



Cooperative Councils'

Innovation Network

Cooperative Councils' Innovation Network Newsletter - August 2026 Edition



Chair's Update

Welcome to the August edition of our Cooperative Councils' Members Update. In this month's edition you'll find exciting opportunities to engage with the network, updates from some of our members and read about how you can help lead CCIN into the future by hosting our 2027 Annual Conference.

*Cllr Paul Cassidy - CCIN Chair
Deputy Convenor of Inverclyde Council*



Network Updates

Cooperative Councils'

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PRIDE IN PLACE

LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

Pride In Place: Building a Community of Practice through CCIN

'Pride in Place' is a transformative opportunity for communities across the UK and an exciting opportunity for Cooperative Councils to lead the way in demonstrating how community-empowerment based on a shared set of values and principles can be levied to deliver practical solutions to the concerns of local people.

With CCIN Members across the UK having neighbourhoods which contain areas receiving 'Pride in Place' funding we have an exciting opportunity to come together to shape the future of Neighbourhood Boards, and community-empowerment more widely across the local government space.

Last month CCIN hosted its first 'Community of Practice' webinar; designed to bring together officers from across authorities which have received 'Pride in Place' funding to discuss where they are in the process and to hear expert support and advice from CCIN Affiliate Members 'Mutual Ventures' and 'Anthony Collins'.

Is your council receiving 'Pride in Place' funding? Please complete our short survey to access resources and inform our future sessions by helping us understand what support would be most useful for CCIN Councils supporting Neighbourhood Boards.

[Complete the CCIN 'Pride In Place' Survey](#)



Welcoming Cllr James Giles to the Executive Oversight Committee

We are delighted to announce that Councillor James Giles, Leader of the Kingston Independent Residents' Group at the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, has joined the EOC as a representative for Associate Members.

We look forward to welcoming Cllr Giles to his role at our next meeting and working with him to ensure CCIN continues the work of spreading cooperation for years to come.

#CCIN27

Could your council host the UK's fastest growing local government network for our next in person conference?

Interested?
Contact Pete on
hello@councils.coop
for more information



Could you host our 2027 Conference?

Next year, our annual conference will be an in-person event, and as with our previous conferences, we're looking for a Full Member Council to host the event in early March.

Hosting the CCIN Annual Conference is an exciting opportunity to put your council at the centre of the fastest-growing network in local government and to showcase your local area on a national level.

If you are interested in having a preliminary conversation regarding hosting the 2027 Conference, please contact Pete Vallance (Strategy, Events & Membership Lead) at hello@councils.coop.



Member Updates

Cooperative Councils'

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Support the Cooperative Heritage Trust



The Co-operative Heritage Trust CIO sits at the heart of our movement's identity, safeguarding the birthplace of the values and principles that guide Cooperative Councils today. As a member of the CCIN Values & Principles Board, the Trust plays a vital role in ensuring that our shared history continues to inform the way we empower communities and deliver change.

Established in 2007, the Trust was created to protect heritage assets held by co-ops and to secure funding to modernise the Rochdale Pioneers Museum at 31 Toad Lane. This site is more than a museum: it is the foundation stone of the global co-operative movement, a place where the Pioneers first demonstrated how collective action could transform lives.

Today, however, this heritage is under threat.

The Trust relies on income from a diminishing endowment that can no longer meet rising operational costs. With no core funding from the movement, local authorities or national government, the charity faces a stark reality. Without new income streams or alternative uses for its buildings and collections, it will soon have to consider beginning the winding-up process. This would place irreplaceable heritage assets at risk as unfunded liabilities.

The potential loss of the museum and archive would be felt across the co-operative sector. These collections are focal points for research, education and inspiration, helping councils, communities and co-ops understand how co-operative values have shaped social progress. At a time when local government is seeking fairer, more democratic models of service delivery, the lessons of the Pioneers are more relevant than ever.

This moment calls for collective action. The Trust is an independent charity and cannot operate sustainably without support from partners across the movement. CCIN Members, co-ops, councils and sector organisations all have a role to play in protecting the story that underpins our shared purpose.

The Trust offers museum visits, venue hire, education programmes, events, volunteering opportunities and ways to donate or support its work. These activities not only sustain the charity but help ensure that future generations can learn from the origins of co-operation.

[Support the Co-operative Heritage Trust](#)

Coop News Readers Survey



As the world's oldest cooperative news source, Coop News plays an important role in our movement – including sitting on our CCIN Values & Principles Board – but they aren't taking anything for granted about their future.

To help them prepare for the future please take time to complete their feedback survey to help them navigate the increasingly changing media landscape and ensure that cooperators are getting the best from our oldest cooperative news network. The survey will only take 8-10 minutes.

[Complete The Survey](#)

Cardiff Council Secures UNICEF Child Friendly City Accreditation



Cardiff City Council has proudly secured reaccreditation as a UNICEF Child Friendly City for a further three years, recognising the city's continued progress in embedding children's rights across services and decision-making, and its commitment to ensuring every child can thrive.

The reaccreditation, covering 2026–2029, reflects the sustained efforts of Cardiff Council and its partners to place children's rights at the heart of policy, services and delivery across the city.

Cardiff was first awarded Child Friendly City status in 2023, the first city in the UK to achieve the prestigious international recognition, following several years of work through UNICEF UK's Child Friendly Cities and Communities programme.

Since then, the council and its partners have continued to build on that foundation, embedding a child-rights-based approach across how the council operates, ensuring children's voices are increasingly shaping decisions, and delivering tangible improvements in communities.

[Read More on the Cardiff Council Website](#)



Upcoming Events

Cooperative Councils' Innovation Network

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Associate Members' Meetup



An informal online get-together exclusively for CCIN Associate Members on **10th September** at **7PM**. Hosted by Joe Joseph, Associate Representative on the CCIN Values & Principles Board.

This is your space to:

- Meet fellow Associate Members from across the UK
- Share what's happening in your council and hear from others
- Connect directly with your representatives on the Values & Principles Board and Executive Oversight Committee
- Help shape future Network activities, including policy project opportunities and the content for 2027 AGM

Minimal slides.

Just practical conversation, shared learning and a chance to influence what the Network does next.

[Register Here](#)

Welsh Local Government Association Conference



CLLGC WLGA

This years Welsh LGA Conference will be taking place in Swansea from 16-17th September and CCIN will be in attendance.

If you or anyone interested in joining CCIN will be at the conference come find us at our exhibition stand, say hello and pick up some CCIN goodies!

[Read More](#)

Community Wealth Building Conference 2026



COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING



the national organisation
for local economies

CCIN Affiliate Members, CLES are pleased to announce the date for this year's **Community Wealth Building Summit** as Wednesday 11th November 2026.

Convened annually by the Centre for Local Economies (CLES), the Community Wealth Building Summit brings together the thinkers, policymakers, practitioners and changemakers driving the movement for fairer, more democratic local economies.

More than a conference, the summit is where ideas connect with action, partnerships are forged, and bold solutions to entrenched social and economic challenges take shape.

At CLES's 40th birthday celebration in April, now Prime Minister Andy Burnham declared "on this 40th anniversary, we can call time on trickle down economics". So, this year's Summit will be held down the road from Number 10 North, in Manchester, where they will explore the positive, practical ways that we can use Community Wealth Building as a tool to end trickle down economics.

CCIN will share further details of this event as they become available.

Co-operative Party Local Government Forum



On Wednesday 9th September, The Co-operative Party is hosting its Local Government Forum - an event which brings together Co-operative Party councillors from across Britain to discuss the change they want to deliver together.

If you're a Co-operative Party member, why not join this important discussion about the future of cooperation in local government?

[More Information](#)

21st Century Social Club Annual Conference 2026

21st Century Social Clubs

Are you interested in saving social clubs? Then CCIN Affiliate Members 'Stir to Action' is hosting an event in which you may want to take part!

On 10th September they will be hosting their second annual ‘21st Century Social Clubs: Annual Conference’, bringing together club members, policymakers, charities and funders to explore how existing and new social clubs can address today’s pressing social and economic challenges.

The one-day conference will include a showcase from successful social clubs, discussion on the role of social clubs in renewing neighbourhoods, inclusive arts and culture, and much more.

The event is open to:

- Social club members and managers
- Policymakers and funders
- Civil society organisations and researchers
- Heritage bodies and built environment

[Find out more](#)

Party Conference Season

As a cross-party network, the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network is proud to attend multiple party political conferences to promote the work of our members and discuss how cooperation can transform local institutions, local economies, and local communities with prospective members.

This year we will be attending the below conferences:

Liberal Democrat Conference	Labour Party Conference
	
19-22nd September Brighton	27-30th September Liverpool
Conference Website	Conference Website
Green Party Conference	
	
2-4th October Brighton	
Conference Website	

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