaction in order to bring vibrancy back to our town centres/high streets, using food as part of the mechanism. The methodological approach of sticking to the sustainable food thread all the way through is commendable, if that's your core objective, however, if your objective is to bring co-operative economic activity, using food to local authorities areas, then that's a slightly different methodological thread and it doesn't quite match what we can actually do. In its current format the report doesn't provide any insights to what Member Councils can do to promote the co-operative food agenda.

RH supported NM's comments and added as well as looking at the food economy space, the report could have referenced the work that is happening in the food justice space. There is a lot of activity going on by the retail societies about food justice and food poverty. The Coop Party has also embarked on a Food Justice campaign. Central England Coop and the Coop Group have signed up to a new campaign with Marcus Rashford.

SW also supported NW's comments in that the document as presented was a piece of academic research and was a description rather than a Road Map, which was important for councils to find a way forward.

It was agreed that NH report back comments and ask the authors to have another look at what they said that they would do in the Brief, and to re-work the paper so that it was closer to the Brief in order for it to be really useful. That would not be the end product, or the end of the discussion, but it would be something that could help us all move forward. The report needs to bring out the 'Co-operative' and 'Council' difference.

- 4.3. **Co-operatives Unleashed – as seen from the grassroots (Lead: Plymouth City Council)** – CP reported that although the main report had been completed there was still more being done leading up to the launch of the Toolkit in November.
- 4.4. **Co-operative Neighbourhoods (Lead: Stevenage Borough Council)** – the group planned to meet again at the end of summer to review. Completion likely to be Spring/ Summer 2021. The updated timescale was agreed, and the report was noted.
- 4.5. **Promoting cities of service model of social action to CCIN members (Lead: Plymouth City Council)** – CP reported the Toolkit comprising Guidance and Case Studies would be ready for sharing with V&P and EOC very shortly. The update was noted.
5. **Brief for the 'Co-operative Difference in Care' report**
 - 5.1. Thanks to support from South Tyneside Council the Brief for the appointment an organisation to produce the report was now out, with responses due back on 28 September.

Sean Donnelly said that it's important that our report acknowledges the large sections of the community who are unable to access the internet easily – either because of cost of WIFI / data or because of access to technology. In addition, there are Safeguarding implications of moving to digital service provision.

The Assessment Panel was agreed as: Cllrs Penberthy, Malcolm, Donnelly from V&P and Cllr Dave Jones from EOC.

The timescale for delivery was reported as:

- 28 September 2020 – Deadline for Return of Mini Competition
- 29 September – 2 October 2020 – Evaluation of Mini Competition
- 5 October 2020 – Appointment of successful tenderer
- October 2020 – February 2021 – Engagement between successful tenderer and policy prototype Councils
- 14 December 2020 - Interim Findings circulated
- December 2020 - January 2021 – Final Policy Prototype reports expected
- 8 March 2021 – Submission of Draft Report
- March – June – Feedback, comments and Final Report Final Sign Off (via EOC and V&P)
- 6 – 8 July – Launch of Final Report (LGA Conference)

6. Policy Prototypes 2020 - Health and Social Care – Work Programme updates

6.1. Enabling a dementia friendly Burntwood - Burntwood Town Council

Graham Hunt reported that Covid-19 had halted progress on this project, as a core element was to undertake face-to-face discussions. The Town Council were still keen to work with this Group of people living with dementia and their carers, who are often overlooked. The ultimate aim is to increase the opportunities for people with dementia to live independently for as long as possible. Covid-19 has changed the landscape but some interesting opportunities have come forward in terms of the community response. The update was noted.

6.2. Co-operative Engagement - Toolkit tests - Rochdale MB Council (Action Together)

Engagement with people who live in Rochdale Borough, as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic has been vital and the importance of engagement is recognised in all strategic recovery plans. Outbound phone calls to vulnerable cohorts, doorstep conversations and check ins by volunteers during food parcel delivery and street engagement to prevent local lockdown are all examples of engagement. We're anticipating two Toolkit tests: BAME Mental Health and Good Help and these should be with us by 1st October.

Toolkit Test 2 – BAME Mental Health - IN PROGRESS

Cooperative Engagement approach tested as a method to enhance BAME Mental Health support within communities, working with statutory and community providers, alongside Mutual Aid groups

Work has begun via the ORHC Mental Health Partnership and a number of emerging community offers. Stakeholder Conversation held at Equalities Assembly (report [here](#)) A further conversation was held on 30.7.20 with VCFSE and Health partners to discuss MH and inequality. Following feedback from the Equalities assembly and this follow up conversation, NHS HMR RECOVERY Building back better group has requested that the recommendations are fed into the recovery planning group. The conversation continues with the MH Partnership Board.

Toolkit Test 3 – Good Help – IN PROGRESS

Cooperative Engagement approach tested as a method to support Rochdale becoming a 'NESTA Good Help Place' and develop understanding of this approach across the system. Links to

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) principals and Recovery and Reablement service and Place-Based work.

Participation in Good Help event and Good Help Steering Group, coproduction with VCFSE being planned as part of next steps.

6.3. **Connecting Communities: Stevenage Community Transport Service - Stevenage Borough Council**

Rob Gregory reported that the community transport staff are currently working with the Stevenage Helps response Hub, supporting the delivery of food parcels and collections to support local foodbanks – they were now ‘social connectors’.

The team have been able to transfer their skills into this project, as well as supporting their community transport customers through telephone calls.

SBC is receiving lots of feedback from customers in regard to their social isolation and the impact this is having on customers with Dementia.

In addition, they are looking at new ways of operating within the government guidance, this will all feed into the report. Stevenage is on track to complete the report in December 2020/January 2021.

SW made that the point that Covid had provided some real opportunities for councils having to plan services differently, and that we needed to be flexible in assessing delivery of Policy Prototypes against their original briefs.

6.4. **Kirklees Adult Social Care Vision – Social Marketing – Kirklees Council**

6.5. **Catalysing Care Co-operatives through Community Engagement - Kirklees Council**

6.6. **Personalised Commissioning model comparison event: Beyond Time and Task - Kirklees Council**

No update had been received from Kirklees as delivery had stopped. They will report back when they can. **Action: NH to follow-up.**

SP asked whether the momentum towards creating a West Yorkshire Combined Authority was having a positive or negative impact on delivery. Was there also an opportunity to bring other West Yorkshire Councils into Membership.

6.7. **Health & Social Care Urgent Response Team - Telford & Wrekin Council**

Although the timeline has been pushed back significantly it is a timely project as we head into winter. The additional pressures that the acute services are likely to come under due to the normal winter pressures and additional covid related pressures, community services are key to minimising this additional pressure and this video will help support this message across the system.

- September- identify the people to be videoed, develop the storyboard with the video communication lead.
- October – film videos, start editing and agree communications plan for video
- November – finish editing, get approval for video and start communications.
- December – continue communication and start evaluating difference made
- January – finish evaluation and submit report

Please note that this timeline is based on the premise that we do not see an increase in local lockdowns and Covid restrictions.

6.8. **Plymouth Complex Leads Alliance - workforce development programme - Plymouth City Council**

6.9. **Plymouth Diabaters - Plymouth City Council**

6.10. **Plymouth Health and Wellbeing Hubs - Plymouth City Council**

Agreed: Lucy Davies will arrange for a written update on all three projects before EOC.

6.11. **Plymouth Digital Health and Wellbeing Hubs - Plymouth City Council**

An additional Policy Prototype report on Digital Health and Wellbeing Hubs had been requested at the last meeting and CP reported back on progress and suggested that Plymouth could do some action learning in finding some demonstrations on the impact of different ways of communicating with clients in H&SC through Wellbeing Hubs and the improvements in outcomes.

It was agreed that Plymouth would submit the EOI to deliver this additional project and that this could be agreed ahead of the next meeting. NH to send the EOI form.

6.12. **Living Well at Home (LWAH) – Tameside Council**

Likely to be able to report in December 2020/January 2021 although it won't be the final findings they hoped to present, as the Covid-19 delay means the project still will not have been completed. We will however provide a summary of progress and learning to date at that point.

6.13. **Neighbourhood Conversations - co-operative approach to strengthening community resilience at a locality level - Southampton City Council**

No update had been received. Agreed: NH would follow-up.

6.14. **Co-operative Care Summit – harnessing the strength of the local community, voluntary and social enterprise sector to deliver innovative approaches in delivering health and social care - Southampton City Council**

No update had been received. Agreed: NH would follow-up.

7. Beyond Asset Management – DPS Update

The Assessment Panel was agreed as: Cllrs Penberthy, Malcolm and Nick Matthews.

Timescale for delivery was reported as:

- 11 September – Return of Mini Competition
- 14 September – Evaluation of Mini Competition
- 21 September – Selection of successful tenderer
- 1 October – Service commencement
- October – November - Service delivery overseen and supported by CCIN Working Group
- 30 November – report deadline. Submitted to the CCIN for design, publication and launch

8. CCIN Action Learning: Co-operation through Covid-19

8.1. RH reported on progress. Over 70 EOIs had been submitted, and the Steering Group had met several times to consider which ones we should include in the eBook. These would be presented in three sections:

- Response
- Recovery
- Resilience

9. Revising our Member Benefits list

9.1. NH introduced the paper, and asked Members to consider updates to the Member Benefits which was initially produced in 2017. A schedule of Proposed Changes had been circulated for comment.

9.2. It was agreed that a revised schedule be submitted to EOC for approval. Action NH.

- 9.3. CP suggested that Affiliate Members may wish to add to the list of Member Benefits – perhaps offering a discount to publications and courses. **Action: Michael Curnow and Simon Parkinson to report back.**
- 9.4. The Coop News was keen to explore how we might want to offer Members the opportunity to receive a regular copy of the publication. **Action: Rebecca Harvey to report.**

Agreed that NH prepare a report for consideration at EOC on the proposed changes to the Member Benefit offer.

10. New Member Relationships Update

- 10.1. SW and MC gave an update on the new Affiliate WhatsApp Groups for Opposition Councillors, Town, Parish & Community Councillors and Affiliate Members.

SP reported that the response from Affiliates to participating in the group had been really positive. He also confirmed that these groups would manage themselves.

- 10.2. A request had been made to strengthen the description of what was an Affiliate Member so that it included reference to values driven organisations: “Our Affiliate Membership scheme is open to non-governmental organisations and corporations wishing to show their support and engage in the processes of developing innovative Co-operative Councils”.

SP reiterated that those organisations that simply wanted a contractual relationship with councils, could do so via the Dynamic Purchasing System.

- 10.3. It was agreed that we wanted to be inclusive but also have the ability to restrict membership. **Action: Affiliate Members to be asked to help frame the description – Simon Parkinson and Michael Curnow to report back.**

11. 2021 Work Programme – including actions from Strategy & Action Plan

- 11.1. Children and Young People’s Services – we’d not received any proposals in this area in 2020 and V&P agreed to put this forward to EOC for consideration for 2021 for Policy Prototypes.

SW reported that the LGA’s People and Places Board would shortly be publishing a report on Youth Engagement that we could learn from.

- 11.2. SP – suggested that we might want to seek Policy Lab projects for 2021 that were around Tackling the digital poverty and the digital divide.
- 11.3. SD – suggested that we might want to undertake a Mapping Exercise to find out what different councils have done to support digital inclusion during Covid. Giving people the skills to apply for jobs using technology was going to be key.

- 11.4. **It was agreed to propose to EOC that for 2021 we make an Open Call to Members within a Framework of ‘Building Back Better’ in terms of economic and societal Recovery along with the future of work as we head towards mass unemployment. And that we suggest overarching themes of where we would like to see innovative values and principles-based approaches coming forward that contribute to co-operative development and livelihoods.**

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1. NH gave an update on where she was with organising the Annual eConference which would be held on 6 – 8 October from 10am – 12 noon with Fringe Sessions from 12.15 – 1.15pm on Tuesday and Wednesday. The CCIN AGM will take place at 12.30pm on Thursday, 8th October.

- 12.2. CP raised the point that neither the Coop Party nor Hull City Council had attended meetings on a regular basis and asked for support to go back to them to identify an alternative representative or in the case of the council to find a replacement.
- 12.3. NH explained that we will launch the election process for V&P (and EOC) at the October Conference. Terms are two years, and there some people that joined mid-way through that period who will stay on the Board for continuity reasons. All representatives from the Cooperative Sector will remain in situ.
- 12.4. SP mentioned the WEA Conference on Wednesday 16th Sept www.wea.org.uk speakers include Ed Balls.
- 12.5. RH promoted the Coop College's forthcoming Learning Live Conference <https://www.co-op.ac.uk/Event/learning-live> and the CUK Practitioner's Conference <https://www.uk.coop/uniting-co-ops/events-calendar/practitioners-forum-2020-manchester> both of which would be focussing on Values and Principles and included some free elements.

13. Date & venue of next meeting

- 13.1. NH agreed to arrange a meeting in early December and would invite organisations who were preparing the 'Beyond Asset Management' and 'Co-operative Difference in Care' reports in order to have a discussion about values and principles.

The meeting closed at 1515 hours.