



VALUES & PRINCIPLES BOARD MINUTES

Online Zoom call

1030 for 1100 – 1300 hours on Tuesday, 16 November 2021

Present:

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| Cllr Joyce McCarty | Newcastle City Council (Chair) |
| Cllr John Fahy | Royal Borough of Greenwich (Vice Chair) |
| Cllr Joyce Welsh | South Tyneside Council |
| Cllr Sue Woodward | Burntwood Town Council (Vice Chair) |
| Cllr Hayden Philips | North Warwickshire Labour Group |
| Cllr Peter Curling | Hillingdon Labour & Co-operative Group (from item 3.2) |
| Gus Della-Porta | Bates Wells |
| Richard McCready | Co-operative Party |
| Cheryl Barrott | Co-operatives UK |
| Neil Calvert | Co-operative College |

In attendance:

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| Nicola Huckerby | Operations & Communications - CCIN (Minutes) |
| Jonathan Downs | Corporate Policy Lead – Oldham Council (for item 8.1) |
| Maggie Kenney | Peopletoo (for item 11.3) |
| Zoe Collis | Peopletoo (for item 11.3) |

Apologies:

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| Michael Curnow | Peopletoo |
| Jo White | Co-operative Futures |
| Rebecca Harvey | Co-operative News |

Absent:

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| Cllr Mike Stubbs | Newcastle-Under-Lyme Labour & Co-operative Group |
| Cllr Frank Walsh | Knowsley Metropolitan Borough |
| Cllr Donna Fuller | Woughton Community Council |

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies – Chair

- 1.1. The Chair began by welcoming everyone to the meeting. All members introduced themselves to Neil Calvert the new Principal and Chief Executive of the Co-operative College and Richard McCready from the Cooperative Party who was representing Emma Hoddinott's who is on maternity leave.
- 1.2. Apologies and absences were noted.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – online 14 September 2021

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from meeting on 14 September 2021

3.1. Co-produced training opportunities with the LGA

NH reported that she had spoken to Helen Jenkins, Head of Leadership at the LGA who are very interested in the certified training courses that the Co-operative College is pulling together for us as

the Policy Lab. NH hoped that we could come to an agreement with the LGA where they would commission the Co-operative College to deliver the online training courses to councillors and officers as part of their ongoing offer and that these were made available to their members. If these were run 2/3 times a year it was envisaged that there would be an opportunity for someone from the CCIN to attend these courses and to say a few words about the Network.

The Chair, Cllr John Fahy & Cllr Sue Woodward welcomed the progress that had been made.

Neil Calvert thanked the CCIN for the opportunity to work with us on this project. He explained that the College had moved the existing courses (Introduction to the CCIN and Key Themes for Co-operative Councils) from the Rise platform to the LearnWorlds platform enabling us to monitor take-up and attendance. Finally, he welcomed the opportunity to create generic training opportunities that the College could co-deliver with the CCIN to a wider audience via the LGA.

Richard McCready welcomed the training in the Co-operative Values and Principles and felt that this was something that the Co-operative Party would want to help promote.

It was agreed: that NH and RM have a call to proceed.

Action: That NH progress with the College an LGA and report back to the next meeting.

3.2. Values & Principles Statement – Nicola

NH introduced this item. At the last meeting it was agreed to arrange a meeting of a V&P Sub-Group to consider the proposal by the Officer Group to commission a piece of work lead by the V&P Board to:

- Explain why the 'Principles' are important
- What our '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

It was agreed: to set up as Sub-Group to put together a brief for a Policy Lab EOI to undertake this work.

Participants: Cllr Mike Stubbs (nominated by Cllr Sue Woodward), Cllr Joyce Welsh, Cheryl Barrott and Neil Calvert.

Action: NH to set up the call.

4. Any other Urgent Business

NH reported on the work of the Leaders/Co-operative Leads Group which was now looking at the legal barriers to procuring services through co-operatives and reserving contracts for co-ops. GD-P expressed an interest in helping with this project.

Action: GD-P agreed to share the suite of templates that have been produced on the spinning out of council services with members of the Board.

5. Governance

5.1. Board elections – NH reported that Cllr Sharon Thompson (Birmingham) had resigned from the V&P Board and that the vacancy would be advertised shortly, along with the Affiliate Member vacancy.

5.2. Union representation on the V&P Board – NH reported that the TUC no longer had the capacity to sit on the Board. We are very keen to retain the CCIN's relationship with the trade union sector and conversations are progressing.

5.3. Vice Chair vacancy – Affiliate Members – NH explained that as part of the Constitutional Review V&P had asked to have a third Vice Chair representing the Affiliate Members. Gus Della Porta reported back that he had agreed with Michael Curnow to take on the Vice Chair role. **It was agreed:** to accept Gus Della-Porta as the Affiliate Member Vice Chair on the Values & Principles Board.

6. Feedback from CCIN Constitution Working Group – Chair

The Chair reported that the Constitution Working Group had met a couple of times over the Summer and that 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.

Stevenage BC was providing legal advice to the Working Group, which included Jonathan Downs from Oldham Council as the Accountable Body. We have not seen the final draft document, but we do have an offer from GD-P to look at the draft when it becomes available. The new Constitution would be presented to the AGM for approval.

7. Member Engagement Updates

- 7.1. Associate Member Engagement – Cllr Sue Woodward explained that it had been difficult to organise a session for Town, Parish & Community Council representatives but that this would happen before the next call. Councillors were finding it very difficult to find the time to devote to anything outside their elected responsibilities particularly where they had no officer support.
- 7.2. Affiliate Member Engagement – There was no update on this.

8. Policy Lab Updates 2019

8.1. Co-operative Approaches to Sustainable Food – Oldham Council

Jonathan Downs presented the resubmission of this report. Salford University had been commissioned to deliver this Policy Lab on behalf of Oldham Council which was looking at food systems in co-operative councils. When the report had been considered by V&P in September 2020, the feedback was that it was not sufficiently practical for members to take learning from it.

JD reported that Oldham Council is intending to produce a follow-up report in the next eighteen months, which will provide the Network with some of the practical learning and hopefully helping to address some of the concerns raised previously. They are currently commissioning an organisation from the CCIN's Dynamic Purchasing System to do this. This new piece of work will put the recommendations of the Policy Lab report into practice.

Cllr Sue Woodward recommended approval of the report so that it could be shared across the Network.

It was agreed: to accept the report from Oldham Council and to agree their proposal to undertake a further piece of work, at no cost to the Network, and to report back within 18 months, by May 2023.

Action: NH to submit the final report and the proposal from Oldham Council to EOC for approval before publication on the website.

8.2. Co-operative Neighbourhoods – Stevenage Borough Council

NH explained that the partners involved in this project had asked for an extension on completion to July 2022, so that they could revisit the outputs of this project. **It was agreed:** to amend the completion date to July 2022.

9. Policy Prototype Updates 2020

9.1. Enabling a dementia friendly Burntwood – Burntwood Town Council

Cllr Sue Woodward fed back on the work that the Ideas Alliance is doing in the Town on this project. The IA were about to start a series of interviews with dementia sufferers, a care organisation, and their carers to identify where in the town they do, and do not feel comfortable. This consultation would result in an exhibition in January. There is also a plan to become a Dementia Friendly Town which they hope to achieve by Autumn 2022. **It was agreed:** to amend the completion date to Autumn 2022.

10. Policy Prototype Updates 2021

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

Cllr Sue Woodward reminded members of their concerns about the robustness of the data that been used to prepare this report. It was noted that steps had been taken to ensure that the training and development needs of Associate Members had been fed into the main Policy Lab on certified training being led by the Co-operative College.

It was agreed: that Cllr Mike Stubbs, Cllr Sue Woodward, and NH meet to resolve the outstanding issues on this project. The Chair thanked Sue and Mike for helping us clear up the issues that this report had highlighted. **Action:** NH to set up the call.

10.2. SafeSpace – Preston City Council

It was agreed: to accept the report from Preston City Council.

Action: NH to submit the final report to EOC for approval before publication on the website.

11. Policy Lab Updates 2021 – Chair

11.1. Co-operative Approaches to reaching net zero – Kirklees Council

It was agreed: to accept the report from Kirklees Council. To recommend to EOC that the report had some design input so that it could stand alongside other Policy Labs.

Action: NH to submit the final report to EOC for approval before it was published on the website.

11.2. Understanding the Digital Divide – Cheshire West & Chester Council

It was agreed: to accept the report from Cheshire West & Chester Council. To recommend to EOC that the report was professionally designed so that it could stand alongside other Policy Labs.

Action: NH to submit the final report to EOC for approval before it was designed and published on the website.

11.3. Co-operative Difference in Care report

Maggie Kenney and Zoe Collis had been invited to V&P to report on progress with the Cooperative Difference in Care report that Peopletoo had been commissioned to prepare on behalf of the Network.

ZC gave a presentation which highlighted the Output Plan for the final report.

The Chair recognised that the work of the Leaders/Co-operative Leads group on legal frameworks and procurement would assist us in growing care co-ops and improving the quality of care in the sector. Cllr John Fahy suggested organising a session at Labour Local Government Conference on this theme.

It was agreed: to support the Output Plan as identified. It was agreed to promote this report at the CCIN Annual Conference and to seek a Fringe at the Labour LGC on 4-5 February.

Action: NH to circulate a copy of the presentation with the minutes and to seek to organise a Fringe event at the Labour Local Government Conference.

12. Date of next meeting - tbc once the date for the Annual Conference has been announced. NH to circulate a DoodlePoll.

The meeting finished at 1240 hours