

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network (CCIN)
Lead Member:	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE, Leader of Stevenage Borough Council and Chair of the CCIN
Lead Officer:	Jonathan Downs, Principal Policy Officer, Oldham Council

Email:	comms@councils.coop
Address:	Oldham Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UL
Telephone:	0161 770 5691
Website:	www.councils.coop

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 with ever diminishing resources.

Launch of the CCIN Housing Commission report on Community-Led Housing

The Commission's report '[Community-Led Housing: a Key Role for Local Authorities](#)' was launched in Westminster on 24 January at an event attended by Network Members and housing experts from across the UK. The Commission's practical approach is aimed at promoting good practice and innovation to enable councils to work with communities to generate more affordable housing and make best use of government funding for community-led housing (CLH).

Co-operative of the Year Awards

A record 33,000 votes were cast in the national awards, organised by Co-operatives UK and supported for the third year by the CCIN, with nominations and votes coming from large and small businesses across the sector. 2018 saw a new Award 'Co-operative Council of the Year' which was presented to Cardiff City Council.

Events

During the last 12 months, we have attended and exhibited at 25 events as we promote the Co-operative Council message to a wider audience. This included attending the Local Government Association Annual Conference & Exhibition.

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:

1. **Co-operative Approached to Sustainable Food:** Led by Oldham Council this project will show how Co-operative Councils can address their food poverty and healthy eating objectives (building on the Sustainable Food Cities principles) through local partnerships with sustainable local businesses (often, but not always, co-operatives or other social enterprises).
2. **Co-operatives Unleashed - as seen from the grassroots:** Led by Plymouth City Council this Policy Lab is an enquiry into strategic Council participation in support of doubling the size of the co-operative economy before the end of the next parliament.
3. **Co-operative Neighbourhoods:** Led by Stevenage Borough Council this proposal will test trailblazer neighbourhood/locality pilots to demonstrate the value of co-operative councils further developing their mechanisms to work at a very localised level with their residents as co-producers of local communities and neighbourhoods.
4. **Promoting the Cities of Service model of social action to CCIN members:** Over 10,000 people so far have shown us that they want to make a difference in the place where they live by getting involved in Cities of Service projects and we want to scale this work up even further to work with even more citizens across the network to tackle the key issues in each local authority area.
5. **Achieving Social Outcomes:** This project is being sponsored by Peopletoo, Associate Members of the Network. Peopletoo wish to support the increased awareness and understanding of social value and maximising social outcomes across local government.