

CO-OP CONGRESS



The political landscape has shifted post May 26

Why a co-operative approach to Local Government is now more relevant than ever...



Cooperative Councils'

Innovation Network

Cllr Paul Cassidy

Interim Chair of CCIN

Pete Vallance

Strategy & Events - Lead

councils.coop



People-centred councils driving social innovation putting people first

Councils that are committed
to finding better ways of
working with local people

- Action focused
- Membership-based
- Open to all UK councils
- Part of the local govt family

44 Full Members | 28 Associate Members | 45 Affiliates | 23 Supporters

44 Councils



12.27m citizens



£20.94bn budget



Associate Member
Cooperative Councils'
Innovation Network



Affiliate Member
Cooperative Councils'
Innovation Network





What word comes to mind when you hear the phrase **Local Council**



Local Council

What word would you like to use instead?



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – CCIN

Statement on 2026 Local Elections

15th May 2026 | [Governance](#)

Last week's Local Election results showed a fragmentation in Britain's politics like never before, with many local authorities entering 'No Overall Control' as multiple political parties and independents secured wins. Whilst this political fragmentation shows an emerging divide politically, it also makes clear the importance that cross-party, cooperative approaches to governance must have in shaping the future of local government.

Our work at CCIN has always been to promote cooperative solutions, working with any political grouping or local authority who share our common cooperative values.

More news

Call for evidence on business support for co-operatives and non-financial mutuals: Final CCIN response

February 2026

News

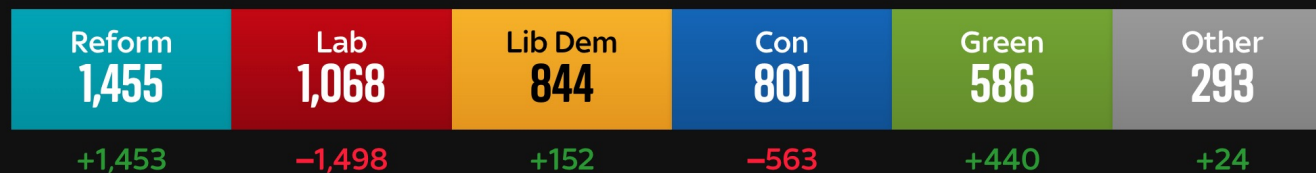
May 26 – Election Outcomes



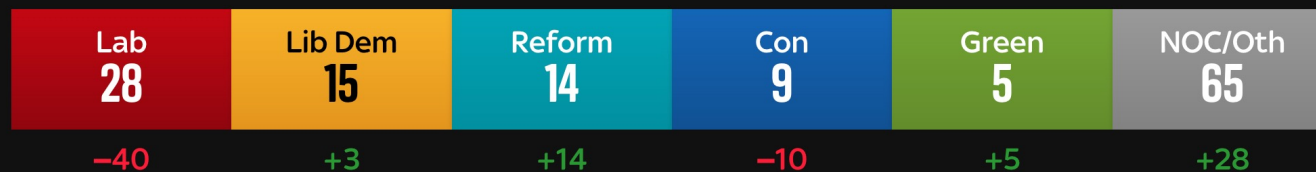
ENGLAND COUNCILS

• [Live coverage >](#)

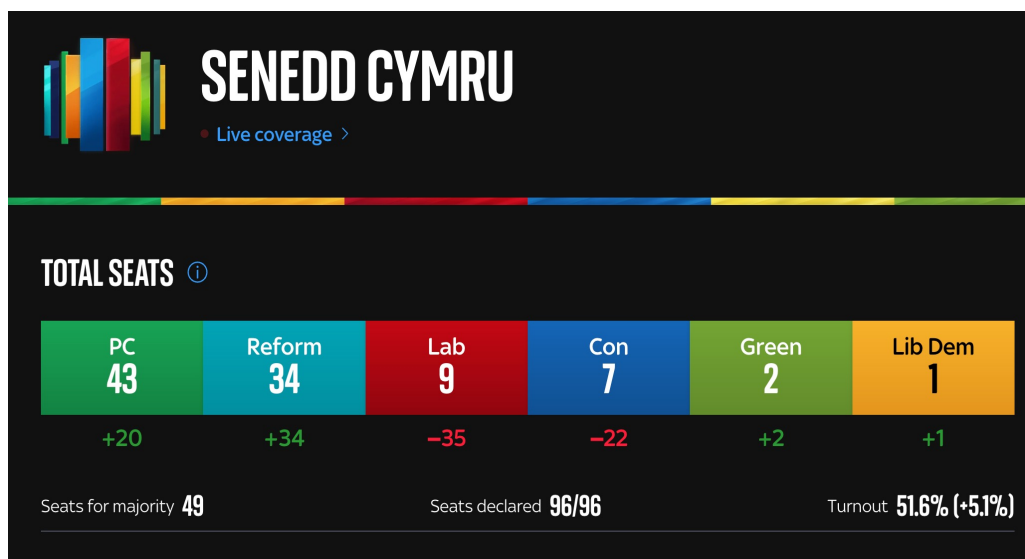
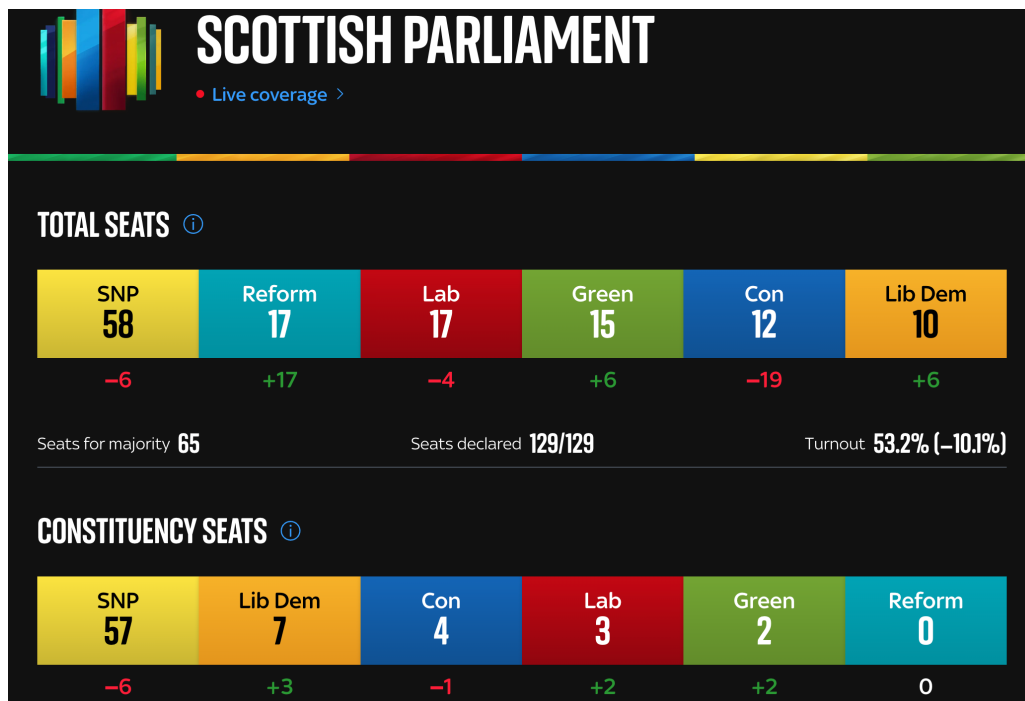
SEATS ⓘ



COUNCILS ⓘ



May 26 – Election Outcomes



So what has changed after May 26?

- **Reforms Rise**

Reform gains changed the tone in parts of local government and made some chambers more volatile and contested.

- **Labour & Conservatives lose 50 Councils**

With shifts to NOC, Reform, Greens & Lib Dem

- **More Fractured Councils**

No Overall Control and coalition style politics are no longer fringe.

- **Cross-party Tectonics**

Creating a bigger practical opening for co-operative methods built on consensus, trust and shared outcomes

Green gains see Labour lose control of Lewisham and Lambeth

9 May 2026

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Becky Morton

Political reporter





'I don't understand' - council meeting descends into chaos

Kirklees Council remains without a majority - or a leader - after a chaotic annual meeting resulted in voting being postponed.

It was the first full meeting since Reform UK took 29 out of the 69 seats to become the largest party on the council, but having failed to secure a majority it led to both Reform leader Sarah Wood and the Green Party's Andrew Cooper putting themselves forward to lead the authority.

However, the vote was abandoned after some new councillors, including Wood, admitted they didn't understand all the rules.



NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL

[Home](#) | [Latest news](#) | Council plans withdrawal from Local Government Association

Council plans withdrawal from Local Government Association

Published: 29 May 2026

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council is to withdraw from the national trade association for local authorities.

The Council will move to cancel its membership of the Local Government Association, saving local taxpayers up to £17,200 a year in membership fees and expenses. From 2022/23 to 2025/26 the saving in fees, plus the time and cost of attending conferences



Council Leader Jonathan Gullis and Deputy Leader Graham Shaw, left, say money currently spent on the LGA could be better invested locally.

Impact to CCIN

	Election 26	Make Up on 6 May 26	Next election	
Birmingham City Council	No Party Maj	Labour (Maj)		Results
Brent Council	No Party Maj	Labour (Maj)		Results
Bury Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results
Camden Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results
Canterbury City Council	N/A	Lab / Lib Dem Coal	LGR 2027	Results
Cardiff Council	N/A	Labour (Maj)	May-27	Results
Cheshire West & Cheshire	N/A	Labour (Minority)	May-27	Results
Chorley Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)	LGR 2027	Results
Glasgow City Council	N/A	SNP (Minority)	May-27	Results
Greater Manchester Combined Authc	N/A		May-28	Results
Royal Borough of Greenwich	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results
Hackney Council	Green Gain	Labour (Maj)		Results
High Peak Borough Council	N/A	Labour (Maj)	LGR 2027	Results
Hounslow Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results
Hull City Council	No Party Maj (Lib Lab)	Lib Dem (Maj)		Results
Inverclyde Council	N/A	Labour (Minor)	May-27	Results
Kirklees Council	No Party Maj (Ref)	Labour (Minor)		Results
Knowsley Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results
Lewes District Council	N/A	Green / Lab Coal	LGR 2027	Results
Lewisham Council	Green Gain	Labour (Maj)		Results
Liverpool City Council	N/A	Labour (Maj)	May-27	Results
Manchester City Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results
Medway Council	N/A	Labour (Maj)	May-27	Results
Middlesborough Council	N/A	Labour (Maj)	May-27	Results
Milton Keynes City Council	No Party Maj (Lib Lab)	Labour (Minor)		Results
North Hertfordshire District Council	N/A	Labour (Minor)	LGR 2027	Results
Oldham Council	No Party Maj	Labour (Minor)		Results
Oxford City Council	No Party Maj	Labour (Minor)		Results
Oxfordshire County Council	N/A	Lib Dem (Maj)	LGR 2027	Results
Peterborough City Council	No Party Maj	Labour (Minor)	May-28	Results
Plymouth City Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results
Preston City Council	No Party Maj	Labour (Maj)		Results
Rochdale Borough Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results
South Ribble Borough Council	N/A	Labour (Maj)	LGR 2027	Results
Stevenage Borough Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)	LGR 2028	Results
Sunderland City Council	REFORM Gain	Labour (Maj)		Results
Swindon Borough Council	No Party Maj (CON REF)	Labour (Maj)		Results
Tameside Borough Council	No Party Maj	Labour (Maj)		Results
Tamworth Borough Council	No Party Maj	Labour (Minor)	LGR 2027	Results
Telford & Wrekin Council	N/A	Labour (Maj)	May-27	Results
Trafford Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results
Warrington Borough Council	N/A	Labour (Maj)	2028	Results
Westminster City Council	Conservatives Gain	Labour (Maj)		Results
Wigan Council	Labour Hold	Labour (Maj)		Results

Date ▲▼	Council ▲▼	Control Type ▲▼	From ▲▼	▲▼	To ▲▼
06 Jun 26	Birmingham	Majority	LAB		NOC
		Administration	LAB	>	LD/GRN/IND min
		Largest Group	LAB		REF
03 Jun 26	Colchester	Majority	NOC		NOC
		Administration	LD/LAB	>	CON/LD
		Largest Group	CON		CON
01 Jun 26	Cambridge	Majority	LAB		NOC
		Administration	LAB	>	LAB min
		Largest Group	LAB		LAB
01 Jun 26	Lambeth	Majority	LAB		NOC
		Administration	LAB	>	GRN min
		Largest Group	LAB		GRN
30 May 26	Brentwood	Majority	NOC		NOC
		Administration	LD/LAB	>	LD/LAB/IND
		Largest Group	LD		LD
29 May 26	Maldon	Majority	NOC		NOC
		Administration	IND min	>	CON min
		Largest Group	CON		CON
28 May 26	Hyndburn	Majority	LAB		NOC
		Administration	LAB	>	LAB min
		Largest Group	LAB		LAB
28 May 26	Norfolk	Majority	CON		NOC
		Administration	CON	>	REF min
		Largest Group	CON		REF
		Majority	LAB		NOC

Source:
<https://opencouncildata.co.uk/changesCtrl.php?y=2026>

Date ▲▼	Council ▲▼	Ward ▲▼	Name ▲▼	From ▲▼	To ▲▼
11 Jun 26	Sunderland	Hylton Castle	Glenn Gibbins	Independent / Other	Reform UK
09 Jun 26	Plymouth	Ham	Ben Rowe	Independent / Other	Reform UK
09 Jun 26	Rushmoor	Manor Park	Becky Williams	Independent / Other	Labour Party
09 Jun 26	Wakefield	Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton	Rhys Carr	Reform UK	Independent / Other
08 Jun 26	Birmingham	Bromford & Hodge Hill	Diane Donaldson	Labour Party	Independent / Other
08 Jun 26	Preston	Garrison	Freddie Bailey	Independent / Other	Labour Party
08 Jun 26	Staffordshire	Leek Rural	Charlotte Kelly	Reform UK	Conservative and Unionist
07 Jun 26	City of London	Coleman Street	Sir Peter Estlin (Alderman)	Independent / Other	Vacant
07 Jun 26	City of London	Coleman Street	John Griffiths	Vacant	Independent / Other
05 Jun 26	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Lurgan	Sorcha McGeown	Sinn Féin	Vacant
05 Jun 26	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Lurgan	Chloe Devine	Vacant	Sinn Féin
05 Jun 26	Breckland	Dereham Toftwood	Sarah Taylor	Independent / Other	Vacant
05 Jun 26	Conwy	Pandy	Penny Andow	Labour Party	Independent / Other
05 Jun 26	High Peak	Barms	Rachael Quinn	Labour Party	Independent / Other
05 Jun 26	Redcar and Cleveland	Wheatlands	Jack Symon	Restore Britain	Conservative and Unionist
05 Jun 26	Trafford	Davyhulme	Billy Burke	Reform UK	Independent / Other
05 Jun 26	Westmorland and Furness	Hawcoat and Newbarns	Hazel Edwards	Vacant	Reform UK
04 Jun 26	Doncaster	Armthorpe	Christopher Marriott	Advance UK	Independent / Other
04 Jun 26	Durham	Lower Teesdale	Jasmine Fox	Reform UK	Independent / Other
04 Jun 26	Edinburgh	Portobello/Craigmillar	Kate Campbell	Scottish National Party (SNP)	Vacant
04 Jun 26	Edinburgh	Southside/Newington	Simita Kumar	Scottish National Party (SNP)	Vacant
04 Jun 26	Lichfield	Whittington & Streethay	Claire Booker	Labour Party	Independent / Other
04 Jun 26	Stratford-on-Avon	Kinwarton	Thom Holmes	Liberal Democrats	Vacant
03 Jun 26	Neath Port Talbot	Bryn and Cwmavon	Dave Whitelock	Labour Party	Independent / Other
03 Jun 26	Neath Port Talbot	Resolven and Tonna	Leanne Jones	Labour Party	Independent / Other
02 Jun 26	Belfast	Lisnasharragh	Eric Hanvey	Alliance - Alliance Party of Northern Ireland	Independent / Other
02 Jun 26	Flintshire	Connah's Quay Central	Bernie Attridge	Independent / Other	Vacant
02 Jun 26	Isle of Anglesey	Talybolion	Llio Owen	Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales	Independent / Other
02 Jun 26	Monmouthshire	Bulwark and Thornwell	Sue Riley	Labour Party	Independent / Other
02 Jun 26	Neath Port Talbot	Sandfields West	Oliver Davies	Labour Party	Independent / Other
02 Jun 26	Norfolk	Old Catton	Mark Tucker	Reform UK	Vacant

Source:
<https://opencouncildata.co.uk/changes.php?y=2026>



Mili Patel ✓ • 1st

Former Deputy Council Leader | Politic...

1w • 🌐



As someone born and raised in [#Harlesden](#) and [#KensalGreen](#), it has been the honour of my life to serve as a Councillor for the area ...more



Jim Robbins ✓ • 1st

Leader of the Labour & Co-operative G...

2w • 🌐



After the recent election results, I'm no longer eligible to continue as Chair of the [Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network \(CCIN\)](#), so ...more



When the Chamber changes, the conditions for delivery do too...



2027

2028

- **England**

- **2027/28 Election cycles**

Fragmentation likely to continue

- **Local Government Reorganisation**

New Councils – who holds power / controls assets and deliver services

Scotland / Wales

- **2027 Local Government Elections.**

Local and devolved politics could become even more multi-party or

Coalition building and political repositioning may impact stability.

If fractured politics becomes a governing reality
co-operation is the only sensible way to make progress....

Consensus- building

- Councils need skills, habits and structures that help people find workable common ground

Community wealth building

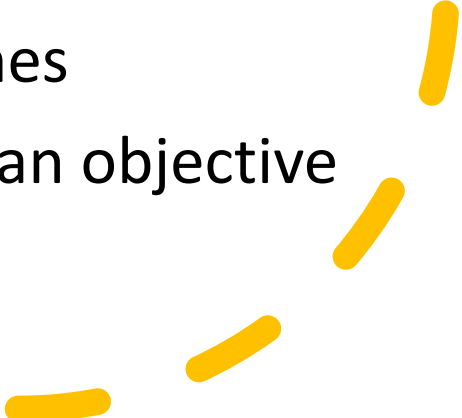
- Anchor institutions, procurement and local economic strategy become practical assets rooted in place.

Co-operative placemaking

- Communities and Councils work together to shape places that reflect local needs, strengths and ambitions

A large orange circle on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

community wealth building

- Develop an Inclusive Economy Charter
 - Promote a progressive procurement policy
 - Support the creation of a regional mutual/community bank by investing
 - Work with local anchor institutions to buy and recruit local
 - Regulate rent and rates for 'local' businesses in council-owned property
 - Offer business rate rebates for those businesses that become Living Wage Accredited
 - Champion Local Employment schemes
 - Have insourcing Council Services as an objective
- 
- A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several short, curved yellow dashes arranged in a roughly circular pattern.

cooperative placemaking

- Develop a cooperative development strategy
- Establish a cooperative development network
- Commit to community engagement in local decision making including participatory budgeting
- Invest in local community production, particularly those focusing on community energy to tackle the climate emergency
- Promote the circular economy
- Support local enterprises to convert into coops/worker coops
- Have an Asset Transfer policy to manage land and assets which support Community Land Trusts



Hands Up.....

Who has worked with their local council in the last 12 months?



Keep your hand up if it felt like
a genuine partnership.

Cllr Jim McMahon: Cooperative localism – the future of public services

5th Jun 2014 | Community



By Cllr Jim McMahon
Leader of Oldham Council and Chair of the CCIN

Cllr Sharon Taylor – Local devolution: an urgent strategic priority

7th Jul 2014 | Governance

CCIN and Stevenage Borough Council



co-operatives
and mutuals
Social enterprises

This article is more than 13 years old

Co-operative councils: the future for local authorities?

Over 20 local councils in the UK have joined a new framework which promises to reinvent the traditional model of the council as a tool of social empowerment. But will it work?



Andrew Bibby

Fri 22 Mar 2013 09:30
CET

Share 0

Prefer the Guardian
on Google



2012

- **44 Councils**
- **Membership of 117 Organisations**
- **Supporter base of 23**

2026 - The practical infrastructure for cooperative local government

- **Action-focused**
A Network for translating cooperative values into practice.
- **Membership-based**
A modest subscription rooted in peer-support, Policy Project delivery and shared learning.
- **Part of Local Government**
A Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association

**Probably the fastest-growing
cross party network in Local
Government....**





Social Partnership

We will strengthen the cooperative partnership between citizens, communities, enterprises and Councils, based on a shared sense of responsibility for wellbeing and mutual benefit.



Democratic Engagement

We will support the active engagement of the full range of residents in decision making and priority setting.



Co-production

We will develop systems that enable citizens to be equal partners in designing and commissioning public services and in determining the use of public resources.



Enterprise and social economy

We will promote community-based approaches to economic development that focus on supporting the creation of jobs, social enterprises and other businesses and providing an environment for cooperative and mutual enterprises to thrive.



Maximising social value

We will support the development of a framework and criteria for social value, giving substance to the concept and supporting Councils with the tools to ensure better local social and economic outcomes.



Community leadership and a new role for councillors

We will explore ways for councils to act as a platform for helping the community to contribute to local outcomes, and to re-think the role of councillors as community connectors, brokers and leaders.



New models of meeting priority needs

In exploring new ways of meeting the priority needs of our communities we will encourage models, such as cooperatives and mutuals, which give greater influence and voice to staff and users. in designing and commissioning public services and in determining the use of public resources.



Innovation

We will embrace innovation in how we work with local communities to drive positive change.



Learning

We will capture and 'expand' the experience and learning from individual projects and approaches in order to encourage broader application of cooperative principles within individual member Councils and across the Network



Walking the talk

As a membership organisation we will make this statement of our principles operational by:

- Cooperation among members: Our members work together to help each other implement our values, sharing experiences and learning.
- Openness of membership: Full, Associate and Affiliate Membership is open to any qualifying Council, organisation or individual who shares our values and is committed to putting them into action.
- Co-production of the Network's work: Members help shape the Network's work programme and the content of events and written products.
- Action-focused: The network is a vehicle for helping councils translate cooperative values and principles into policy and practice.
- Membership-based: The network is majority funded by modest membership subscriptions from its member Councils, Associates and Affiliates.
- Non-party-political: Members share the belief that working co-operatively within and across communities holds the key to tackling today's challenges.

Case Studies illustrate some of the ways Cooperative Councils are working with local people to build strong and resilient Neighbourhoods.

600 Case Studies

www.councils.coop/case-studies



CCIN Policy Lab & Prototype funded projects



Member led projects to find co-operative policy solutions to the challenges facing local government.
Open to all ideas, the more innovative the better!



Policy Labs - more significant collaborative pieces of work that CCIN members work on together and eligible for between £10,000 - £20,000 of funding.



Policy Prototypes - smaller projects delivered in a locality on behalf of the Network and eligible for up to £2,000 of funding.

Co-operative Councils
Innovation Network

Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network February 2022

Understanding the Digital Divide

Co-operative Councils Birmingham City Council COOPERATIVE FUTURES business for good

Community Economic Development Plans as a Tool for Fostering Co-operative Working Between Councils and the Community

March 2022

THE CO-OPERATIVE DIFFERENCE IN CARE

Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network

February 2022

Co-operative Councils Innovation Network coop it works better with you Peopletoo it works better with you

Co-operative Councils Innovation Network Kirklees Council

Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network February 2022

Co-operative Approaches to Reaching Net Zero

Co-operative Councils Innovation Network

Co-operatives Unleashed from the grassroots

July 2020

Co-operative Councils Innovation Network coop

CCIN Action Learning: Cooperation through Covid-19

Community-Led Housing: a Key Role for Local Authorities

Co-operative Councils Innovation Network

Co-operative Councils Innovation Network Newcastle City Council coop

Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network March 2021

Beyond Asset Transfer

Successful Policy Project Applications – 2026

A Co-operative Approach to Development Corporations–

Lead: Camden Council

Leveraging Local Investment for Community Wealth building–

Lead: Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Youth Retention Research–

Prototype: Inverclyde Council

London CCIN Connect

Prototype: Royal Borough of Greenwich

Local Property Partnership –

Prototype: Trafford Council

Active Policy Lab Projects 2024/5

Taking a coop approach to tackling health inequalities –

Lead: Westminster

Cooperative Approaches to Post-16 Transition –

Lead: Manchester CC

Treating Care Experience as a protected characteristic –

Lead: Swindon

Faith, Young People & Resilience

– Lead: GMCA

Sustaining Local Leadership and Place-Based Innovation –

Leads: Stevenage & Brent



Members' Pack

2025



councils.coop

coop People-centred councils
driving social innovation
putting people first



Review of the Year

August 2024 – July 2025



councils.coop

coop People-centred councils
driving social innovation
putting people first

Dynamic Purchasing System



Councils often need to move quickly and flexibly to be on the front foot when it comes to 'doing things differently'.



Sometimes it is necessary to bring in extra capacity and specific expertise to be able to do this, and there can also be a need to seek independent challenge to test assumptions and policy design



As pre-checking has already been done, there are no financial limits on the mini-competition process



Mini Competition must be undertaken when using the DPS, ensuring the CCIN is promoting industry best practice



Allows new suppliers to join at any point



5-year contract 2020-2029

DPS Suppliers 2020 - 2029



Anthony
Collins

branding.coop



collaborate
for social change

COOPERATIVE
FUTURES
business for good



human engine

IDEAS
ALLIANCE



Peopletoo
It works better with you



RedQuadrant



STIRto
ACTION



TruemanChange.



What Councils can do...

Playing a central-role in tackling the Climate Emergency

Signed the 'Councils for Fair Tax' Declaration

Pay Real Living Wage

Signed the 'Modern Slavery' Charter

Treating Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic

Are part of a Real Living Wage City/Borough/Town

Identified a Cooperative Champion (Member &/or Officer) for the council

Actively encourage co-op innovation within staff teams

What you can do with the CCIN

Participate in

- Actively participate in the CCIN Officer Network

Join

- Join the CCIN governance

Engage in

- Engage in Policy Labs and / or Prototypes

Engage in

- Engage in WhatsApp Groups

Submit

- Submit regular Case Studies for inclusion on CCIN website

Engage

- Engage with CCIN social media channels

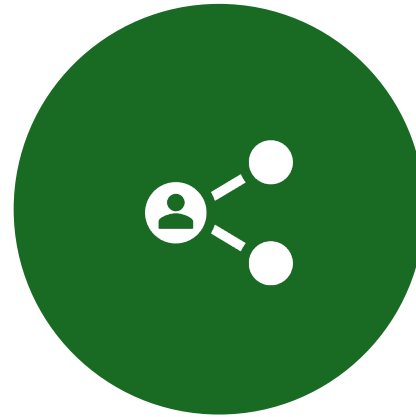
Use

- Use the CCIN Dynamic Purchasing System to bring in capacity & expertise

CCIN Priorities this year:



SHARING OUR VISION



NEW WAYS OF WORKING
- EMPOWERED TO SHARE



MAKING THE STRUCTURE
FIT FOR PURPOSE



**People-centred councils
driving social innovation
putting people first**

Thank you