



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

CCIN innovation funding – 2021/2 Policy Labs

Expression of Interest – Policy Lab CCIN Funding 2021

Green Recovery, Carbon Reduction and Climate Change

CCIN Member Organisation submitting application: Kirklees Council

Name of CCIN Lead Councillor/Officer: Jonathan Nunn

Partner organisations: This proposal is supported by a total of 10 full member councils and 3 affiliate members. Full details are listed in response to [Question 2](#).

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1. What is your idea?

Provide details of what your proposed project is, the story of how you identified the need or opportunity for the proposal and how the money will be spent.

Climate change has been growing in importance in public policy over many years but reached a tipping point in 2019 with significant numbers of councils declaring Climate Emergency; 300 of the 404 District, County, Unitary & Metropolitan Councils across the UK have now done so (74%). Each of these councils is developing a related action plan to address the emergency.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added significant weight to this debate with recognition that those in areas of poor air quality were more at risk of serious consequences of the disease if they contracted but also noticeable changes in our natural environment from the dramatic lifestyle changes forced on us by lockdown measures. Research by ONS in May found that 92% of the population agreed Stay at home measures had positively affected the environment and 91% of those said they thought society should try to keep changes that had been positive.

The unprecedented public investment to support jobs and employers has also created a significant opportunity to influence the behaviours of private companies and to shape local labour markets. This has

emboldened calls for the economy not to be switched back on as it was, heavily reliant on carbon heavy industry and practices. We can expect climate change only to grow as a concern in 2021 both for public policy and for our communities.

The intention of this Policy Lab is to consider the ways in which councils can:

- Involve local people and partners in creating a strong local understanding of climate change, its impact now and in the future both locally and globally leading to identification of practical opportunities for rapid action supporting ambitious net zero targets;
- Create a context conducive to the creation and flourishing of community led environmental initiatives and support development of the skills and capacity required to be effective;
- Deliver place shaping (including transport measures) that supports more sustainable lifestyles and economies hand in hand with residents, businesses and other partners;
- Maximise the local impact of national investments both for carbon reduction and community wealth building;
- Promote the development of skills for the low carbon economy;
- Promote circular economy and sharing economy models, supporting job creation within reuse and recycle functions as well as providing for the needs of those on low incomes (e.g. surplus food initiatives, school uniform banks, furniture and white goods);
- Harness their spend and that of anchor organisations for the greatest impact on carbon reduction and wider environmental impacts;
- Foster culture and behaviour change through adoption of participative approaches.

CCIN member councils represent a range of areas of the UK – including old industrial towns, London boroughs, key cities and their mayoral authorities, and within the devolved administrations of Scotland and Wales. It is expected this will reveal a breadth of approaches and emphases that will be valuable to councils and community groups seeking to further develop climate change work in their areas as they pursue a Green Recovery.

Work will be carried out in three phases:

1. Desk based research to collate the range of initiatives being pursued by councils represented within the CCIN membership identifying key thematic areas of focus;
2. A series of virtual workshops to draw out from these initiatives aspects that support the CCIN principles; and,
3. Formulation of the outcome of these workshops into a toolkit and summary report and their online publication.

The funds will be used to support the desk based research and creation of an online toolkit that presents the learning gathered enabling council officers, community groups and others to consider the most appropriate interventions for their districts or neighbourhoods and how these may contribute to building local democracy and participation.

2. Who will you work with?

*A key requirement of Policy Lab Funding is that you work in partnership with other CCIN members. We recommend engaging a minimum of **three** other CCIN members (Affiliates and Associates should bid alongside Full Council members) to create a working group to support the development of your project.*

The working group will include the following CCIN members:

Full Councils

- Birmingham City Council
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Kirklees Council (Project lead)
- Oldham Council
- Oxford City Council
- Plymouth City Council
- South Tyneside Council
- Sunderland City Council
- Tameside Council
- Torbay Council

Affiliate Members

- RedQuadrant
- Social Value Exchange
- Workers Educational Association (WEA)

In addition, other members will be given opportunity to participate with some being proactively contacted where initiatives of particular interest are identified within their climate plans. While no associate members are currently committed to participating, these members have been approached specifically in the preparation of this submission and further attempts to engage them will be made as the project progresses.

3. What are the outcomes you hope to achieve?

What are the outcomes you hope to achieve through this project and how will you know if your outcomes are achieved? What is your measure of success?

The principle intention of this work is to create a catalogue of climate interventions that inherently embody or are improved by cooperative approaches. It is anticipated that this will lead to its use as a resource by councils (both CCIN members and others) as well as community groups and residents engaging with councils in the development of climate plans and individual interventions.

4. How does your project support the aims and objectives of the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network?

The Co-operative Councils Innovation Network aims to frame the debate on the future of sustainable solutions to public sector challenges. Our work will ultimately improve outcomes for communities by enabling members to develop radical innovation in policy and practice, sharing best practice and learning, and enabling innovators to chart new territory together. Please provide details of how your project will support this aim.

While climate change affects local places in different ways many of the interventions of relevance are the same in each location. As such there is a significant amount to be gained from the sharing of knowledge and experiences between councils. By starting by drawing on the work all member councils have already carried out and placing development of a toolkit as the primary product it is anticipated that the learning across councils will be maximised and barriers of capacity to participate in Policy Labs will be minimised.

5. How does your project demonstrate the Values and Principles of the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network?

Our Network is based on the Co-operative values developed by the International Co-operative Alliance: "self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity... honesty, openness, social

responsibility and caring for others". Further details about the CCIN's Values and Principles is available [here](#). Please provide details of how your project will demonstrate the CCIN's Values and Principles.

Throughout the project emphasis will be placed on identification of work that embodies or supports each of the CCIN principles, looking specifically at each principle:

Social partnership: We will strengthen the co-operative partnership between communities and Councils through involving local people and partners in creating a strong local understanding of climate change, its impact now and in the future and working with communities to identify practical opportunities for rapid action supporting ambitious net zero targets.

Democratic engagement: Enhances participatory democracy at a local level through the workshops and use of the toolkit which will enable council officers, community groups and others to consider the most appropriate interventions for their places.

Co-production: The toolkit will be co-produced between Councils and their communities enabling the sharing of best practice on a range of interventions toward carbon reduction.

Enterprise and social economy: The project seeks to maximise the local impact of national investments both for carbon reduction and community wealth building. There is also a strong focus on promoting the development of skills to support a low carbon economy and promoting the circular economy as well as sharing economy models to support job creation and those on low incomes.

Maximising social value: The toolkit will provide CCIN councils and their communities with the tools to ensure better local social and economic outcomes while delivering interventions that will have the greatest impact on carbon reduction and the wider environmental impacts.

Community leadership and a new role for councillors: The virtual workshops will be one of the ways that councils can help the community to contribute to improved local outcomes on carbon reduction.

New models of meeting priority needs: The project will identify good practice and emerging models that work at a local level. By creating a catalogue of climate interventions that inherently embody or are improved by co-operative approaches it is anticipated that this will lead to its use as a resource by councils (both CCIN members and others) as well as community groups and residents engaging with councils in the development of climate plans and individual interventions.

Innovation: The project seeks to identify those interventions which are innovative and effective both in reducing climate change but also in involving people and partners in this agenda empowering all those involved through greater awareness and ownership.

Learning: While climate change affects local places in different ways many of the interventions of relevance are the same in each location. As such there is a significant amount to be gained from the sharing of knowledge and experiences between councils.

Walking the talk: This project is very much designed to walk the talk as an action focused project to share learning in policy and practice through co-operation among members.

6. How will you share your learning with the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network?

How will you share your learning with other CCIN members? How will you share your learning beyond the project? This could be through producing a report, holding a workshop or presenting at the CCIN's annual showcase event.

The workshops described within the methodology above will provide sharing of the initial collation of climate interventions while the online toolkit will form the primary product of this project. It is hoped that it will be possible to launch this toolkit at the CCIN conference in October 2021 shortly before the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November.
