



Pleased to support the Welsh Local Government Association Conference 2026



Celebrating 30 years since the creation of Wales's 22 unitary authorities

It was a real pleasure to spend time with councillors, officers and partners from across Welsh local government. As a conference sponsor, CCIN was proud to support the sharing of ideas, experience and local stories at a time when strong civic leadership and practical collaboration matter more than ever.

Conversations throughout the event had a clear common thread: How councils can work more closely with communities, make the most of local strengths and deliver better outcomes in the face of continuing financial and social pressures.

These are questions being addressed by councils across Wales and the wider UK – and they are central to the work of CCIN.

Leadership across Local Government

Cllr Paul Cassidy, CCIN Interim Chair of the Executive Oversight Committee, was delighted to welcome two local-government chairs to the CCIN stand:



- Cllr Anthony Hunt, Chair of the Welsh Local Government Association and Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council
- Cllr Eamonn O'Brien, Chair of the Local Government Association and Leader of Bury Council

Their visit was a welcome reminder of the value of relationships across borders, parties and tiers of government. CCIN is a non-party-political network, open to all UK councils, which creates space for members to share what is working, test new approaches and learn from one another.

Community Wealth Building on the Agenda

One highlight of day one was the session, “**Strengthening Local Authorities through Community Wealth Building**”, led by CCIN members Cwmpas and the Centre for Local Economic Strategies.

It was particularly good to hear from Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, and to reflect on the practical opportunities for councils to use their influence – as employers, commissioners, investors, landowners and convenors – to make local economies work better for local people.

There is still an opportunity to comment on Cwmpas’s new report,

Building Stronger Local Economies.

Read the report here:

[Building Stronger Local Economies](#)

Please send comments and feedback to dan.roberts@cwmpas.coop.

We were also struck by Gwynedd Council's clear community wealth-building framework: **Listen, Enable, Invest and Connect**. It is a useful, memorable structure for councils considering how they can build prosperity alongside communities, businesses and local institutions. Read more about [A Prosperous Gwynedd](#).

Community wealth building and **Co-operative placemaking** are two of CCIN's core areas of practical learning: using procurement, local employment, assets, enterprise and community participation to build stronger, more resilient places.

Congratulations Fiona!



We'd like to take this opportunity to wish Fiona Gibson (Former CCIN Officer Network liaison - Cardiff City Council) all the best as she transitions into her new role as Senior Policy Officer at [Cymdeithas Llwodraeth Leol Cymru / Welsh LGA](#).

Healthier, fairer communities...

Sir Michael Marmot's keynote address was a powerful reflection on the role local government can play in tackling health inequalities.

His message was clear: healthier, fairer and more resilient communities are built not only through health services, but through the conditions in which people live their lives — including housing, work, education, transport, local environments and a sense

of agency. That is why local government's role in shaping place remains so important.

Recognition for local government

Day two began with a range of speeches, including an address from the First Minister of Wales, **Rhun ap Iorwerth**.



He recognised the value of a "cooperative style of leadership" in his tribute to **Cllr Andrew Morgan OBE**, the outgoing Chair of the WLGA, and for his positive contribution to raising the profile and voice of local government in Wales.

Celebrating success Awards 2026

CCIN was also proud to support the **Building Towards a Just and Adaptive Transition** award in the evening. The category celebrates projects and teams taking practical action towards a fairer, greener future, while contributing to a just transition to a net-zero and resilient economy.

Congratulations to Newport City Council's Lighting Column EV Charging Project, which won the award. The award was presented by **Cllr Paul Cassidy**, Interim Chair of CCIN's Executive Oversight Committee.



The project is a strong example of the kind of locally rooted innovation that councils can achieve when climate action, infrastructure and community benefit are

considered together.

Join the network

CCIN is the UK's fastest-growing cross-party network for councils that want to work creatively and cooperatively with communities, partners and one another.

Members gain access to peer learning, practical tools, policy-development opportunities, case studies and a national platform for sharing what works.

Rydym yn dathlu'r ffaith bod Cyngor Caerdydd yn Aelod Llawn o CCIN, a byddem yn croesawu mwy o gynrychiolaeth gan Awdurdodau Lleol ar draws Cymru

We celebrate the fact that Cardiff Council is a Full Member of CCIN and would welcome more representation from Local Authorities across Wales.

Full membership is open to local councils, combined authorities and Police and Crime Commissioners across the UK. It gives elected members and officers access to the full range of CCIN networks, events, resources and opportunities to lead or take part in funded Policy Labs and Policy Prototypes.

Associate membership is available to town, parish and community councils, as well as political groups within councils. This provides a practical route for opposition or minority administrations to join as a group where full council membership is not currently possible, while continuing to make the case for wider council membership.

Affiliate membership is for organisations that share CCIN's values and want to support, learn from and contribute to innovative co-operative local government.

To find out more about joining, visit councils.coop or email hello@councils.coop.
Best wishes,

Pete Vallance

Events, Membership & Strategy - Lead.

Download the 2026 Case Study Pack

"This Network has drawn strength from bringing people together from across the political spectrum, united by a shared commitment to core co-operative principles rather than party lines."

Cllr Paul Cassidy- Interim Chair, CCIN



Copyright © Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network 2018, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

CCIN c/o Oldham Council
Spindles Shopping Centre
George Street
Oldham
OL1 1LF



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

Cooperative Councils'
Innovation Network

Building resilient Places

Local ambition, shared learning
Uchelgais leol, dysgu ar y cyd

PEOPLE | PLACE. | LEADERSHIP | COMMUNITY WEALTH

www.councils.coop

Would you like to change how you receive these emails?

Please [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this mailing list](#).