

**CCIN Innovation Funding 2023 - Policy Lab : Entry # 320****Organisation leading the project**

Kirklees Council

**Lead Councillor or Officer**

Jonathan Nunn

**Job Title**

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**Project Title**

Coop Option Training

**How much funding are you applying for?**

£ 10,000.00

**Summary of project idea (150 words max)**

This project proposes to fund up to 20 places on each of a series of Coop Option Training sessions to equip member councils and their LEPs/CAs to promote alternative business models to individuals looking to start new businesses, understand different business structures and the corresponding support and finance ecosystems.

**Which other CCIN members will work on this project?**

- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Lewisham, London Borough of
- Oldham Council
- Oxford City Council

## CCIN Innovation Funding 2023 - Policy Lab : Entry # 320

- Preston City Council
- South Ribble Council
- Stevenage Borough Council
- Sunderland City Council
- Trafford Council
- Wigan Council
- Stir to Action

### Provide a detailed budget of how you will spend the budget and whether you are bringing in other funding.

A total of four sessions will be run (2x introductory sessions, 1x deep dive on finance and 1x deep dive on legal structures).

A minimum of 15 individuals per session is necessary to make the course viable. It is therefore proposed that the cost is agreed as £125/person per session up to 20 individuals with a minimum cost of £7,500 and maximum of £10,000 for the full programme.

In addition to the sessions Stir to Action and Coop Culture will provide a set of presentations that can be used by others to replicate the training.

If turnout is lower than anticipated, Stir to Action and Coop Culture will work with the network to use the budget to offer further value to the participating councils and wider network (e.g. through resources, etc).

### What is your idea and how will you allocate the budget?

This project proposes to fund up to 20 places on each of a series of Coop Option Training sessions. This training will consist of four half-day sessions: an introductory session which will run twice and two thematic deep dives. The course builds on the success of the Barefoot training for co-operative and community business advisors developed by Coop Culture and is aimed at:

- Business development workers of local authorities and LEPs
- Community development workers
- Social Enterprise Advisors.

It is proposed to run three online half-day modules. The first module will be run twice providing a total of 40 places and the other two run once each with 20 places. These sessions will cover:

1. An introduction to alternative business models,
2. Co-operative and community finance, and
3. Legal structures and governance.

The introductory session will focus on business models used by co-operatives and community business, including the support landscape for alternative business models and the key differences in delivery of support to groups adopting alternative business models.

## CCIN Innovation Funding 2023 - Policy Lab : Entry # 320

This core module would bring development workers up to speed around the co-op option to be able to recognise where an alternative business model might be appropriate and signpost to further support.

Attendees will leave with:

- Knowledge of alternative business models proven to work in the UK economy.
- An understanding of the similarities to, and differences from, more “conventional” business models.
- A knowledge of the support landscape available to alternative business models.
- An understanding of approaches that are effective when supporting groups adopting alternative business models.

The two further optional modules will provide a deeper dive. It is recognised that while many participants may find the introductory session sufficient that some individuals may wish only to participate in the deep dive sessions.

It is proposed that:

- Places are offered to CCIN members with up to two individuals from each full member council per training session and one from associate members.
- One of the two individuals could be from the corresponding LEP, combined authority or another key partner organisation related to the local business support ecosystem.
- Places be allocated on a first come first serve basis though consideration may be given to reduce the allocation if oversubscribed to maximise the breadth of participation.

A minimum of 15 individuals per session is necessary to make the course viable. It is therefore proposed that the cost is agreed as £125/person per session up to 20 individuals with a minimum cost of £7,500 and maximum of £10,000 for the full programme.

If turnout is lower than anticipated, Stir to Action and Coop Culture will work with the network to use the budget to offer further value to the participating councils and wider network (e.g. through resources, etc).

The course is now marketed by Stir to Action who are both a CCIN affiliate member and a member of Lot 2 of the CCIN DPS. Stir to Action will provide support to market the course within the network and maximise take up of the spaces provided. Coop Culture will continue to act as the delivery partner for the training.

### What are the outcomes you hope to achieve?

Attendees will leave the course with:

- Knowledge of alternative business models proven to work in the UK economy.
- An understanding of the similarities to, and differences from, more “conventional” business models.
- Knowledge of the support landscape available to alternative business models.
- An understanding of approaches that are effective when supporting groups adopting alternative business models.

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

Promoting co-operative business models is a key part of creating a context in which radical innovation in policy and practice can occur as well as creating a more fair and equitable economy. Equipping business advisors with knowledge of these business models and the existing support landscape is essential to this process.

## CCIN Innovation Funding 2023 - Policy Lab : Entry # 320

### How does your project support the CCIN Statement of Values and Principles?

This proposal particularly relates the principle of Enterprise and social economy. By increasing member councils' awareness and understanding of alternative business models, the corresponding support and finance ecosystems it is anticipated that more councils will be well placed to promote cooperatives, social enterprises and community businesses in their local areas.

### How will you share your learning across the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network?

In addition to the course sessions Stir to Action and Coop Culture will provide a set of presentations that can be used by others to replicate the training.

Feedback will also be given by participating councils within the CCIN Officers Group and Leaders' Group. This could also result in a case study for publication on the CCIN website.

### I agree that the final report will clearly show the Co-operative Difference that this project will deliver.

 Agree

## Notes



### Admin Notification (ID: 637b616e68cf7)

added 28th February 2023 at 11:04

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.