



EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Online Zoom call
0900- 1100 hours on Tuesday, 27th June 2023

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West & Chester Council (Chair) (Until item 6)
Cllr Peter Bradbury	Cardiff Council (Vice Chair) (From item 6)
Cllr Paul Cassidy	Inverclyde Council
Cllr Anthony Okereke	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Council (Until item 6)
Cllr Paul Stewart	Sunderland City Council (representing Cllr Miller)
Cllr Mike Stubbs	Newcastle-U-Lyme Labour & Coop Group (V&P rep)
Cllr Clare Gamble	Billingham Town Council (Associate Rep)
Cllr Sue Smith	Rochdale Borough Council (From item 5)
Jonathan Bland	SBI/E3M (Affiliate Rep)

In Attendance:

Amanda Richardson	Oldham Council (Accountable Body)
Fiona Gibson	Cardiff Council (From item 3.2)
Helen Peverley	Sunderland City Council (From item 6.2)
Nicola Huckerby	CCIN (Minutes)

Apologies:

Cllr Graeme Miller	Sunderland City Council (until item 9)
Cllr Steve Darling	Torbay Council
Cllr Barbara Brownridge	Oldham Council (Accountable Body)
Cllr Sarah Doyle	Liverpool City Council

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1.** Cllr Gittins welcomed everyone to the meeting of the new EOC.
- 1.2.** It was noted that Cllr Paul Stewart represented Cllr Graeme Miller – Sunderland and that Cllr Mike Stubbs represented Cllr Sarah Doyle and the V&P Board.
- 1.3.** Amanda Richardson was representing Jonathan Downs from Oldham. Cllr Gittins offered JD our best wishes for a speedy recovery.
- 1.4.** Apologies were noted.
- 1.5.** The Lib Dem/Independent coalition lost control of Torbay in May's Elections, and therefore, Cllr Steve Darling must step down from EOC at the end of the membership year on 31 July.

Cllr Gittins thanked Steve for this valuable contribution and insights to the Network over the years and wished him well in Opposition.

Agreed: Cllr Gittins suggested we write to the new Leader of Torbay to sell the membership benefits.

Action: NH

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 10 January 2023

These were agreed upon as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Shabir Pandor and seconded by Jonathan Bland.

3. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

3.1. Honorary Vice Presidents of the CCIN

NH reported that an event had been held in the House of Lords on Wednesday, 8th March, to confer the titles of Honorary Vice Presidents on Jim McMahon OBE, MP, Lord Roy Kennedy, Baroness Glenys Thornton and Baroness Sharon Taylor.

Cllr Paul Cassidy, Cllr Clare Gamble, Jonathan Bland and NH attended to represent the CCIN. Cllr Gamble gave a vote of thanks to NH for organising the event.

3.2. Launch of 'Exploring Positive Social Impact in Local Government' report

Cllr Gittins explained that this Policy Lab had been given the go-ahead in 2019 and was funded by one of our Affiliate Members, Peopletoo. It had been signed off in November 2022 meeting and was ready for launch. Several member councils were involved in the project, which included Case Studies from:

Barking and Dagenham

Birmingham City Council

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Newcastle City Council

Preston City Council

Rochdale Borough Council

Salford Council

South Tyneside Council

Stevenage Borough Council

Torbay Council

NH reported that she had spoken with Peopletoo and had received the following update: "With improvements to community health and well-being a central focus in the social value of many council contracts, Peopletoo are looking to launch their social value report in councils with a Roundtable discussion amongst member councils on the role social value can play in improving health outcomes in leisure services.

The proposed Roundtable would take place in September, focusing on leisure services and examining how some councils use their contracts to create leisure trusts with good cooperative principles and values."

The report can be read here: <https://www.councils.coop/project/achieving-social-outcomes/>.

Agreed: To launch the report at our Annual Conference in November.

Agreed: NH to ask Peopletoo if the invitation list for September's Roundtable could be extended to include members not part of the CCIN when the report was produced.

3.3. Members who have completed the CCIN Training

NH reported that she did not have access to the up-to-date data on which members had completed the first [two Training Programmes \(the Induction and Key Themes for Cooperative Councils\)](#) but could report that:

- 34 people had enrolled for the 'Induction' course
- 29 people have registered for the 'Key Themes for Cooperative Councils' course

NH reminded everyone that the Study Visit to Emilia Romagna was only available to Members who had completed the Induction and Key Themes courses.

Agreed: NH to send the following information to EOC when it was available names of those that had

- completed both courses
- how many people had done one course and received a certificate
- how many people had completed both courses and received certificates

3.4. Who is using the DPS?

At the last meeting, EOC asked for a list of which members were using the DPS. Cllr Gittins explained that members did not need to report whether they were using the DPS to us, so it took more work to assess actual use.

NH presented a list of the Policy Projects where members had used the DPS to find partners to complete their reports.

Officers at both Greenwich and Hackney have reported that they are considering using the DPS to deliver some of their services.

Agreed: To run another session for Officers and Procurement Leads on how to access the DPS.

Action: NH to liaise with Oldham Council to deliver this.

4. Ideas for Increasing Membership

Cllr Gittins announced the latest Membership Numbers:

Full Member 41

Associate Members 22

Affiliate Members 48

Numbers had increased following the Local Elections as Medway, Plymouth, Stoke and York transitioned to Full Members following election successes as Associate Members.

Cllr Gittins suggested that Plaid Cymru-led councils may be interested in joining the Network.

Cllr Mike Stubbs reported recently giving three presentations at Coop Party meetings to promote membership (Stone & Staffs, South Cheshire & North Staffordshire and Lichfield). It was agreed that this was a great way to raise the profile of the Network to a broader group of potential members. Volunteers were required to deliver this.

Cllr Paul Cassidy reported that he had put CCIN Membership on the Scottish Coop Party Conference agenda to encourage Membership within Councils and Opposition Groups.

Cllr Gittins suggested we offer Awards at the Annual Conference for members who attracted the most new Members.

Cllr Anthony Okereke suggested that Leaders of councils located near existing members be written to, promoting the benefits of joining the Network.

Action: All.

Agreed: to write to Leaders of Labour Councils in the first instance and that LGA Labour would be able to provide contact details.

Agreed: to offer councils a 25% discount where their PCC was a Member of the Network, enabling Welsh Councils to benefit from the discounts available to English Councils in Combined Authority areas.

Action: Cllr Gittins to write to Andrew Morgan, Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Council, with support of Cllr Bradbury, regarding WLGA joining the CCIN.

Action: Cllr Gittins to contact Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority, about Membership.

Action: NH approach Councillor Llinos Medi, the Plaid Cymru Leader of Anglesey County Council, about Membership.

Cllr Gittins suggested having an event outside Labour Conference for prospective Liverpool City Region/Cheshire members, so we could see whether a targeted geographical approach might work.

Action: NH to see if this was something that Cllr Doyle/Liverpool City Council could host.

5. Planning for CCIN Annual Conference 2023

NH introduced the draft programme for the Annual Conference and asked for comments and ideas.

The theme was agreed as “Supporting Communities – we are stronger together”.

Plenary ideas: Building Financial Resilience in Communities

The role of AI in building Stronger Communities

Cooperative Approaches to Social Value

Supporting Children and Young People the Cooperative Way

Workshop ideas:

Cooperative Council Manifesto for a General Election – suggested by Cllr Bradbury
Regional Community Bank for the North East?

Supporting Children and Young People post Covid.

No one and nowhere left behind – Sunderland (could we narrow this down to Digital Inclusion)

Voluntary Sector Alliances – Sunderland

AI – suggested by Cllr Pandor

Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme – suggested by Cllr Clare Gamble.

Action: All ideas for the programme are to be sent to NH by 7 July 2023.

Agreed: NH to do a mailing with the booking link for the Hotel asap.

It was agreed to review the programme for the 1st November once Helen Peverley could join the meeting.

Cllr Louise Gittins left the meeting. Cllr Peter Bradbury assumed the Chair.
Cllr Shabir Pandor left the meeting.

6. Financial and Budget Update

6.1. Budget Update

NH explained that JD was not currently in the office and could not submit his report but agreed to send the updated Budget and accompanying notes when he returns.

Action: JD

Helen Peverley joined the meeting.

6.2. Exceptional Financial Issues Policy

NH introduced this proposed Policy outlining guidance on responding to member councils' financial issues.

Agreed: To adopt the Exceptional Financial Issues policy.

6.3. Independent Audit Outcomes

Agreed: To defer this item to the next meeting.

6.4. Membership Fees Owing

NH explained that the current invoicing process meant that although Oldham sends out invoices in September, she didn't know whether organisations had paid when publications and conference backdrops were being designed. She asked that this be a Standing Item on EOC so that members had an overview of income received and the budget.

Agreed: To receive an item on Membership Fees Owing at future meetings.

Action: JD

6.5. Travel Reimbursement Policy for Members

NH explained that this policy had been designed so that members who could not claim back their expenses from their organisation were not left out of pocket when attending events on the Network's behalf. This was explicitly aimed at Opposition Groups and smaller organisations.

Agreed: to adopt the Travel Reimbursement Policy for Members

5. – Continued – Helen Peverley ran through the programme for the 1st November:

- Executive Oversight Committee (11 am – 1 pm)
- Meet and greet at City Hall - 2.00 pm
- Tour of City Hall and Sunderland Riverside Development
- Walk to the city centre Heritage Quarter – with tour guide from the Heritage Team
- Visit whilst in the Quarter – to Pop Recs CIC and Sunshine Cooperative
- Coach will visit to Hylton Castle, which is a refurbished ancient castle now being run by a Trust; we'll then visit Bishopwearmouth Cooperative
- Back to the hotel for check-in etc. There will be delegate packs in every room with information about Sunderland etc.

- 6.30 pm walk over to The Fire Station – drinks and canapes – welcome from Paul Callaghan and then food. Range of performances – local bands will be performing for delegates
- 9.30 pm – Finish

Helen Peverley left the meeting.

Cllr Paul Stewart left the meeting.

7. Feedback from the V&P meeting

Cllr Mike Stubbs reported on a hybrid meeting held on 15th June at Holyoake House, Manchester. Items to note were:

- 7.1** The need to track take-up and use of Policy Labs / Prototypes after publication.
- 7.2** Work Programmes and Budgets were agreed upon for the newly approved Policy Labs.
- 7.3** **V&P is reviewing the three new Training Modules**, and some issues are to be resolved around fees.

Cllr Anthony Okereke left the meeting.

8. Vacancy on EOC from August

NH reported that Cllr Steve Darling will step down at the end of August, creating one vacancy on EOC.

Agreed: to advertise the vacancy.

9. Strategy and Action Plan 2024 - 26

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Funded Policy Projects

10.1. Cooperative Approaches to Sustainable Food (Oldham Council – Policy Lab – 2019)

This report was approved noting comments from V&P Board before publication.

10.2. Translating Cooperative Values into Social Values for Procurement (Oxford City Council – Policy Prototype 2022)

This report was approved.

11. Schedule of Future Meetings

Wednesday 4th October – online – 2pm – 4pm

Wednesday, 1st November – Sunderland – 11am – 1pm

12. Any Other Business

NH offered a vote of thanks to the Policy Officers at Hackney Council, who had recently briefed Meg Hillier MP about CCIN and the cooperative work that Hackney was doing. Briefing and lobbying MPs in this way was encouraged.

The meeting finished at 1700 hours.

NH – 10/08/23