

EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Online MS Teams Meeting
1330 - 1515 hours on Thursday 21 May 2026

MINUTES

Present:

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| Cllr Jim Robbins | Swindon Borough Council (Chair) |
| Cllr Paul Cassidy | Inverclyde Council (Vice-Chair) |
| Cllr John Fahy | Greenwich Coop Development Agency |
| Cllr Alistair Willoughby | North Hertfordshire District Council (Chair of V&P) |

In Attendance:

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|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jonathan Downs | Oldham Council (Accountable Body) |
| Ben Greenwood | Rochdale Borough Council |
| Fiona Gibson | Cardiff Council - CCIN Officer Lead |
| Pete Vallance | CCIN (Minutes) |

Apologies:

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|-------------------------|--|
| Cllr Peter Bradbury | Cardiff Council - Council Commitments |
| Cllr Sue Smith | Rochdale Borough Council - Personal commitments |
| Cllr Shanika Mahendran | Milton Keynes City Council – Personal commitments |
| Cllr Barbara Brownridge | Oldham Council (Accountable Body) - Procedural matters |
| Cllr Jacky Alty | South Ribble Council – Personal commitments |

Note: The meeting was inquorate. Members therefore discussed the matters on this agenda, identified those items requiring formal ratification, and agreed that any urgent progression would be followed up with absent members outside the meeting through a polled vote.

1. Introductions, welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed colleagues to the urgent meeting, noting that it had been convened to consider the impact of the May 2026 local elections on CCIN governance and to identify the immediate decisions required.

1.1. EOC Attendance – Discussion Paper

Noted. Members were advised that vacancies had arisen through non-attendance and May 2026 Local Government election results, including the cessation of the Associate Member seat previously held by Cllr Mike Stubbs and the ex officio EOC seat linked Mili Patel former Chair of the Values & Principles Board.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Alastair Willoughby to the meeting, noting that he had been asked to act as Interim Chair of the Values & Principles Board, due to his current role as Vice-Chairman, V&P Board.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above

2. Minutes of the last meetings

2.1. EOC - 27 January 2026

Those present indicated that the minutes were a correct record.

2.2. Joint EOC & V&P – 23 March 2026

Those present indicated that the minutes were a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the meeting 27 January 2026

Due to the urgent nature of this meeting, matters arising not covered off in this meeting were to be reported to the July 2026 Executive Oversight Committee.

4. Governance

4.1. Impact of Local Government Elections 2026 on CCIN Governance Structure

Members discussed the significant impact of the May elections on CCIN governance, noting that a number of representatives had either not been returned or were affected by changes in council control, creating immediate pressures on quorum and continuity across CCIN Governance at Executive Oversight and Values & Principles Board.

The paper produced for this item highlighted the following vacancies, this will be further impacted due to notification from Cllr B Arnold, Halewood Town Council Representative confirming that due to a change in political control, there would be no further engagement with the Network.

Executive Oversight Committee Vacancies

- Full Member x 1
- Associate Member x 1

Values & Principles Board Vacancies

- Full Member x 3
- Associate Member 2. (1 + Cllr B. Arnold withdrawal)

The Chair gave a verbal update on the position for Swindon Borough Council, explaining that while he remained Leader until the annual meeting on Friday 22 May 2026, the expectation was that he would no longer hold that office or have a Portfolio position thereafter, he appreciated that this had implications for the Chair role of CCIN and was prepared to support in whatever way he could while Swindon Borough Council continued its support of the Network. Members discussed the constitutional implications, including the current requirement that the EOC Chair be a Leader or Mayor of a Full Member council.

A detailed discussion followed on whether any temporary flexibility existed, including whether the Chair might continue on an interim basis, whether a temporary constitutional amendment could be made, or whether continuity should instead be achieved through the Vice-Chair stepping in. During the discussion, members also reflected that the constitution had proved robust but left little contingency room for circumstances of this kind.

Having revisited the constitution during the meeting, Jonathan Downs advised that the current reading pointed towards the Vice-Chair stepping in if the Chair ceased to meet the eligibility criteria. Members accepted that interpretation as the most prudent basis on which to proceed, while also noting that there may be scope to consider whether Cllr

Robbins could remain involved in another capacity, subject to Swindon's position and future governance decisions. Members agreed that this experience highlighted a wider issue for future review, namely whether restricting board roles to members holding leadership or cabinet-type responsibilities had unintentionally narrowed the pool of members able to commit the time needed for CCIN governance work.

CLlr Robbins confirmed that it would be his intention to remain on Executive Oversight Committee subject to Swindon's Leadership approval.

CLlr Cassidy asked that whatever result happens at Swindon Council's Annual Meeting, he asked that thanks be extended for the work and Leadership that CLlr Jim Robbins has given to the Network. This was also recognised by all in attendance at the meeting.

Governance Decision 1.

It is agreed, Should CLlr Robbins not remain as a Leader as Swindon Borough Council; in line with the current CCIN Constitutional (Section 10.2) he will step down as Chair, CCIN. The role of Interim Chair will be placed with the current Vice Chair – EOC, CLlr Paul Cassidy. The Interim Chairmanship will last until a future election can be held at an Executive Oversight Committee, with eligible candidates of Leader or Mayors in the capacity as EOC Members or until the end of the current term of office.

4.2. Electoral Timeline 2026/27

Pete Vallance introduced the proposed recovery timetable. Members noted the proposal to begin the nominations process immediately for Associate Member vacancies, as these were considered the easiest to stabilise quickly, while allowing more time for Full Member vacancies so that conversations could take place around the LGA Conference once Councils had completed their annual meetings and leadership positions had settled.

i Interim Elections 2026

Members also noted the wider governance implications across both boards, including the need to stabilise representation quickly with suitable engagement of Member Councils in this time of transition for newly formed Councils.

Governance Decision 2.

Nominations & Elections process for Associate Member Representation on both EOC and V&P for remainder of this current term will be planned to start before the end of May 2026.

Governance Decision 3

Nominations & Elections process for Full Council Member Representation on both EOC & V&P for remainder of this current term will be scheduled to include nominations window to include LGA Conference 2026 period to enable the promotion of this opportunity at this event.

Members were advised that, on the basis of these, new Associate Member representatives would likely be known by mid July and Full Member representatives before the September 2026 EOC meeting.

ii Full Elections 2027-2029

Members discussed the interaction between interim elections and the next full governance cycle. The original paper proposed extending the current terms of office through to the AGM in February 2027, with all-out elections then run on a timetable from late 2026 into January 2027 so that transitions could take place at the AGM.

Governance Decision 4

It is agreed that the Electoral Process and timeline will be run on the basis of a transition of current term and new term transitioning at the CCIN Annual General Meeting 2027.

4.3. CCIN Annual General Meeting & Conference 2027

During discussion, concern was raised that February was difficult for some councils because of budget-setting, and that a return to November would be too compressed given the immediate need for interim elections, external conference planning and wider member engagement and attraction work.

Members therefore leaned towards an early March 2027 AGM and conference as a more workable landing point for the full election cycle, with the detailed timetable to be refined and brought back.

Governance Decision 5

It is agreed that 2027 is an in-person Conference and Hybrid Annual General Meeting taking place in Early March 2027. Process to solicit offers to host this event will be enacted once confirmation of budgets are made.

5. CCIN Policy Projects

5.1 Applications 2026

i Application Follow Up Responses & V&P Decisions

EOC members were reminded that Values & Principles Board had already considered the applications and EOC papers included both the follow-up responses and the V&P decisions. The position emerging from V&P was supportive overall, but not uniformly so, particularly in relation to the two larger Policy Lab bids and the London proposal.

Members were required to weigh delivery risk, partner capacity and value for money as part of their decision making.

Trafford's Local Property Partnership Model and Inverclyde's Youth Retention Research had both attracted clear support through the prior process. The follow-up material was considered to have strengthened each proposal, with Trafford giving greater clarity on place, outputs and learning materials, and Inverclyde defining more clearly the role of co-production, peer research and the final toolkit.

iii Policy Prototype – Exploring the Property Partnership Model – Trafford

Policy Project Recommendation 1 – To approve funding of Property Partnership Model

iii Policy Prototype – London CCIN Connect – Royal Borough of Greenwich

It was felt that £2000 could appear too high if it was to fund a meeting, with members querying whether London venues could be sourced through Member Councils and the LGA London base. In response, it was noted that the proposal is not intended as a one-off meeting but as a facilitation and coordination process aimed at testing whether some focussed activity, which had the potential to be replicated in other Regions could strengthen CCIN member engagement, re-

engage former member councils and generate future membership growth for the Network.

Policy Project Recommendation 2 – To approve majority decision for London CCIN Connect

This proposal has strategic merit but did not command the same level of immediate consensus as the other two prototypes. Members were therefore content to record support in principle from those present, but agreed that the item should be included in the post-meeting ratification process to determine whether there was a majority in favour.

- iv Policy Prototype – Youth Retention Research – Inverclyde Council**
Cllr P Cassidy took no part in the discussions or voting for this project, due to his role as an Elected Member at Inverclyde.

Policy Project Recommendation 3 – To approve funding of Youth Retention Research Project.

- v Policy Lab – Leveraging Local investment for Community Wealth – GMCA**

The aims of this Project represented a substantive gap in activity around Community Wealth Building Agenda for current CCIN activity, and logically flowed from the Community Wealth Building Conference Session 2026

Members also noted that the revised response had improved clarity around resource, procurement, accountability and the role of CLES, with additional member involvement as required.

Representatives from Oldham and Rochdale provided context around their support to the development of this Project as a concept and agreed that contract commissioning would need to be in line with procurement processes as required by GMCA.

It was noted that a discussion was previously had that GMCA were currently leading on the Tackling Faith Based Resilience Young People Policy Project, previous CCIN guidance has stated that a Full Member Council could only lead one Project. It was agreed that in light of the different subject matter that this should not be a blocker for this Project.

Policy Project Recommendation 4 – Leveraging Local investment for Community Wealth Project. – To approve funding of this Project subject to a secure commitment from all partners.

Support was expressed on the basis that outputs should be practical, shareable and useful beyond Greater Manchester. CLES proposed involvement as a project partner and principal contractor was noted.

- vi Policy Lab – A cooperative approach to development corporations – Camden**

Members recognised that the theme was relevant and timely, especially in relation to cooperative placemaking and community engagement over major development vehicles. Discussion focused on delivery resilience, particularly given the need to confirm partners such as Birmingham after the elections and to ensure the work produced tangible outputs rather than being open-ended.

Policy Project Recommendation 5 – Leveraging Local investment for Community Wealth Project. – To approve funding of this Project subject to a secure commitment from all partners.

5.2 Existing Policy Projects

Existing policy projects Update Sheet - noted. It was reported that the lead authorities of Swindon and Westminster had confirmed that delivery remained on track despite the recent election outcomes. Partner council confirmation is ongoing and to be checked through the next round of quarterly reporting and sponsor oversight.

5.3 Fairer Help – Policy Prototype Final Report

Receipt of Hackney’s Fairer Help final report – noted. V&P had indicated its support for the report, but that because EOC members had only just received the pack, final sign-off of the completed report would be better dealt with as part of the post-meeting ratification process to ensure sufficient reading time.

6 Membership Update – Pete Vallance

Members received the membership update and agreed that the recommended approach to new applications from umbrella associations of councillors should be directed towards Supporter Membership rather than Associate Membership, in order to avoid creating disproportionate access to network benefits through a single organisational subscription.

Action: PV to make contact and promote this Membership Opportunity to other umbrella councillor organisations.

6.1 Approval of new Members

Membership Approval

To Support and ratify the membership applications of:

Associate Membership: Glastonbury Town Council, Kingston Independent Residents Group

Affiliate Membership: A Fairer Society

Supporter – (Individual): Cllr Lola Whipp.

Supporter – (Organisation) Signalise.coop, Association of Green Councillors

7 CCIN Presence at External Events 2026

Members noted this report which included a list of external events for 2026 already booked, and the proposals for additional CCIN presence at external events 2026.

Jonathan Downs confirmed that budget reprofiling could accommodate this level of spend during the current year and that, while the investment of c.£15,000 was significant, securing only one or two additional Full Members could materially offset the cost.

Members were broadly supportive of the principle, subject to final operational planning.

Future marketing activity at wider events and organisations would be considered as part of updated membership marketing activity.

Events 2026 Approval

To support CCIN stall attendance at the following events in 2026:

- Welsh Local Government Association (16-17 September 2026)
- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (19-20 October 2026)
- Green Party Annual Conference (2-4 October 2026)
- Liberal Democrat Conference (19-22 September 2026)

8. Accountable Body Matters

8.1 Finance and Budget

Jonathan Downs provided a verbal finance update, noting that all outstanding Full Member payments had now been secured for the current period and that the network was therefore in a stable position through to the end of July 2026.

He cautioned, however, that the next invoicing cycle would provide the first real test of how the election results might affect future income and that budget reprofiling would likely be needed for the next period.

Members also noted the need to revisit some legacy support costs in the near future so that expenditure better reflected the network's current operating model and priorities.[]

8.2 LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report

Noted

9. Schedule of future EOC meetings:

A short discussion took place on timing, with Fiona Gibson noting that the January minutes had previously recorded both meetings as afternoon meetings and warning that morning timings could disadvantage some members, including Cllr Bradbury.

Action: Pete Vallance agreed to revisit the timing and liaise further so that the arrangements maximised attendance.

- **Wednesday 1 July 2026 - 1.30pm**
- ~~Wednesday 16th September 2026~~ **To Be changed due to attendance at Wales LGA Conference.**

10. Any Other Urgent Business

Meeting End: 14.52pm

PJV