



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

VALUES & PRINCIPLES BOARD

Online Zoom call

1000 - 1200 hours on Monday, 6th March 2023

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Sarah Doyle	Liverpool City Council (Chair) *until 11am
Cllr Sandra Barr	Stevenage Borough Council
Cheryl Barrott	Co-operatives UK
Gavin Callaghan	Beartas
Cllr Peter Curling	Hillingdon Labour Group
Richard McCready	Co-operative Party
Cllr Mili Patel	Brent Council
Cllr Nathan Pardoe	Winsford Town Council
Cllr Ajaz Rehman	Oxford City Council
Cllr Mike Stubbs	Newcastle -U-L Labour & Coop Group (Vice Chair) *Chair after 11am
Rachael Walker	Trueman Change *until 11am
Claire Ward	Anthony Collins LLP
Cllr Joyce Welsh	South Tyneside Council (Vice Chair)
Jo White	Co-operative Futures
Cllr Sue Woodward	Burntwood Town Council

In attendance:

Nicola Huckerby	Operations Lead - CCIN (Minutes)
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Apologies:

Paul Bell	Unison
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Absent:

Neil Calvert	Co-operative College
Rebecca Harvey	Co-operative News

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1. Cllr Sarah Doyle welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the new Board and congratulated those that had been re-elected.
- 1.2. All members introduced themselves.
- 1.3. Apologies and absences were recorded.

- 1.4. It was noted that there was a vacancy for an Associate Member. It was agreed to follow-up on this after the May elections.

Action: Associate representatives and NH.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – 16 June 2022

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising from the meeting on 16 June 2022 & projects approved offline since the last meeting.

NH explained that had been such a while since the last formal meeting it was worth mentioning those decisions that had been taken online including:

- 3.1 The Study Visit to Mondragon which had taken place from 10 – 12 October. A report on the visit was considered at the Annual Conference.
- 3.2 The Work Programmes and budgets for the 2022 funded projects.
- 3.3 There were no matters arising.

4. Any Other Urgent Business

NH briefly explained the role and responsibilities of the Executive Oversight Committee and the Values and Principles Board. This included the fact that we had had contested elections for the role of CCIN Chair. Cllr Louise Gittins, Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council was the new Chair of the Network.

- 4.1. NH reported that at its last meeting EOC asked for a joint meeting between V&P Board EOC to consider the funding bids. This would take place on 16th March 2023.
- 4.2. NH reported that an event had been organised on 8th March in the House of Lords to celebrate the CCIN Honorary Vice President's: Jim McMahon OBE MP and Baroness Sharon Taylor, Baroness Glenys Thornton and Lord Roy Kennedy. Anyone wishing to attend should let Nicola know and she would provide details.
- 4.3. NH explained that we'd had a very busy start to the year with events in England, Scotland and Wales and many more events coming up. Members are always welcome to use the CCIN Stand as a base and bring along potential members to learn more.

5. Election of Vice Chairs for:

- 5.1. **Full Member** – Cllr Joyce Welsh volunteered and was duly elected as the Full Member Vice Chair.
- 5.2. **Associate Members** – Cllr Mike Stubbs volunteered and was duly elected as the Associate Member Vice Chair.
- 5.3. **Affiliate Members** – the Affiliate Members agreed to discuss the role and come back to NH with their nomination. Action: GC, RW and CW.

6. Funded projects

- 6.1. NH gave an overview of the funded project tracker, which listed all the funded policy projects since 2016, and was used to track progress on current projects.
- 6.2. Cllr Mili Patel asked whether there was any follow-up on funded projects after completion.

Agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting.

Action: NH

7. Development of a Certified CCIN online training programme – Policy Lab

- 7.1. NH reminded members to undertake the existing training programmes delivered by the Cooperative College so that as the V&P Board, they can ensure that the new programme is

sufficiently different to existing programmes:

- Induction Programme and
- Key Themes for a Cooperative Council

The programmes can be found here: <https://www.councils.coop/training/ccin-training/>

- 7.2. At the last V&P Board (June 2022), Cllr Sue Woodward agreed to establish a Working Group to work with the college on identifying some of the outcomes from the new certified training programme and advise on the content. The overall aim of the training would be to embed the CCIN Statement of Values and Principles across the council.
- 7.3. SW reported on her experience and felt the new programme should be easy to open, access, and understand. NH reminded everyone that access to all CCIN training would be via the Coop College's LearnWorlds platform.
- 7.4. NH explained that our focus should be on the content of the new Modules rather than password access. Log-in details were required so that the CCIN could monitor the number of participants that had completed the course.
- 7.5. Cllr Mike Stubbs offered to take a more active role in ensuring these new programmes were delivered in a timely manner.
- 7.6. Cllr Sandra Barr offered Stevenage Councillors as 'guinea pigs' to undertake the training and then feed this back to the College. Her portfolio role includes 'Cooperative Council', and it's part of her role to ensure that all councillors in the Borough understand why they are a coop council. **Action: SB to report back after the election.**
- 7.7. **Action: SW and MS to liaise with the College on feedback and the next steps.**
- 7.8. **Action: All members are to undertake the training.**

8. Dementia-Friendly Burntwood – Policy Prototype

- 8.1. Cllr Sue Woodward introduced the report and explained the process the Town council had followed to fulfil its clear ambition to become a Dementia Friendly Community accreditation. They had worked with Affiliate members the Ideas Alliance.
Agreed: to accept the report and submit it to Executive Oversight Committee for final approval and budget payment.
- 8.2. **Action: NH**

Cllr Sarah Doyle left the meeting, and Cllr Mike Stubbs agreed to Chair.

9. Member Engagement Updates

- 9.1. Associate Member Engagement – Cllr Sue Woodward. The group met in August to discuss items of mutual importance, sharing challenges and opportunities. At the Chair's suggestion, the Board thanked Sue for all her work championing the cause for Associate Members over the last few years as she stepped back from the role as Associate Member vice chair on the Board.
- 9.2. Affiliate Member Engagement
The new Vice Chair for Affiliate members would report back to the next meeting. Rachael Walker gave her apologies and left the meeting.

10. Policy Lab and Prototype Bids

- 10.1. NH explained that this part of the agenda was an opportunity to highlight any clarifications the Board was seeking before the presentations on 16 March or wanted to have covered on 15 March. She also wanted the Board's view on what should be included in the scoring criteria which would be circulated before the meeting.

- 10.2. Policy Lab Bids received (£111,100):
- Tackling Inequality – growing capacity in communities in response to cost-of-living crisis - Sunderland City Council
 - Coop Option Training - Kirklees Council on behalf of CCIN
 - Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls - Trafford Council
 - Cooperative solutions to levelling-up employment, enterprise and skills - Hackney Council
 - Amplifying Prevention in Public Health - Cardiff Council
 - Social Value Toolkit for Councils - Oxford City Council
 - Study Visit to Emilia Romagna, Northern Italy – CCIN
- 10.3. Jo White sought clarification on whether a Policy Lab project was:
- A Policy or Action Research projects
 - Transferable to other areas
 - Clarification on how a project relates to any bids funded previously.
 - Are there Policy recommendations that other councils can take forward?
- 10.4. Gavin Callaghan explained that if the Oxford Bid was to build on the recommendations from the Policy Lab ‘Exploring Positive Social Impact in Local Government’ funded by Peopletoo, then it should look at the **Social Value issue around Strategic Commissioning and around contract management within the council**. This should be done to take into account the publication of the Local Government Procurement Bill. And rather than a Toolkit, would it be better to offer specific training at either the contract management or strategic commissioning level, perhaps at a ‘head of service’ level? Should we seek to distil what a cooperative approach to contract management looks like? The outcome could be the Five Tests that a council could adopt as a policy that could go through Cabinet, requiring heads of service to mark against in awarding a contract.
- 10.5. NH gave an overview of what the proposed Study Visit to Emilia Romagna might look like.
- 10.6. Policy Prototype Bids received (£10,000)
- Engaging & empowering the residents of Woolwich Common Estate - Royal Borough of Greenwich working with Greenwich Coop Development Agency
 - Co-operative Community Bank of Kindness - Stevenage Borough Council
 - Turning Strategic Plans into Art - Inverclyde Council
 - Cooperative Culture Making in Rochdale - Rochdale Council
 - Health and wellbeing support delivered via a Community Wellbeing Project - Brent Council
- 10.7. Members put forward their ideas for potential questions for the scoring criteria, which were captured on screen.
It was agreed:
- Any presentation questions should be submitted to NH by midday on 7th March.
 - Any clarifications that members wanted on Bids before the presentations should be submitted to NH by midday on 9th March.

11. Date of next meeting

- V&P Board – 2pm – 4pm 15 June, Manchester
- Strategy Session – June, at a date to be agreed upon after the Local Government Elections
- September – date to be agreed

12-04-23 - NH