



# Cooperative Councils'

## Innovation Network

### VALUES & PRINCIPLES BOARD

online meeting

**Meeting 1430 - 1630 hours on Thursday, 26 June 2025**

### MINUTES

#### **Present:**

CLlr Mili Patel	Brent Council (Chair)
CLlr Lisa Denson	Cheshire West & Chester Council (from item 1.3)
CLlr Sam Pallis	Hackney Council
CLlr Dave Griffiths	South Swindon Parish Council (Vice Chair)
CLlr David Darkin	Llanelli Town Council (until item 8)
Rebecca Harvey	Co-operative News (until item 15)
Liz McIvor	Cooperative Heritage Trust (until item 16)
Jo White	Co-operative Futures
Gareth Dowling	Co-operative Party
Paul Bell	Unison (until item 8)

#### **In attendance:**

Nicola Huckerby	Chief Executive - CCIN (Minutes)
Jane Makin and Morgan Jones	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Raabiah Aslam	Brent Council
Adrian Slatcher	Manchester City Council
Katie Flint	Swindon Borough Council
Gemma Maret	Stevenage Borough Council
Will Holt	Brent Council

#### **Apologies:**

CLlr Alistair Willoughby	North Herts District Council (Vice Chair)
CLlr Rudi Schmidt	Lewisham Council
CLlr Dave Grocott	Kidsgrove Labour Group
CLlr Mike Osborne	North Warwickshire Labour Group
Claire Ward	Anthony Collins LLP (Vice Chair)
Jonathan Bland	Social Business International
Cheryl Barrott	Co-operatives UK

#### **1. Welcome, introductions, apologies – Chair**

- 1.1 The meeting started as quorate with just 9 of 17 members present.
- 1.2 The Chair thanked CLlrs Alistair Willoughby, David Darkin, Dave Griffiths, and Sam Pallis, and Gareth Dowling, Liz McIvor, and Jonathan Bland, who were able to attend the Special Board meeting on 19 June to consider:
  - 1.2.1 Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (Trafford – 2022-23) – to consider the final report

1.2.2 Faith, Young People & Resilience: Understanding the Past, Strengthening Cohesion, and Preparing for the Future (GMCA – 2024-25) – to sign off on their Bid support documents

- 1.3 Cllr Mili Patel noted that we now had two vacancies on the Board. Thanks were extended to Jo Hanon who had represented Your Business Solutions (Midcounties Coop) and to Cllr Peter Curling. It was noted that Peter had been a most valued member of V&P since 2019. Members wished both individuals luck in their future endeavours.

Jo White then announced that this would be her last V&P meeting. NH noted that Jo had been a valued member of the Group who had painstakingly offered comments on every Policy report to ensure that it was the best it could be. Her enthusiasm would be sadly missed. There were now three vacancies on the Board: An Associate Member, an Affiliate Member and a Worker Coop member.

**Action: To run an election to fill the three vacancies.**

- 1.4 CCIN Refocus – NH reported that at the end of March, she had given six months' notice to the Chair, Cllr Jim Robbins. A Taskforce had been established from the Governance and Officer Network which had met in Birmingham on 17 June to agree a set of actions reviewing the legal and staffing structure. Further updates would be reported in the Newsletters.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting – 20 January 2025** – These were approved.

3. **Matters Arising** – There were none.

4. **Member Engagement updates**

- 4.1. Associate Member Engagement – Cllr Dave Griffiths reported that he had reached out to Associate Members through the two WhatsApp Groups and that there was no update.
- 4.2. Affiliate Member Engagement – Claire Ward (not present) had been asked for an update on the Coops & Mutuels event that had been held at No 10 Downing Street, earlier in the month. Coop News had reported on the event and so Rebecca Harvey reported that the attendance had been diverse with some retail societies, ABCUL, CCH, Social Enterprise UK. In addition a similar event had been organised at Holyrood.

5. **Reviewing the Policy Lab Approach – attached**

- 5.1 Policy Lab & Prototype Review Action Plan – NH reshared the Action Plan, highlighting that several gaps remain, for which we are seeking volunteers to deliver on the areas identified during the Review. The Chair agreed to pick up Action 4.2 “Develop a mutual aid approach where eg a council loses a key officer”
- 5.2 Action 3.2 “Clearly set out the role of V&P Board in the process” – Clare Ward had produced a draft with input from the Chair, Morgan Jones, and NH. Following input from Jo White, it was agreed that sometimes reports are submitted that do not meet the expected standard, as the Sponsor has not been fully engaged in the process, and / or the submitted report needs much more work before it can be signed off. This element requires a lot of handholding and resources to get it right. Cllr Sam Pallis suggested being explicit about the level of engagement a Lead Council is expected to have with their Sponsor. The Chair suggested that Sponsors be allowed to attend any Workshops and sessions that were being organised as part of the project delivery process. Rebecca Harvey suggested that those involved in the Thematic Groups meet to agree wording eg ‘A more rigorous process’ had almost been completed.

**Action: to decide how this pack for V&P Members is presented.**

6. **Funded Project Tracker Update**

- 6.1 NH gave an overview of the Tracker. She explained that neither Rochdale nor Westminster had submitted updates on their Policy Labs.

**Action: to ask both councils to present at the next meeting.**

- 6.2 Project Sponsors were still being sought for several projects,

**Action: All to consider supporting the delivery of the funded projects by acting as a ‘Sponsor’.**

**7. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls – Trafford Council - final report**

7.1 NH explained that, due to the author's leave, this report had been considered at the Special V&P meeting on 19 June, where Emma Moseley had presented the findings and responded to the questions raised by the Board. The recording of that call had been circulated to everyone for review. The report was well received. The author had included many different examples and demographics which was welcome.

7.2 The main points to note were:

7.2.1 The author had changed the title to 'Tackling **Male** Violence Against Women and Girls'

**Agreed: that the title should not include 'Male'.**

7.2.2 As Newcastle City Council was no longer a member, its logo should not be included on the cover of the report.

**Agreed.**

7.2.3 Another session was being held in Swindon in July.

**Agreed: to include the findings of the Swindon session in the final report.**

**Action: Trafford Council.**

7.2.4 The report states that 'male violence impacts lives with 97% of women aged 18 to 24'.

**Agreed: that this stat should be referenced in the final report.**

7.2.5 A video had been produced to support the Final Report, which required an update to use the correct CCIN logo.

**Action: Emma Moseley, Trafford Council.**

7.2.6 Agreed: to approve the final report with the above amendments and to launch it online to members.

**Action: Emma Moseley, Trafford Council and Nicola Huckerby.**

**8. Cooperative Approaches to Sustainable Food (Oldham – 2018-19)**

8.1 NH reported that the Executive Summary, Final Report and Case Studies had now been completed and that the report was now online.

8.1.1 **Agreed: to sign off on the final report and upload it to the website.**

**9. Social Value Toolkit for Councils (Oxford / CCIN 2022-23)**

9.1 NH took the Board through the online version of the Toolkit.

9.1.1 **Agreed: to sign off on the final report. Everyone was welcome to attend the online launch on 23 July 2025.**

**10. Engaging & Empowering the residents of Woolwich Common Estate**

10.1 NH thanked everyone who had provided comments on this report.

10.1.1 **Agreed: to sign off on the final report and upload it to the website.**

10.1.2 **Action: Circulate the report to EOC for final sign-off.**

**11. Employability and Skills Project (Brent 2023-4)**

11.1 Raabiah Aslam presented the findings of the Policy Prototype. In response to a question from Cllr Bell, Raabiah confirmed that members of the community with learning needs had been engaged in co-producing this report.

11.1.1 **Action: Raabiah to explain what the 'CWS/Community Wellbeing Service' is in the report.**

11.1.2 **Action: To upload the slides to the website as the Executive Summary.**

11.1.3 **Agreed: to sign off on the final report, launch it in the Newsletter and upload it to the website.**

**12. Empowering Communities through Civic Crowdfunding (CWAC 2023-24)**

12.1 Jane Makin presented the outcomes of the Policy Prototype which had been produced with case studies and support from Kirklees and Plymouth. The final document would be presented on the website as a Toolkit. The Council and Space Hive (their crowdfunding partner) had agreed the content.

12.1.1 **Agreed: That the Values and Principles, which were included in the Bid, are incorporated into the Final Report.**

12.1.2 **Agreed: to sign off on the final report, and support CWAC in creating the Toolkit for the CCIN website.**

13. **Faith, Young People & Resilience: Understanding the Past, Strengthening Cohesion, and Preparing for the Future (GMCA 2024/5)**

- 13.1 NH explained that, due to the author's leave, this report had been considered at the Special V&P meeting on 19 June, where Sulafa Abushal had presented the findings and responded to the questions raised by the Board. The recording of that call had been circulated to everyone for review.
- 13.2 **Agreed: The Chair offered to act as Sponsor and Paul Bell agreed to Shadow Sponsor. Gareth Dowling said he would consider being a Sponsor as he lived in the GMCA area.**
- 13.3 **Agreed: To approve the budget, work programme, comms plan, cooperative difference and Additional Information (including the role of the Project partners).**
- 13.4 **Action: Send an Agreement to GMCA allowing them to invoice for 50% of the project funding.**

14. **Cooperative Approaches to Post-16 Transition (Manchester City Council 2024/5)**

Adrian Slatcher gave an excellent presentation on the Project Plan.

- 14.1 **Agreed: To approve the budget, work programme, comms plan, cooperative difference and Additional Information (including the role of the Project partners).**
- 14.2 **Agreed: Paul Bell offered to act as Sponsor for this project with support.**
- 14.3 **Action: Send an Agreement to Manchester City Council allowing them to invoice for 50% of the project funding.**

15. **Treating Care Experience as a protected characteristic (Swindon Borough Council 2024/25) –**

Presentation by Katie Flint. It was noted that the project would engage with young people with Care Experience and reimburse them for their participation.

- 15.1 **Agreed: To approve the budget, work programme, comms plan, cooperative difference and Additional Information (including the role of the Project partners).**
- 15.2 **Action: Katie was asked to seek representation from a Scottish and Welsh Member Council on the project.**
- 15.3 **Action: Send an Agreement to Swindon Council allowing them to invoice for 50% of the project funding.**

16. **Sustaining Local Leadership and Place-Based Innovation (Stevenage Borough Council/Brent Council (2024/5)**

- 16.1 The presentation by Gemma Maret & Will Holt was well received. Jo White stated that succession planning was also an issue with cooperatives and suggested engaging with cooperatives in Stevenage (and Brent) as part of the study.
- 16.2 **Action: A Project Sponsor is still sought for this project.**
- 16.3 **Agreed: To approve the budget, work programme, comms plan, cooperative difference and Additional Information (including the role of the Project partners).**
- 16.4 **Action: Send an Agreement to Swindon Council allowing them to invoice for 50% of the project funding.**

17. **Greenwich Co-operative Care Compact and Workers Network (Greenwich – 2024-25) - Prototype**

- 17.1 **Agreed: to note the update report.**

18. **Fairer Help (Hackney – 2023-4)**

- 18.1 **Agreed: to note the update report.**

19. **Taking a Co-operative approach to tackling health inequalities – (Westminster 2023/24)**

- 19.1 No update had been received for the second time.
- 19.2 **Agreed: that this was a matter of concern and that this would be noted on the Tracker. Cllr Patel agreed to raise this with the Council Leader before deciding whether the Board should withdraw the offer of funding.**
- 19.3 **Action: To request a presentation and an Update at the next meeting to seek to get this project back on track.**

- 20. **Being Cooperative: Towards a model of brave and inclusive governance in local government**  
(Cooperative Governance) – (Rochdale 2023/24)
- 20.1 **Action:** A Project Sponsor is still sought for this project.
- 20.2 **Action:** To request a presentation and an Update at the next meeting to seek to get this project back on track.
  
- 21. **Any Urgent Business:**
  - 21.1 **Agreed:** It was decided to ensure that some sanction was included in the 'Policy Lab Review' document/grant agreement that could potentially reduce the amount of funding if a council missed more than one Project Update.
  - 21.2 **Agreed:** that there should be a role description for 'Project Sponsors' so that it was clear that they were working with Project Leads as members of the CCIN V&P Board.
  - 21.3 **Action:** Cllr Patel to contact Jonathan Downs and Morgan Jones regarding sanctions.
  
- 22. **Next meeting**  
September 2025

10.08.25