

EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Online Zoom call
1330 for 1400 - 1600 hours on Wednesday, 6 October 2021

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr Barbara Brownridge	Oldham Council
Cllr Steve Darling	Torbay Council
Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Cllr Sue Smith	Rochdale Council
Cllr Paul Stewart	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Clare Gamble	Billingham Town Council (Associate Rep)
Jonathan Bland	SBI/E3M (Affiliate rep)
Cllr Joyce McCarty	Newcastle City Council – Chair of V&P Board

In Attendance:

Jonathan Downs	Oldham Council (Accountable Body)
Fiona Gibson	Cardiff Council
Nicola Huckerby	CCIN (Minutes)
Jonathan Nunn	Kirklees Council (representing Cllr Shabir Pandor)

Apologies

Cllr Peter Bradbury	Cardiff Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Council

Absent

Cllr Leanne Feeley	Tameside Council
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1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1. Cllr Sharon Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2. Cllr Barbara Brownridge has been confirmed as Oldham's representative on EOC.
- 1.3. Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Bradbury who had a Cabinet Meeting, and Cllr Shabir Pandor who was poorly. Best wishes were extended to Cllr Pandor for a speedy recovery.

2. Any Other Urgent Business

- 2.1. Cllr Taylor asked that two additional new Members be ratified when considering the Membership report (Item 9). Liverpool City Council – Full Member and Plymouth Labour Group – Associate Member. This was agreed.

- 2.2. Cllr Taylor extended her thanks to Nicola Huckerby for all the work that she had done at the Labour Party Conference in greeting existing members and promoting the Network to prospective members.

3. Minutes of the last meeting – 12 July 2021

These were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from meeting on 12 July 2021

4.1. Masterclass Training with the LGA

NH reported she had spoken to Pete Robbins, Head of the LGA Labour Office, about how we might get the 'CCIN's Statement of Co-operative Values and Principles' into one of the LGA's Masterclasses. He felt that this would be something that would be of interest to all Councils in relation to 'Community Power' and had offered his help to get some traction in the LGA. NH to report back to the next meeting.

Action: NH

The Chair noted that the LGA offers training for Groups in Opposition and that we should reference this in the Policy Prototype report looking at the Training and Development needs of Groups in Opposition.

Action: NH/Cllr McCarty

4.2. Co-operative Difference in Care

NH reported that a meeting is being arranged with Peopletoo to discuss what they are planning to draft up for our "*Co-operative Difference in Care*" report, to ensure that it is in the direction we were looking for. A sub-group of V&P has been set up to do this, if anyone from EOC would like to be part of that conversation please let NH know asap.

Action: All

4.3. Honorary Vice Presidents of the CCIN

The Chair reported that she would be contacting potential Honorary Vice Presidents (Minute from 16 March 2021). Those suggested were Lord Roy Kennedy, Baroness Glenys Thornton, Gareth Thomas MP, Jim McMahan MP, Andy Burnham

It was agreed that:

- Cllr Taylor will write to these individuals and invite them to take on the role.
- Members of EOC were asked to identify others who might be suitable which should include a diversity mix from across the political spectrum and to let Cllr Taylor know.

Action: Cllr Taylor / All

5. The Commission on the UK's Future

- 5.1. The Chair reported that she had been asked to join a Commission which had been set up by Sir Keir Starmer and was being chaired by Gordon Brown. The group had met on 26 September. The Commission is wide ranging and is looking at devolution across UK regions and nations. There was an opportunity to promote our Cooperative Values and how they might fit in with a new vision for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

- 5.2. CCIN Members will be able to get involved in the Commission through individual written submissions and it was noted that the CCIN may wish to make its own submission.

- 5.3. There will also be workshops taking place around the country.

Action: Cllr Taylor to share the links.

Cllr Taylor/JD/NH to consider how a CCIN submission might work across both EOC and V&P.

6. Budget Report and Project Planning 2021-4

- 6.1. J Downs introduced this item. He explained that there had been little change in the Budget report since the last meeting in July. However, some areas were likely to need updating to reflect some of the outcomes of the Constitutional Review, which was taking place, particularly in relation to Network Support. The group was also looking at the level of investment required in Policy Labs where these were big pieces of partnership work. The update was noted.

7. Constitutional Review Group

- 7.1. The Chair explained that the Sub-Group had met on 27 July, 6 September and will meet again after this meeting and that a V&P Sub-Group had also met on 22 September. The Chair thanked everyone that that had been involved in these meetings.
- 7.2. The objective has been to tidy up the existing Constitution and to address some of the issues that have arisen over the last few years as the Network has grown. The aim is that a revised Constitution be considered by Members at the AGM.

8. CCIN Strategic Action Plan 2021-3

- 8.1. The Chair reminded The Theme Leads were:
- **Cllr Barbara Brownridge – Oldham – Theme 1:** Better effectiveness in information sharing: accessible information, sharing best practice and encouraging more co-production
 - **Cllr Clare Gamble – Billingham – Theme 2:** Developing a range of networks to increase engagement
 - **Cllr Paul Stewart – Sunderland – Theme 3:** Training and support to better promote Values and Principles across organisations and the network
 - **Cllr Joyce McCarty – Newcastle – Theme 4:** National influence and lobbying; growing the network and events.
- 8.2. NH explained that although the Group had not met, the actions within the Strategy were continuing. NH suggested that Theme Leads might want to have Officer Support involved as we would all be learning a new piece of software, this would allow progress on the Strategy to be seen by visitors to the website.
- It was agreed to set up the first meeting of the Theme Leads.

Action: NH

9. Membership report

- 9.1. The membership report was presented by NH. There are now 107 Members and Supporters of the Network; 33 Member Councils representing 9m citizens and controlling a budget of £14bn.

The latest membership figures for the Network are:

Full Members – 33
Associate Members – 21
Affiliate Members – 36
Supporters – 17

- 9.2. NH explained that Croydon Council's Membership of the Network was paused following their Section 114 Notice. The Chair agreed to speak to the Leader of Croydon Council to find out

how near they are to having the Section 114 Notice lifted and to see how warm they are to continuing their engagement with the CCIN.

It was agreed to review this at the next meeting.

Action: Chair

- 9.3. NH explained that one of our Member Benefits was to allow 30 sign-ups to the Newsletter for Full Members, 10 for Associates and Affiliates and 2 for Supporters. Going forward NH recommend that we allow anyone to sign-up to receive our newsletters rather than limiting numbers. Email sign-ups would be a feature of the new website. After a discussion it was agreed that increasing the distribution of the Newsletter was a greater member benefit membership than the number of members receiving the newsletter.

This proposal was agreed.

Action: NH

- 9.4. One new Full application had been received; this was approved:

- Liverpool City Council

- 9.5. Two new Associate Member applications had been received; these were approved:

- Witney Town Council
- Plymouth Labour Group - Plymouth City Council has taken the decision not to renew.

- 9.6. Two new Supporter applications had been received; these were approved:

- Peter Sagar – Individual
- Southwark Coop Party - Organisation
- Southwest Peninsula Party Council - Organisation

10. Annual Conference

- 10.1. The Chair explained that we are working towards dates of 26 and 27 October 9am – 2pm and that there was a draft programme for discussion. The AGM is scheduled to take place on the 27 October.

- 10.2. The question was raised as to whether we should delay the Annual Conference until November to ensure that the Constitutional Review had been signed off. Papers for the AGM would need to go out on 12th October at the latest.

It was agreed to allow the Constitutional Review Group to meet, and to report back.

Action: JD

It was agreed to check whether people would be around during October Half Term.

Action: NH

11. Annual Review 2020/1

- 11.1. The Chair introduced the draft Annual Review which had been circulated for comment and approval. She explained that the plan is to get the report professionally designed for sending out with the AGM papers.

The draft report was agreed.

Action: NH

12. New website

- 12.1. NH gave a presentation on the progress that has been made in creating a new website for the Network. The new site would offer updated functionality, an improved look and feel suitable for a growing network. Content on the existing site would be restructured giving greater accessibility to our vast archives, and resources.

- 12.2. NH showed some of the templates that make up the new site.

- 12.3.** There was unanimous support for the new layout and NH was thanked for all the work getting the new website to this stage. The Chair also thanked NH for the consistency of the CCIN brand across all platforms.

13. Funded Policy Projects

The Chair introduced this item. A Risk Register has been prepared showing the status of all funded projects. These now fell into three groups:

- For Approval
- Withdrawn
- Of Concern

NH reported that one project had been submitted for approval:

Policy Prototypes 2021:

- 13.1 Youth Development Project with hard-to-reach groups** (Unlocking the Potential of Preston's Hard to Reach Groups) – Preston City Council. This had been reviewed by V&P. The report was approved.

Action: NH to upload to the website and share in the newsletter.

- 13.2 Workshop to explore the training and development needs of Opposition Groups** – Polesworth Parish Council working with the Co-operative College. NH explained that the outcomes of this project would be fed into the larger piece of work being undertaken by the Co-operative College on Accredited Training for the whole Network.

Cllr McCarty explained concerns expressed by the Values & Principles Board with this report in terms of its accuracy, the lack of understanding about what the CCIN is and does, and the validity of the findings. V&P has set up a Sub-Group to speak with the project leads about the original brief, and the learning we are looking for from this report.

It was agreed to report back to the next meeting.

The Chair also asked that, if possible, that the suggestion re Opposition Training referred to in item 4.1 above, also be included.

Action: Cllr McCarty/NH.

Policy Lab Updates 2021

- 13.3 Accredited Online Training Programme with the Co-operative College**

NH introduced this item and explained that the original Bid from the Co-operative College proposed Accredited Online Training Courses. In the update received from the College it is now suggested that we offer courses 'endorsed' by the Open College Network to cover:

- Bringing Co-operation to life in Co-operative Councils
- Co-operative engagement
- Walking the co-operative talk – A Toolkit for Co-operative Councils

It was agreed that:

- We need to understand how much this training will cost our members to undertake.
- What the proposal is regarding updating the modules on an on-going basis.
- We would want the opportunity to add further modules to the programme to include finance/banking/community wealth building and need to understand the process for this.
- Anyone completing the course should be able to receive a certificate and share their success on their preferred social media platforms.

Actions: NH to report back on progress to the next meeting.

NH to set up a call for the Chair to meet with the new Principal of the College.

14. Schedule of future meetings:

It was proposed that the next meeting take place w/b 29 November.

It was agreed that NH would survey members to get views on whether we met in person, online and where.

Action: NH

The meeting closed at 1520 hours.

10.10.21 - NH