

**CCIN Innovation Funding 2023 - Policy Prototype :
Entry # 317****CCIN Member Organisation leading the project**

Stevenage Borough Council

Name of CCIN Lead Councillor or Officer

Daryl Jedowski

Job Title

Community Development Manager

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Co-operative Community Bank of Kindness

How much funding are you applying for?

£ 2,000.00

Summary of project idea (150 words max)

Over the last three years the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis have created significant and ongoing challenges for our residents. Both have exasperated the underlying causes of deprivation and inequality and pushed many people both into and further into crisis. The current systems that are in place to support those in need are stretched to breaking point, and it is clear that innovative approaches must be locally designed.

Our Policy Prototype would seek to pilot a Co-operative Community Bank of Kindness in Stevenage that would allow residents to exchange skills, time and expertise order to support the local community.

As part of this we would be able to utilise seed funding to help support development in Stevenage as well as producing a feasibility study to share across the CCIN focused on highlighting the Co-operative difference and demonstrating a tangible utilisation of the Values and Principles.

What is your idea?

The Policy Lab Prototype would centre around the creation of a Co-operative Community Bank of Kindness in Stevenage.

As part of Stevenage Borough Council's ongoing work to support residents, both through challenges resulting from the recovery from the pandemic, but also the ongoing cost of living crisis, a clear need for innovative, co-produced solutions that establish new local models for delivery is apparent.

Whilst Community Banks of Kindness are as established concept, refining this approach to meet the growing needs of local people is a key focus point. As such, this proposal spans both the 'Covid-19 Recovery' and 'Tackling Inequality' Policy Lab themes.

A key aspect of this project will be establishing local ownership and supporting genuine resident agency and involvement. This is a core tenant of our Co-operative Neighbourhoods approach, which is focused on working co-operatively with residents to highlight priorities for our communities.

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Funding would be used as seed funding to help support the initial development of the scheme, as well as to produce a final report, setup toolkit as well as a feasibility study for the future growth of the initiative. The seed funding necessary to embark upon the delivery of a pilot project allows for the delivery through Policy Prototype funding.

Initial stages would see the identification of a delivery partner and engagement with the local community. This engagement would highlight the Stevenage specific needs and allow for tailoring that would in turn determine the solutions design principles.

The 9 month timescale allowed for project delivery would be well suited to this project due to its scalable nature. The key here is to provide seed funding for a pilot project with this expanding beyond the timescale of the Policy Prototype.

What are the outcomes you hope to achieve?

There are three primary outcomes:

1. The allocation of seed funding to support the startup of a Co-operative Community Bank of Kindness in Stevenage.
2. The production of a report and toolkit providing an overview and guide of the process and how to tailor the solution to local needs.
3. A feasibility study on how this approach could be expanded throughout Stevenage and beyond, with a view to potentially following this work up as a full Policy Lab alongside other members of the CCIN.

Success would mean that all of these outcomes are achieved within the timeframe of the project.

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

The project is fundamentally aligned with both the values and principles of the CCIN.

Social Partnership:

It isn't possible to deliver a project like this, without a mutual sense of shared responsibility between all key stakeholders in a local community. The partnership aspects will build on the work we have been undertaking with our Social Inclusion Partnership, which is a collective of VCSE organisations that have been moving towards a model of greater co-operation and are in the process of forming a multi-stakeholder co-operative.

Co-production:

Again, genuine co-production is a central pillar of this approach. Without the opportunity for residents to be involved in the design of the project from the start, there is no guarantee that it would be a fit solution to meet local needs. As such, early and consistent engagement with key local stakeholders is a core building block of the project.

New Models of Meeting Priority Needs:

We have already been exploring new models for the delivery of services such as Co-operatives. Similarly, there is an opportunity to look to formalise the project using a similar model. This approach would make sense as it would allow for increased ownership and agency of all stakeholders.

Innovation:

Whilst a Community Bank of Kindness is an established concept. It is a significant innovative step for Stevenage. Additionally, there is an opportunity to both tailor delivery to the needs of local people and the current challenges they face.

Learning:

As stated in the outputs section, a core aspect of delivery will be the creation of a guide and toolkit and the production of a feasibility study around the scalability of the project. Both of these present ample opportunities for learning, and will be made available to the CCIN.

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

Alongside a report, there are two further elements that will be a key part of delivery:

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Firstly, a start-up guide designed to specifically highlight how the solution has been tailored at a local level to respond to the needs of local people.

Secondly, a feasibility study to both increase scope and scale in Stevenage, but also to feed into a potential future policy lab, focused on innovative local responses to deprivation and inequality.

These elements would be shared through the CCIN and would serve as a learning piece that could also be utilised as a case study.

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 24th February 2023 at 17:47

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.