

CCIN Member Organisation leading the project

Royal Borough of Greenwich

Name of CCIN Lead Councillor or Officer

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Job Title

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Project Title

London CCIN connect

How much funding are you applying for?

£ 2,000.00

1. What is your idea?

Royal Greenwich's Co-operative Commission recommendations, launched in early 2025, included both local actions for implementation in the borough and highlighted the need for wider connected and collaborative work to support the sector and its development. In particular the Commission made a recommendation to:

- Explore opportunities to establish a London co-operative network, for cross-council collaboration and building a knowledge exchange forum, with a focus on increasing procurement opportunities with community businesses and co-operatives.

This sits alongside the approach to develop the community wealth building in the borough. We are proposing a prototype project to enable the exploration of a London CCIN network structure. The policy landscape and structures local authorities operate in varies throughout the UK and there will be common challenges faced depending upon area. Currently many areas are getting to grips with programmes such as Pride in Place or the Local Growth Funding, or in some cases grappling with re-organisation of local authority boundaries. These are aspects of common frames of reference. London authorities are largely untouched by these issues, although are facing challenges and issues with the end of the UK SPF, loss of European funding, the Mayoral integrated settlement as well as actions that can be pan-London, sub-regional or truly within the LA boundary.

At this moment, and for the development of CCIN network, there could be benefit in a London CCIN network which alongside the main network can provide a space to better connect and increase collaboration and learning within and between London authorities. The prototype will operate over 12 months in exploring the structures and options for encouraging effective CCIN development and network within London.

This action will also complement the work with anchor institutions and the approaches to community wealth building where there is increasing activity across the capital.

The existing London full and affiliate members of CCIN will be invited to highlight and share areas of co-operative and collaborative interest that are specific to operating in London and their priorities for policy development. Alternate methods will be considered and tested for supporting the network through either in-person, online, periodic general or thematic connecting sessions. This will be additional to the wider CCIN network activities and meetings.

The prototype can also help position CCIN activity in London to engage with the emerging connections in, for example, the MHCLG Co-operative Development Unit. It will also demonstrate CCIN's emphasis on co-operative advocacy and innovation in the public sector, and it also reinforces the value of regional collaboration.

The funding will be utilised to host network activity / event and engage facilitation if/where required, to supplement officer capacity.

2. Summary of project idea (150 words max)

The prototype project will focus upon the development of a network of CCIN councils and affiliates within London. This at a time when the Government's approach to supporting their manifesto pledge to double the size of the sector will be further developing.

The policy landscape and structures local authorities operate in varies throughout the UK and there will be common challenges faced depending upon location. Currently, many areas are getting to grips with the programmes such as Pride in Place or the Local Growth Funding, or perhaps grappling with re-organisation of local authority boundaries. These are aspects of common frames of reference. London authorities are largely untouched by these issues, although are facing challenges and issues with the end of the UK SPF, loss of European funding, the Mayoral integrated settlement as well as actions that can be pan-London, sub-regional or truly within the LA boundary.

3. What are the three key outcomes this project will achieve?

The policy prototype will aim to achieve:

1. Identify and define the opportunities for Co-operative development and collaboration by the members in London. Considering the existing situation, challenges and opportunities to increase the focus of the CCIN member network in London. This will be achieved by ensuring all members in London are approached and engaged, being invited to define their challenges and opportunities. As part of this we hope to increase the trusted connections amongst the officers most involved in promoting co-operative principles in the capital.

Success will be the level of engagement achieved and perhaps through the raising of issues that increase the interest (or renewing the interest) of other potential members.

2. Explore the best options for a regional network within London, including the appetite, tools and approaches that can support a network cost effectively. This will involve testing and trying different platforms or methods to activate collaboration and sharing. We recognise that alternative solutions and approaches will come with benefits or challenges.

Success will be whether the methods are proven to generate the involvement, engagement and follow up activity arising from the various approaches.

3. Consider the various models and approaches to support the development of the sector in London and where progress has been made in the recent period. How the activity is being resourced and models to increase sustainable actions and activity. This will include comparison of how and where co-operative workstreams feature in portfolios and governance within the members involved.

Success will be whether there are some common matters, or approaches that seem more specific to the current issues in London.

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

The project will be built upon a democratic approach and the solidarity of members in the London area the key values and principles that the proposal will address include:

- We will understand innovation in the co-operative development activities across the London membership, comparing actions, challenges and issues in themes such as business support, community working, and use of assets.
- We will capture and expand the learning by identifying what sharing methods are most useful and helpful to the membership, and encouraging opportunities for increased learning and exemplar activity.
- Co-production, this will be developed for members by members and be a test and improve approach whereby there is no set methodology we must follow, rather the aim is to understand what will work effectively. We hope by encouraging the co-production aspects we will help better connect and improve relationships.
- We will be walking the talk by bringing an important Co-operative Commission recommendation to life and seeking to expand the benefits of supporting co-operatives to a wider network of members and ensuring that London activity is shared and understood.
- New Models of meeting priority needs will be an explicit subject for the London network to engage in sharing of current projects and initiatives.

5. How will you share your learning across the Cooperative Councils' Innovation Network?

Prepare a summary of the learning and recommendations pertinent to CCIN and London specific aspects and elements, making recommendations for next steps. This might point to, for example, what structures could work in regional networks or thematic networks within CCIN.

Prepare and deliver a workshop at a future CCIN conference or within a member meeting /workshop.

Offer, or host, one-to-one member exchanges to enable more in-depth exploration and sharing of the topics and themes that are being implemented.

I agree that the final report will clearly show the Cooperative Difference that this project will deliver and follow the CCIN Brand Guidelines.



Agree