

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

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

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Membership

[View the full list of CCIN members](#) online.

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 has been faced with the challenge of providing good and effective public services during the Covid-19 pandemic and as we start to recover from its impact. Our latest membership figures are as follows:

- 33 Full Council Members
- 19 Associate Members
- 33 Affiliate Members
- 14 Supporters

Highlights have included:

- A 350% increase in total Membership over the last three years
- Launch of our Dynamic Purchasing System comprising 18 provider organisations
- Funding of 14 bids for our 2020 Policy Prototype Projects on Health and Social Care
- 257 Case Studies on the Councils.coop website giving our members recognition with new audiences
- Bumper issues of our Winter 2019 and 2020 Case Studies Packs
- 105 delegates at our Annual Conference in Rochdale with speakers from all levels of government
- Exhibited at our first Lib Dem Conference and secured our first Lib Dem Council – Torbay
- Launch of 'Coops Unleashed – as seen from the grassroots' Policy Lab report which provides practical steps for councils to grow the co-operative economy
- Ran a conference promoting the Cities of Service model of social action to CCIN members
- Commissioned the Co-operative College to deliver an Induction Programme for the Network
- Launch of the online Members' Forum
- Commissioned an Action Learning Set from Covid-19

Funded projects 2020

Each year CCIN Members can apply to deliver projects on behalf of the Network. Larger Policy Labs attract up to £10,000, and Full Council Members are encouraged to submit bids which can be delivered in partnership with other Members where they will seek to find co-operative policy solutions to the challenges facing local government. Smaller pieces of work are known as Policy Prototype, and these can attract up to £1,500.

Policy Lab Updates:

In 2020 we saw progress on several Policy Labs and continued to monitor their delivery:

1. Beyond Asset Management Policy Lab – Lead: Newcastle City Council

2. Promoting the Cities of Service model of social action to CCIN members – Lead: Plymouth City Council – partially completed
3. Co-operative Approaches to Sustainable Food – Lead: Oldham Council
4. Co-operative Neighbourhoods – Lead: Stevenage Borough Council
5. 'Co-operatives Unleashed: as seen from the Grassroots 2020 – Lead: Plymouth City Council

Policy Prototype Updates:

For 2020 we agreed to fund projects where members are thinking creatively about co-operative solutions to the current health and social care crisis. We received 13 Bids and decided to support them all:

- Enabling a dementia-friendly Burntwood - Burntwood Town Council
- Co-operative Engagement - Toolkit tests - Rochdale MB Council (Action Together)
- Connecting Communities: Stevenage Community Transport Service - Stevenage Borough Council
- Kirklees Adult Social Care Vision – Social Marketing – Kirklees Council
- Catalysing Care Co-operatives through Community Engagement - Kirklees Council
- Personalised Commissioning model comparison event: Beyond Time and Task - Kirklees Council
- Health & Social Care Urgent Response Team - Telford & Wrekin Council
- Plymouth Complex Leads Alliance - workforce development programme - Plymouth City Council
- Plymouth Diabaters - Plymouth City Council
- Plymouth Health and Wellbeing Hubs - Plymouth City Council
- Living Well at Home (LWAH) – Tameside Council
- Neighbourhood Conversations - co-operative approach to strengthening community resilience at a locality level - Southampton City Council
- Co-operative Care Summit – harnessing the strength of the local community, voluntary and social enterprise sector to deliver innovative approaches in delivering health and social care - Southampton City Council

The Covid pandemic directly impacted on the number of face-to-face opportunities we had to connect and collaborate; however, we did attend nine events before Lockdown including the Liberal Democrat Party Conference which we attended for the first time.

Our Case Studies Pack is central to our print and we'd encourage all members to supply Case Studies for it. We've continued to enhance our range of quality conference merchandise to support our messaging.