

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

SIG Name: County Councils Network (CCN)

Lead Member: Cllr Tim Oliver, CCN Chairman-Elect

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Membership

Buckinghamshire C
Cambridgeshire CC
Central Bedfordshire C
Cheshire East C
Cornwall C
Cumbria CC
Derbyshire CC
Devon CC
Dorset C
Durham CC
East Riding of Yorkshire C
East Sussex CC
Essex CC
Gloucestershire CC
Hampshire CC
Herefordshire C
Hertfordshire CC
Kent CC
Lancashire CC
Lincolnshire CC
Norfolk CC
North Yorkshire CC
Northumberland CC
North Northamptonshire C
Nottinghamshire CC
Oxfordshire CC
Shropshire C
Somerset CC
Staffordshire CC
Suffolk CC
Surrey CC

Warwickshire CC
West Northamptonshire C
West Sussex CC
Wiltshire C
Worcestershire CC

Overview

Vision

To ensure CCN is an influential and respected network, advocating innovative policy solutions on the challenges facing local government and the wider public sector.

Aim

Ensure Counties have the powers and resources to meet the needs and aspirations of their residents on issues of particular importance to our councils and their communities.

CCN Core Functions

The 2021/22 business plan set out the 'core business' and activity that CCN delivers on behalf of our member councils, including;

National Advocacy & Representation

Our network acts as the informed and representative voice for County Councils and Unitary Councils in England. We represent and advocate on behalf our members within the LGA; make direct representations to Whitehall departments; and collaborate closely with national stakeholders.

Research & Policy Development

Combining our national level expertise and our members' frontline policy experience we produce and commission sector-based, forward thinking, research on behalf of our members and the wider public sector to provide innovative policy solutions to key challenges facing our residents.

Sharing & Promoting Best Practice

Through various platforms, including an Annual Conference, workshops, seminars, publications, research and reports we identify and share best practice across our network to enable our members, and wider public sector, to tackle the economic and social problems faced by local communities.

National Collaboration and Commissioning

The CCN works with a wide network of industry stakeholders. This includes the LGA, ACCE, SCT, ADASS, ADCS, DCN and Professional Associations, as well as think-tanks, private

and public sector local government partners. We seek to commission work to support our research, policy and advocacy to supplement key skills of the CCN team.

Communications & Public Affairs

CCN acts to raise the profile of the network and represent County and County Unitary Councils in the broadcast, online and print media; articulating members' views, showcasing best practice and neutralising general threats to our members' reputation. CCN seeks to influence national stakeholders through a comprehensive public affairs strategy, engaging civil servants, Ministers and other key influencers.

Political Leadership

Each Council in CCN membership nominates four elected members to serve on the **CCN Council**. Top up places are used to ensure political proportionality on CCN Council.

The CCN Council AGM in September elects the **CCN Management Committee** which comprises the Chairman and a Vice Chairmen from each of the political groups.

Spokespersons are nominated by each political group on a politically proportionate basis. The **Management Committee** and **Spokespersons** form the **CCN Executive**.

CCN Officer Team

The work of the network is supported by a small core team based in Local Government House in Westminster.

Director	Simon Edwards
Head of Policy & Communications	James Maker
Senior Policy Officer	Jonathan Rallings
Senior Policy Officer	Peter French
Senior Policy & Public Affairs Officer	James Holden
Policy Officer	Ellie Skinner
Media & Communications Officer	Ian Burbidge

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

For further information on CCN research, policy and communications activity over the past year and future planned work please find a [view the CCN Business Plan](#).