

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

SIG Name:	Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network (CCIN)
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Membership

A full list of CCIN members is available here: <https://www.councils.coop/about-us/our-members/>

Aim

The CCIN is a collaboration between local authorities who are committed to finding better ways of working for, and with, local people for the benefit of their local community.

Our work recognises the need to define a new model for local government built on civic leadership, with councils working in equal partnership with local people to shape and strengthen communities.

This means a new role for local authorities that replaces traditional models of top down governance and service delivery with local leadership, genuine co-operation, and a new approach built on the founding traditions of the co-operative movement: collective action, co-operation, empowerment and enterprise. We provide a national voice for cooperative councils, informed by real experience and practice, with the aim of drawing on, influencing and framing national policy and political debates about the future of public services, local democracy, and communities across the country.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

It has been another busy twelve months as we have continued to grow the CCIN's profile and showcase the valuable contribution the Network's Members make to municipal policy development, at a time when local government is faced with the challenge of providing good and effective public services during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our latest membership figures are as follows:

- 31 Full Council Members
- 17 Associate Members

- 25 Affiliate Members
- 7 Supporters

Member Induction Programme

Also launching in July 2020 is our Member Induction Programme. Since the LGA Conference in July 2017 when we launched our Associate, Affiliate and Supporter Schemes, the Network has grown from 19 Councils to 72 Councils and Organisations. To help our messages reach the widest possible audience we commissioned the Co-operative College to develop a three Phase Induction Programme for the Network.

Establishing a new Dynamic Purchasing System for our Members

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. The CCIN recognises this and wants its members to be as enabled as possible to develop practical policy solutions as quickly and informed as possible – and this is where the DPS comes in.

Events

During the last 12 months, we have attended and exhibited at 9 events as we promote the Co-operative Council message to a wider audience. Unfortunately Covid-19 has impacted our event schedule, though we continue to hold regular virtual meetings for our members online.

Policy Labs Funded

The CCIN work programme is delivered through larger projects (called Policy Labs). Policy Labs are collaborative pieces of work that CCIN members will work on together on behalf of the network. Over the next twelve months the following Policy Labs will be delivered:

We've taken a slightly different approach to our innovation funding in 2020, because we want to ensure that as a Network we begin to think creatively about co-operative solutions to the current health and social care crisis. So, this year we offered councils £1500 to deliver Policy Prototypes and for these to be completed in 6 - 9 months.

We're then planning to pull all the learning together into one major policy and resource publication. A joint meeting of the Executive Oversight Committee and the Values & Principles Board was held in Stevenage in January 2020 where members reviewed all of the bids. It was agreed to fund all 13 Bids.

We want all Members to take the opportunity to contribute to this work to ensure that the outcomes are truly innovative. The contacts for each project are available on our website. Read about all the projects here: <https://www.councils.coop/2020-health-and-social-care/>