VALUES & PRINCIPLES BOARD

Online meeting

13.30pm – 15.30pm on Thursday 23 July 2026

MINUTES

Present	
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	North Herts District Council (Interim Chair)
Claire Ward	Anthony Collins LLP (Vice Chair)
Cllr Lisa Denson	Cheshire West & Cheshire Council (Council activities)
Cllr Dave Grocott	Kidsgrove Labour Group
Gareth Dowling	Co-operative Party
Liz McIvor	Cooperative Heritage Trust
David Randall	Crystalisr
Gareth Nash	CMS.COOP (Personal commitment)
Jonathan Bland	Social Business International
Sam Webster	Co-operatives UK
Cllr Paul Cassidy	Interim Chair, CCIN Executive Oversight Committee
In attendance:	
Pete Vallance	CCIN Membership Engagement & Strategy – Lead
Morgan Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Coucnil
Daniel Wainwright	Camden Council (Item ?)
Daniel Pitt	Old Diorama Arts Centre (Item ?)
Eve Holt	Greater Manchester Combined Authority (for item ?)
Apologies:	
Paul Bell	Unison (Health)
Rebecca Harvey	Co-operative News

1. **Welcome, introductions, apologies**

   Joe Joseph was welcomed to his first meeting as an Associate Member of the Values & Principles Board.

   Cllr Paul Cassidy was welcomed in his role as Interim Chair of the Executive Oversight Committee. The Chair noted that both the EOC and Values & Principles Board were currently operating with interim leadership.

   1.1 **Apologies & Absence**

   Apologies were noted as above.

   1.2 **Governance Vacancies**

   The Values & Principles Board currently has three vacancies among Full Council Member places

   The Board also had three vacancies among Associate Member places, following the changes affecting Cllr David Darkin's representation. This was the third occasion on which nominations for Associate Members had been sought.

A more targeted approach would be taken, with individual emails being sent to encourage nominations. The importance of Associate Member involvement was particularly relevant in the context of local government reorganisation, devolution and the relationship between central and local government.

Action: Pete Vallance to undertake targeted engagement with Associate Members regarding the current vacancies.
Action: Board Members to encourage suitable Full Council and Associate Member representatives to come forward.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting – 26 February 2026**
The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2026 were approved as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising**
No additional matters were raised

4. **Funded Project Tracker Update**
Project Tracker had been circulated to members, in future meetings all updates would be compiled as a single document to minimise attachments.

4.1 **Project Sponsors for all Projects**
Agreed: David Randall to act as Project Sponsor for **Leveraging Local Investment for Community Wealth** – GMCA 2025/26, subject to no other interest
* D.Randall confirmed interest in Sponsor for the Project post Meeting.

Agreed: Claire Ward to act as Project Sponsor for **A co-operative approach to development corporations** – Camden 2025/26.

5. **Towards Cooperative Governance (Rochdale– 2023-24)**
The Project had originally received an initial tranche of £8750. Members discussed whether the project had yet delivered sufficient value to justify the initial funding. Cllr Paul Cassidy reported concerns previously raised by EOC regarding the lack of progress, limited communication and insufficient engagement by the project partners.

Cllr Cassidy explained that, in his view, the work undertaken to date did not yet clearly justify the level of funding awarded. He noted that the project appeared to have developed more like a Policy Prototype than a Policy Lab, and that low level of active partner involvement had weakened the project to date.

The Board discussed the need to ensure that any final materials were properly completed and presented to an appropriate standard, rather than accepting incomplete or draft material. Concern was expressed that the Board might be attempting to reshape the project into something different from the original proposal. Various members had suggested that the Board should be prepared to stop the project rather than continue trying to make it work.

Pete Vallance explained that an immediate termination could create difficulties in determining how much funding should be recovered, as work had already been undertaken and some expenditure had been committed. He considered that the most practical approach would be to secure a defined set of final outputs and then close the project without progressing to Stage 2.

Agreed: The Board agreed that the project should not proceed to a further stage of funding. However, Rochdale should be given the final opportunity to complete and consolidate the work covered by the initial funding.

The expected outputs were identified as follows:

1. Finalise the existing publications and digital resources in a suitable format.
2. Deliver the planned workshop programme, subject to confirming the final number and delivery format.
3. CCIN can help Promote the workshops to the wider CCIN membership where appropriate.
4. Rochdale, a Project Lead Produce a final report bringing together the work undertaken, the workshop outputs and the learning from the project.
5. Provide evidence of expenditure and demonstrate how the initial funding had been used.

It was suggested that The workshops would expected to take place during September & October 2026, with a draft final report to be available for the Values & Principles Board meeting on 22 October 2026.

Agreed: Rochdale would be asked to complete the existing publications and digital resources, deliver the workshop programme and provide a final report. To be communicated that The Rochdale project would not proceed to the next stage of funding.
If Rochdale was unable to deliver the agreed outputs, CCIN would consider seeking recovery of the relevant funding.

Action: Pete Vallance to communicate the Board's decision and requirements to Rochdale, as project lead.
Action: Claire Ward and Pete Vallance to maintain oversight of the final outputs and ensure that the publications and workshop materials are suitably completed.

Presentations at meeting

6. **A cooperative approach to development corporations (Camden 2025/26)**
The Chair welcomed Daniel Wainwright and Daniel Pitt. The project would seek to influence the establishment of the potential Euston Local Development Corporation, particularly its future governance arrangements and the meaningful involvement of residents, communities and local partners. The work was timed to inform Camden's anticipated development corporation set-up process during summer 2027.

The project would involve a literature review, learning visits with partner authorities and communities, and an ideas lab bringing together residents, community organisations, practitioners and other stakeholders. Camden, Trafford and GMCA would act as partners, with Birmingham also being explored. A lead researcher would be appointed to support delivery and prepare the final report, overseen by a partner working group.

Daniel Pitt explained that the budget included provision for a lead researcher, learning visits, engagement with community organisations and associated travel and delivery costs. Funding would cover direct project costs, including recognition of community organisations' time.

David Randall asked how the work would result in practical change within Camden? The intention was to inform the constitution and governance of the proposed Euston Development Corporation, including the way communities could be represented and exercise influence in formal decision-making and will be captured along with experiences from other Development Corporations involved in the Project. Camden's Euston team would be involved, ensuring a direct link between the learning generated and implementation.

Agreed: To approve the Camden Policy Lab project plan, communications plan, budget and co-operative difference, and proceed to contract stage.
Action: PV to progress the Funding Agreement with Camden Council, subject to confirmation of all Partners.

7. **Leveraging Local Investment for Community Wealth – (GMCA 2025/26)**
Eve Holt, Head of Policy and Implementation at GMCA, presented the Policy Lab, explaining that it was aligned with Greater Manchester's co-operative approach and aimed to identify how investment could better support community wealth building by addressing systemic barriers.

By development of the project it had already brought partners together and identified more existing good practice than originally anticipated. The work could therefore be expanded to create a shared learning system, connect existing initiatives and produce practical policy recommendations for local authorities in Greater Manchester, with potential to inform wider national policy and be replicated in other parts of the UK where Combined Authorities are established or being developed.

The Board highlighted the importance of ensuring that community partners were properly recognised, including in relation to the in-kind contributions and venue provision identified in the budget.

Agreed: To approve the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Policy Lab project plan, communications plan, budget and co-operative difference, and proceed to contract stage.
Action: PV to progress the Funding Agreement with GMCA, subject to confirmation of all Partners.

8. **Project updates:**

8.1 **Greenwich Co-operative Care Compact and Workers Network (Greenwich – 2024-25)** – Project Sponsor – David Randall. Original proposal – Click this link :
David Randall reported on the completed prototype, which had sought to establish a care workers' network in South East London and create supporting arrangements to represent workers' interests. An initial event had been delivered, although attendance from new participants was lower than anticipated. The project had nevertheless provided useful learning about the difficulty of establishing a new network without a clear and immediate reason for participants to engage.

The Board noted the Draft Final report in CCIN case study format, it was asked that the Report format be revised into a Policy Prototype report and not on a Case Study template.

Agreed: The Board approved the report in principle, subject to revision and final formatting.
Action: Pete Vallance to ask the project team to revise the case-study document into a final policy prototype report and submit it to EOC for final sign-off.

8.2 **Taking a Cooperative approach to tackling health inequalities (**Westminster City Council 2023/24) Policy Lab – Project Sponsors: Gareth Nash
Q2 26 Project Update Noted.

Gareth Nash reported that progress had been slower than expected but that a well-attended Westminster workshop had taken place, involving NHS, public health and local authority representatives. The workshop demonstrated positive partnership working around residents' needs, although the final toolkit and the extent to which the co-operative sector would be reflected remained to be seen.

Pete Vallance advised that, following the change in Westminster's political administration, the project team was reviewing the terminology and content of the draft report and toolkit with the new portfolio holder.

Action: Pete Vallance to circulate the current draft report and toolkit to Board Members and report back following discussions with Westminster's new portfolio holder.

8.3 **Treating Care Experience as a protected characteristic (Swindon Borough Council 2024/25) Policy Lab –** Project Sponsor Claire Ward**.** Original proposal – Click this link

Claire Ward reported that the two-year project was progressing well. Events held in Manchester and Birmingham had involved representatives from Partner authorities and provided useful learning about how councils were recognising care experience in their decision-making and services. Questionnaire responses had been limited, an advisory panel had now been established to support direct engagement with care-experienced people, with a toolkit to follow in the second year.

The Board noted that lower-than-expected event costs had enabled funding to be redirected towards supporting care-experienced people to participate. The change in political administration at Swindon had not affected progress.

Q2 26 Project Update Noted and budget amendment agreed.
Action: Draft report to be presented to the Values & Principles Board on 27 January 2027

8.4 **Faith, Young People & Resilience: Understanding the Past, Strengthening Cohesion, and Preparing for the Future Policy Lab (GMCA 2024/5)** Project Sponsor - Cllr Bell
Original proposal – Click this link
Q2 26 Project Update Noted.

Members recognised the interesting blog post written by the Sulafa Abushal, Project Lead.
Blog for Co-ops Day - Click this link

8.5 **Sustaining Local Leadership and Place-Based Innovation (Stevenage Borough Council/Brent Council (2024/5) Policy Lab** –Project Sponsor - Cllr Denson Original proposal – Click this link
Q2 26 Project Update Noted.

Due to the change in meeting date, an Update Video from Will Holt, Brent – Click this link was circulated to Members.

8.6 **Approaches to Post-16 Transition (Manchester City Council 2024/5**) Policy Lab – by Anthony Turner, Head of Post-16. Project Sponsor: Paul Bell. Original proposal – click this link
Q1 26 Project Update Noted.

9. **2026 Policy Prototypes – Updates**
The Board noted that the first updates for the 2026 Policy Prototypes were expected at the end of Quarter 3 2026.
- London CCIN Connect – Lead: Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Exploring the Property Partnership Model – Lead: Trafford Council
- Youth Retention Research – Lead: Inverclyde Council

10. **Member Engagement updates**

10.1 **Elections – Remaining term of office**
Discussions were covered at Item 1.2 of this meeting.

The Board recognised the importance of maintaining a sufficiently broad membership to ensure that the Values & Principles Board could operate effectively and represent the range of CCIN members.

Full Council Member Nominations – Click this link
Associate Member Nominations – Click this link

10.2. **Associate Member Engagement**
The importance of Associate Member participation was noted, particularly in relation to local government reorganisation, devolution and the changing relationship between local and national government.

**Post Meeting, Joe Joseph has offered to act as conduit with Associate Members, including working with CCIN Central support to run an online session for Associates in Autumn 2026.*

10.3. **Affiliate Member Engagement**
Claire Ward report that no matters had been raised to her from the Affiliate Membership Scheme.

10.4 **Cooperative College**
Discussions had focused on the future hosting of CCIN training materials. Members noted that the materials would require updating as part of any future hosting arrangement.

Noted: The training materials require review and updating before being hosted elsewhere.
Action: Pete Vallance to explore potential hosting arrangements with the CCIN Officer Network / Full Member Councils

10.5 Co-op Heritage Trust
Update from Liz McIvor was noted. A question was raised about whether the future of Toad Lane might be at risk. Liz McIvor advised that this was a potential outcome

10. **Request for Support: Telling the CCIN Story**
The Board considered a proposal from Francesca Gagliardi, Professor from University of Hertfordshire and Editor of the Journal for Cooperative Studies. It highlighted an opportunity to tell the Story of the CCIN. to support work telling the CCIN story. Members agreed that the proposal came at an opportune moment as the Network will have been in operation for 15 years in 2027 and should be supported.

Agreed: To support the proposal and request EOC support up to £4,000, capped at 25% of the total project cost

12. **Coop Places – Pride in Place Community of Practice -**
Members noted the Community of Practice Slide Deck attached and endorsed the 5 Commitments for Coop Places. This would be used to update Cooperative Placemaking section on the website.

Affiliate Members, Anthony Collins & Mutual Ventures were thanked for their support in CCIN's first Pride in Place Community of Practice Online Session.

13. **Case Studies**
The Board was reminded that case studies could be submitted throughout the year for inclusion on the website, and compiled for **CCIN Case Studies Pack 2027.** Members were encouraged to submit examples of work influenced by CCIN Policy Labs, Policy Prototypes or wider network activity.

13.1 CCIN Case Studies Pack 2026 – Click to download
Noted.

14. **Any Urgent Business**
No urgent business was recorded.

15. **Next meeting**
The next meeting of the Values & Principles Committee will take place on:
Thursday 22 October 2026 at 1.30pm

The following project reports are expected to be available for consideration at this meeting
- ***Towards Cooperative Governance (Rochdale– 2023-24)***
- ***Taking a Cooperative approach to tackling health inequalities (****Westminster City Council 2023/24)*

Meeting Closed 15.28
PJV