

CCIN Innovation Funding 2023 - Policy Prototype : Entry # 323

CCIN Member Organisation leading the project

Rochdale Council

Name of CCIN Lead Councillor or Officer

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Job Title

Reform and Prevention Lead

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Project Title

Cooperative Culture Making in Rochdale

How much funding are you applying for?

£ 2,000.00

Summary of project idea (150 words max)

Rochdale Borough Council's Cooperative Culture Making prototype is a framework of ideas that provides local areas with ideas and options for how local government and elected members can work collaboratively with arts and culture in communities to foreground equality and solidarity in their practice and decision making.

What is your idea?

In Rochdale borough, we are developing a new way of working in culture through a new collaborative "Culture Compact." We are deploying sociocracy methodologies to support the local working arrangements. The members of the Culture Compact have discovered a need to better understand the role of local government and elected members. In particular, by working through sociocratic methods, the members of the compact are becoming conscious, in new ways, of their roles representing parts of the arts and culture sector and the function of power / powerlessness in the way different parts of the system interact with each other.

Through our prototype we will undertake training, study and inquiry about the theory and practice of sociocracy, focusing on what local government officers and members need to know and do differently in order to support an effective local cultural sociocracy.

We will engage in participatory action in order to surface and address the challenges inherent in developing sociocracies in an environment which is hierarchical so that the shift can be made into leadership models which distribute power, encourage self help and self responsibility through distributed and eco leadership practice.

What are the outcomes you hope to achieve?

Learning about sociocracy in "one" part of the system will enable us to understand and articulate the implications for reform, and the role of local government in transforming local systems of support.

We would hope to develop a prototype of a way of cooperating which could be replicated in other parts of the borough's system (for example in terms of reference, the potential for "board" based operating systems to apply "circle" methodologies,

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etc.)

This would have the potential to be tested / developed elsewhere in culture settings, or more broadly, in reform.

We will deliver:

- 2 workshops using participatory methods to surface and design for the challenges of sociocracy for local government.
- Brief literature review and insight report about the implications of sociocracies in local government and cooperative working.
- Framework for local government practice development around sociocracies and cooperation in arts and culture.

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

Social Partnership. This prototype will strengthen the co-operative partnership between citizens, communities, enterprises and Councils, based on a shared sense of responsibility for wellbeing and mutual benefit by learning how to embed sociocracy.

Democratic Engagement. The prototype will support the active engagement of the full range of residents in decision making and priority setting through its participatory approaches and methods of engagement.

Co-production. The prototype is founded on a coproduction approach and will continue to develop systems that enable citizens to be equal partners in designing and commissioning public services and in determining the use of public resources.

Community leadership and a new role for councillors. The prototype will work with elected members and officers to find out more about “how” the council has to “be” in order to act as a platform for helping the community to contribute to local outcomes. The prototype will work with councillors as community connectors, brokers and eco leaders.

Innovation. This prototype is very “new” – sociocracy in itself has not been applied in this way before and we will embrace innovation in how we work together with partners and communities to drive change.

Learning. This prototype is a learning programme, using participatory approaches along with research and inquiry to capture and ‘expand’ the experience and learning about sociocracy in local government, arts and culture.

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

1. Brief literature review and insight report about the implications of sociocracies in local government and cooperative working.
2. Framework for local government practice development around sociocracies and cooperation in arts and culture.
3. Supported by briefings and updates which can be shared at, e.g CCIN annual conference.

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 12:44

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.