

VALUES & PRINCIPLES BOARD MINUTES

1030 for 1100 – 1300 hours on Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Online Zoom call

Present:

CLlr Joyce McCarty
CLlr John Fahy
CLlr Peter Curling
CLlr Mike Stubbs
Michael Curnow
Gus Della-Porta
Rebecca Harvey
Jo White

Newcastle City Council (Chair)
Royal Borough of Greenwich (Vice Chair)
Hillingdon Labour & Co-operative Group
Newcastle-Under-Lyme Labour & Co-operative Group
Peopletoo
Bates Wells
Co-operative News
Co-operative Futures

In attendance:

Nicola Huckerby

Operations & Communications - CCIN (Minutes)

Apologies:

CLlr Sue Woodward
CLlr Sharon Thompson
CLlr Joyce Welsh
Richard McCready
Neil Calvert

Burntwood Town Council (Vice Chair)
Birmingham City Council
South Tyneside Council
Co-operative Party
Co-operative College

Absent:

CLlr Frank Walsh
CLlr Hayden Philips
CLlr Donna Fuller
Cheryl Barrott

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough
North Warwickshire Labour Group
Woughton Community Council
Co-operatives UK

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1. The Chair began by welcoming everyone to the meeting. All members introduced themselves to Gus Della-Porta - Partner Bates Wells, who joins as an Affiliate representative on the Board.
- 1.2. Apologies and absences were noted.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – online 29 June 2021

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from meeting on 29 June 2021

3.1. Co-produced training opportunities with the LGA

NH reported no progress had been made on this one. It was agreed review progress at the next meeting.

Action: NH, CLlr McCarty & CLlr Mike Stubbs. All agreed to report back at the next meeting.

3.2. Values & Principles Statement

- The Chair reported that this piece of work had been welcomed and supported by EOC at its meeting in July. EOC wanted to record its thanks to V&P and particularly Cllr Mike Stubbs for suggesting the idea.
- The Chair reported that NH had presented the new visual icons to the Officer Group at its September meeting. They also welcomed the documentation as it was easy to understand. Councils and organisations who receive CCIN funding to undertake Policy Labs and Policy Prototypes have been made aware that they need to adopt these icons to show the 'co-operative difference' in their project work.
- The Officer Network had suggested that the next stage might be to commission a piece of work lead by the V&P Board to:
 - Explain why the 'Principles' are important
 - What the 'Principles' look like in delivering specific Council Services
 - How the 'Principles' can be used to ensure that 'being a Coop Council' is everyone's business in a Member Council
- The Chair reported that the icons and Values and Principles document had been circulated to all members on 14 September.

Action: That a meeting of the V&P Sub-Group be arranged in October to consider the next stage of this projects as outlined by the Officer Group.

4. Any other Urgent Business

NH reported that there were three events which Members might be interested in attending:

- Regional banking webinar on 14th October - <https://www.councils.coop/events/new-econ-thinking-webinar/>
- Taster Workshop on the Coop Devt Tool with Stir to Action on 6th October (one free place per council) <https://www.councils.coop/events/coop-devt-tool-workshop/>
- The CCIN Annual Conference would be run online again this year on 26th and 27th October - <https://www.councils.coop/events/ccin-annual-conference-2021/>

5. Feedback from CCIN Constitution Working Group

- 5.1. The Chair reported that the Constitution Working Group has met a couple of times over the Summer. A V&P Task and Finish Group had been established to look at some of the issues raised by V&P members so that these could be fed into the process.
- 5.2. The following comments were received which would be taken back to the Task and Finish Group for input into the Working Group:
 - Needs to be clear that 'If someone changes portfolio at a member council, or leaves their organisation, then an election is organised for a replacement from that classification of Membership'.
 - Could we stagger the appointments of Vice Chairs / what happens if they leave at the same time?
 - We should be clear about the difference between Membership 'type' and 'sector' representatives which are from the 'Co-operative Sector'
 - Election processes – there is no mention of representatives from Co-operative Sector or Trade Union in the new Constitution.

It was agreed that the next steps for the V&P Task & Finish Group are to:

1. Review the process for considering Affiliate Member representation on the V&P Board. This is currently a three-stage process and needs refining.
2. Review the composition of the V&P Board to see whether it is fit for purpose.

3. Appoint a 3rd Vice Chair of V&P from the Affiliate Members.

It was agreed that the submission to the Constitution Working Group would be shared with the Board ahead of the Working Group meeting.

Action: NH

6. Union representation

The TUC is seeking a representative from Unite, GMB or Unison who would like to take the trade union place on the V&P Board and work with us.

7. Member Engagement Updates

7.1. Associate Member Engagement – There was no update on this item.

7.2. Affiliate Member Engagement – Michael Curnow reported that engagement on WhatsApp had quietened down over recent months. NH reported that 21 Affiliate Members had submitted Case Studies for the latest publication to showcase where they were working with local authorities.

8. Policy Lab Updates 2021

8.1. Economic Development Plans as a tool for fostering co-operative working between councils and the community - Birmingham City Council

NH explained that this project had been delayed because of Covid related issues, and that the Work Programme had been re-visited, with a new completion date of February 2022.

Jo White declared a financial interest in this project on behalf of Cooperative Futures.

It was agreed to approve the Work Programme.

8.2. Achieving Social Outcomes – Peopletoo. Michael Curnow reported that the initial survey to member councils had been re-sent with fewer questions to encourage a wider response. The first stage of this report, case studies and survey outcomes will be ready by October 2021.

9. Policy Prototype 2020

NH explained that the learning from the Health and Social Care project would feed into the “Co-operative Difference in Care” report which we want to launch early in 2022.

9.1 Kirklees Adult Social Care Vision - Social Marketing Project - Kirklees Council

Members thanked the authors for re-visiting this report and Cllr Sue Woodward for sharing her insights into the ‘Co-operative Difference’.

It was agreed that: the report be approved.

Action: NH to add to the website and submit for inclusion in the “Co-operative Difference in Care” report.

9.2 Innovation in Social Care: Local, Personal and Together - Kirklees Council

Members thanked the authors for re-visiting this report and Cllr Sue Woodward for sharing her insights into the ‘Co-operative Difference’.

It was agreed that: the report be approved.

Action: NH to add to the website and submit for inclusion in the “Co-operative Difference in Care” report.

10. Policy Prototype Updates 2021

10.1. Workshop to explore the training and development needs of Opposition Groups – Polesworth Parish Council.

The Chair explained that the original bid had been to identify the training and development requirements identified by Opposition Councillors, and that this had been extended to Associate Members. These training and development needs would be fed into the larger piece of work

being undertaken by the Co-operative College on Accredited Training. However, several concerns had been expressed with this report in terms of its accuracy, misinformation, and validity.

The principal areas of concern were:

- The robustness of the data with only ten respondents, and whether this was a true representation of the Associate Membership
- The assumption that the CCIN is closely connected with the Cooperative Party rather than it being a Special Interest Group of the LGA, and as such is non-political
- The results of the survey were questionable with some respondents perhaps thinking their organisation was more engaged in the Network than was the case.

It was agreed that:

- that the report needed more work before it would be a useful learning document.
- the report highlighted some of the underlying issues in explaining and communicating what the Network is and does and that there was now an opportunity to correct those misunderstandings with those involved in the report.
- it might be useful to offer Associate Members the opportunity to join a Zoom Call to find out more about the Network and to answer any questions.
- Cllrs Mike Stubbs and Sue Woodward (nominated in her absence) speak with Polesworth Parish Council and the Co-operative College about the original brief, the learning we are looking for from this report, and to report back to the next meeting.

Action: **NH, MS, and SW**

10.2 To implement a new model of Early Year help in Torbay - Torbay Council. The update was noted.

10.3 Development of a Social Return on Investment Tool - Woughton Community Council – The Board were grateful for the very thorough update. The update was noted.

11 Next meeting:

16th November: 11am – 1pm

26th and 27th October - CCIN Annual Conference

The meeting finished at 1225 hours