



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network



Introduction and our funded projects – 2024





Review of the Year 2022/23

As the Network grew to over 130 members and supporters, we look at what was achieved

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-Review-22-23

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Innovation Network

 People-centred councils
driving social innovation
putting people first

Introduction



Councillor Louise Gittins
Chair of the Co-operative Councils'
Innovation Network
Leader of Cheshire West & Chester Council

Established in 2012, our Network was the brainchild of Steve Reed OBE, MP (now our Honorary President), who, together with Baroness Sharon Taylor and Jim McMahon OBE, MP, turned the idea into reality. The Network now comprises over 120 councils, organisations and supporters from across the UK and is the fastest-growing non-party network in local government.

Our members believe that the unprecedented challenges facing the public sector and local communities mean that traditional top-down governance models and economic growth are no longer fit for purpose. They want to reclaim the traditions of community action, community engagement, and civic empowerment that can transform communities. This approach will help deliver radical and innovative programmes designed, led, and delivered in partnership with communities and other sector partners, maximising the social dividend they bring. It has also always been the purpose of the Network to share our developing good practice and support one another in our cooperative aims and values.

Cooperative enterprises play a significant role in driving our economy, showing resilience in tough economic times by creating jobs, adapting to social change, and continuing growth and success.

Each year CCIN Members are encouraged to suggest projects where they can work with other members to find cooperative policy solutions to local government challenges. This publication introduces those projects.

Find out more about the process here: councils.coop/funded-projects



Active projects

The CCIN funds two types of projects – larger projects, called Policy Labs, which are featured in this booklet and smaller projects, called Policy Prototypes

Policy Labs are collaborative pieces of work that CCIN members work on together.

Policy Prototypes are managed by individual members who want to deliver in their locality on behalf of the network. This could be anything from delivering a new cooperative campaign to developing a cooperative app that helps residents access services differently.

Over the last decade, the CCIN has reinvested more than £340k of membership fees in member-led projects, and we are keen to ensure that the learning from these is reflected in the decisions and challenges members face.

There are three Active Policy Labs where members are encouraged to get involved:

1. **Councils' Cooperative Development Toolkit** – Led by Kirklees Council – contact Jonathan.Nunn@kirklees.gov.uk
bit.ly/CCIN-CoopDevToolkit
2. **Social Value Toolkit for Councils** – Led by Oxford City Council – contact SGrove-White@oxford.gov.uk
bit.ly/CCIN-SV-Toolkit
3. **Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls** – Led by Trafford Council – contact Emma.Moseley@trafford.gov.uk
bit.ly/CCIN-VAWG

See all the Published and Active projects here:
councils.coop/funded-projects





Tackling digital poverty

Closing the divide between those who can confidently and conveniently go online ... and those who cannot

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-digital



Growing an Inclusive Cooperative Economy

Supporting community wealth building and social value procurement through mapping the local economy to enable cooperative growth

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-inclusive

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Co-operation at the Grassroots

Councils work at a localised level with their residents as co-producers of local communities and neighbourhoods

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-coop-grassroots

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What works in community asset transfer?

What are the barriers?

What makes them successful?

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-Asset-Transfer



Making local economies work for communities

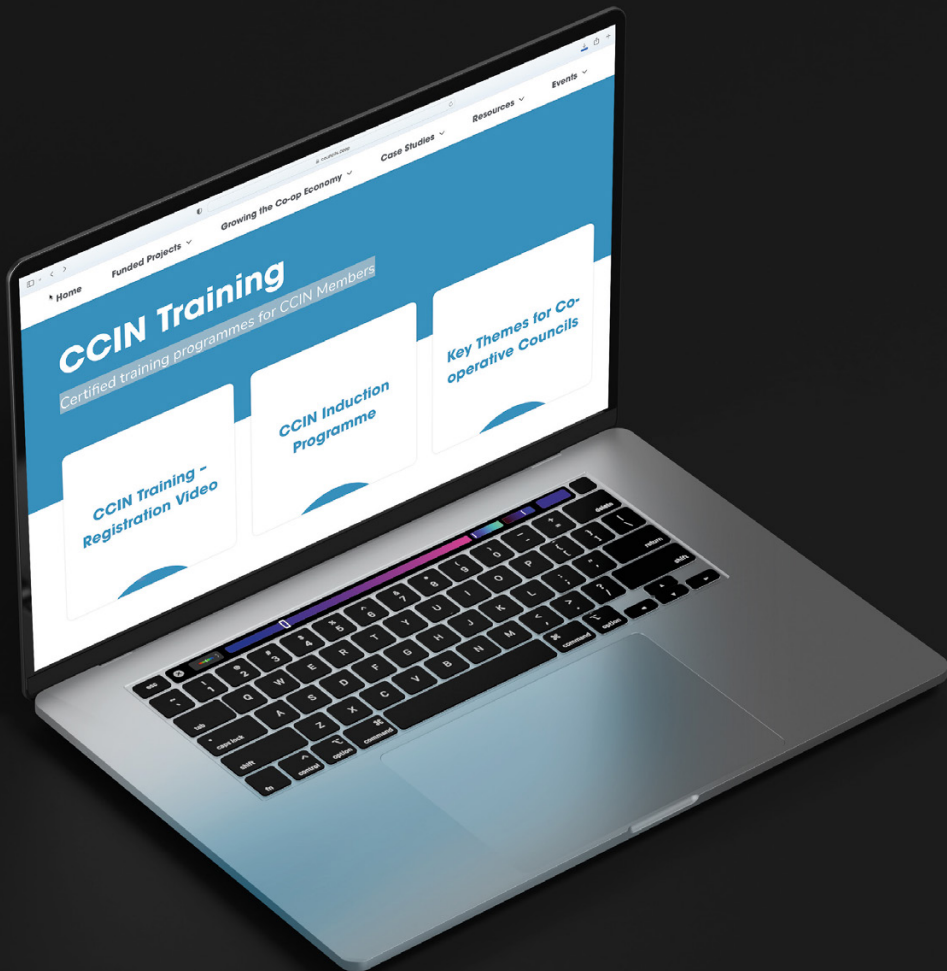
The value of councils using a place-based approach to undertake community economic development planning

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-comm-econ-devt-plans

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CCIN Training

Certified training programmes for CCIN Members

The Network currently offers two certified training programmes on the Co-operative College's Learnworlds Platform

Visit the programme here: bit.ly/ccin_training





Cities of Service

By serving their cities

Download: bit.ly/CitiesofService

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CCIN Statement of Values and Principles



Our values are what we believe in

Whilst not a registered cooperative, the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network has adopted the Cooperative **Values** developed by the International Cooperative Alliance:

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Our Principles guide the way we, and our members, put our Values into action.

The Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network endorses the Principles of the International Cooperative Alliance:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence

- Education, training, and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community

In acknowledging that councils are not in themselves registered cooperatives, we and our members have developed Principles that have grown from those of the International Cooperative Alliance and are relevant within the context of local government.



Social Partnership



Maximising social value



Walking the talk



Community leadership and a new role for councillors



Democratic Engagement



New models of meeting priority needs



Co-production



Innovation



Enterprise and social economy



Learning

The icons are used to indicate how Co-operative Councils are putting our Cooperative Principles into practice, demonstrating the 'cooperative difference' in the work that they are doing. Councils and organisations who receive CCIN funding to undertake Policy Labs and Policy Prototypes are asked to adopt these icons to show the 'cooperative difference' from this policy work.

Our Statement of Values and Principles: bit.ly/CCIN-Principles



Co-op Option Training

In 2023, we funded over 80 training places for members interested in offering the cooperative option as an alternative business model, with a deep dive into legal structures and finance.

Find out more: bit.ly/CCIN-coop-option





Solutions to the crisis in care

A spotlight on how cooperative principles can create better ways of working in the care sector

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-care



Response. Recovery. Resilience.

Co-operative Council learning through Covid-19

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-Covid



A challenge shared locally and globally

How are Co-operative Councils working towards Net Zero?
How are they using an effective place-based approach?

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-Net-Zero



A practical guide for councils to help and grow **community businesses**

Download: <https://bit.ly/CCIN-CoopsUnleashed>

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Community-Led Housing:

a key role for local authorities

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-housing

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Building resilient neighbourhoods

53 new Case Studies illustrating some of the ways Co-operative Councils are working with local people to build strong and resilient neighbourhoods

Over 480 case studies at: councils.coop/case-studies

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CCIN Policy Lab

Practical examples and analysis of new ways to deliver social value across the UK

Download: bit.ly/CCIN-Social-Impact

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Growing the Co-op Economy

Local councils are preparing detailed plans to emerge from the impact of COVID-19 and the cost-of-living crisis which now engulfs us. One of the critical areas that they are considering is how to restart the local economy and minimise the impact of the recession on their local communities.

Being a Co-operative Council is something to be proud of. It demonstrates a genuine commitment to cooperative innovation, best practices, and the communities we serve. Collaboration is at the heart of our approach.

The CCIN actively supports initiatives to grow the co-op economy. There are two key themes:

- Community Wealth Building, and
- Cooperative Placemaking

To support these key themes, we have developed a training programme with the Co-operative College for councillors and officers to help explain the concepts.

Find out more: bit.ly/CCIN-grow



Meet us in 2024

10 – 11 February – Labour Local Government Conference, Warwick

11 – 15 March – Study Visit to Emilia-Romagna, Italy

14 – 15 June – Cooperatives UK Congress, Birmingham

2 – 4 July – LGA Conference and Exhibition, Harrogate

22 – 25 September – Labour Party Conference, Liverpool

We are planning a number of online events, giving all members access to the latest insights and research. Check our website for details: bit.ly/CCIN-events

The Officer Network meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month. To find out more contact Jonathan.Downs@Oldham.gov.uk

Sign-up to receive a copy of our monthly newsletters: bit.ly/CCIN-news



For further information, contact:

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Join us today

Find out more about the UK local authorities who are driving global public sector policy development & best practice with a common belief in the cooperative values and principles

-  @coopcouncils
-  @coopinnovation
-  comms@councils.coop

Join us today at councils.coop