

City of Edinburgh Council

10:00, Thursday 2nd November 2023

Response to Motion – Cooperative Councils

Executive/routine
Wards

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Council:
 - 1.1.1 Note the cost associated with becoming a member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network.
 - 1.1.2 Agree that officers should work with CINN to establish cost of full annual membership.
 - 1.1.3 Agree that the final decision to join CINN should form part of the budget setting process at February Council.
 - 1.1.4 Agree that once the Council has joined, officers will respond to additional actions agreed by elected members.

Dr Deborah Smart

Executive Director of Corporate Services

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Response to Motion – Cooperative Councils

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets the next steps for the Council to join the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network (CCIN). This follows a motion to Full Council in August.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Co-operative Council Innovation Network (CCIN) is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA) with 139 members and registered supporters. Their accountable body is Oldham Council who are responsible for the group's financial processes and management.
- 3.2 The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) was a full member until August 2017. In April 2018, the Council's Labour Group joined as an Associate Member and membership fees were paid by the group. Following the 2022 election, CCIN agreed to treat the Council as full members whilst the Administration transitioned to full membership. A presentation from CCIN with further detail is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 At Council in August 2023 the following motion was approved:
"The City of Edinburgh Council to join the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network and requests that a report be brought to a further meeting of Full Council providing a detailed breakdown of the specific actions necessary to realise this aspiration."
- 3.4 Further detail was also requested on the following areas:
- 3.4.1 Ensure that future procurement practices confirm to the ethical commitments contained in the membership of the network and,
- 3.4.2 Align the priorities of the Council to those of the network, plus any other germane considerations,
- 3.4.3 Join the network in terms of costings and officer time. Should also include an estimate of any travel time and costs,
- 3.4.4 Detail the current and projected costs of membership of the network, the costs expended on membership since 2016 and outline the benefits achieved for Edinburgh residents at taxpayers' expense since 2016, should any exist.

- 3.4.5 Arrange for a briefing to elected members on the principles of the Co-operative Council Innovation Network
- 3.5 This report considers the process to join CINN after which further work will be undertaken on 3.4.1, 3.4.2 and 3.4.5.

4. Main report

Cost of joining

- 4.1 To transition to full membership, the Council must submit base data on the Council's controllable budget and the city's population. From this information payable fees are calculated:
 - 4.1.1 Base fee: £500 for a Unitary or Metropolitan Council or £250 for a District or Borough Council.
 - 4.1.2 Population fee: 0.65% of the populations expressed as £, capped at £1,100.
 - 4.1.3 The budget fee: based on the controllable (available) revenue and capital budget of the organisation and set at 0.002% of budget, capped at £6,300.
- 4.2 The maximum fee an organisation is required to pay for full membership is £7,900 per year.

Benefits of membership

- 4.3 The CINN organise and host events each year, with an in-person Annual Conference and AGM in November which is free for members and supporters. A Congress is also being planned for June 2024 which will require additional costs. Throughout the year, CINN host events which are either webinars or have online attendance options, therefore keeping costs of attendance to the time required. CINN provides free online training resource for Councillors and Officers to give insight into some of the key themes for Co-operative Councils.
- 4.4 CINN members also have the opportunity to share case studies on areas of successful practice and the organisations website contains links to many resources that are available to members. **Appendix 2** sets out in more detail the benefits of full membership.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Subject to Council approval, officers will submit information to CINN to enable them to calculate the annual cost of membership. This will be brought back to Council as part of the annual budget setting process.
- 5.2 Once the Council is a member, officers will look at the following amendments which were agreed at Council:
 - 5.2.1 Ensure that future procurement practices confirm to the ethical commitments contained in the membership of the network and,

- 5.2.2 Align the priorities of the Council to those of the network, plus any other germane considerations,
- 5.2.3 Arrange for a briefing to elected members on the principles of the Co-operative Council Innovation Network.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 As this will require new funding, further work will be undertaken to establish how this can be made available.
- 6.2 For attendance at events and associated travel costs approval will need to be sought in advance.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 There are no direct equality or poverty impacts of this report or our membership of CINN. Membership would likely support the Council to achieve its three priorities as set out in the business plan.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct climate or nature emergency implications from this report. Membership would likely support the Council to achieve its three priorities as set out in the business plan.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 There are no significant issues with risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact that cannot be mitigated by developing a good working relationship with CINN between both officers and elected members.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Further details as to the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network may be found on their website councils.coop

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Being a Cooperative Council – CINN presentation
- 11.2 CINN Membership Benefits

Being a Cooperative Council



Co-operative Councils
Innovation Network

#OurCoopDifference

What you can do as a council

Playing a central-role in tackling the Climate Emergency

Signed the 'Councils for Fair Tax' Declaration

Pay Real Living Wage

Are part of a Real Living Wage City/Borough/Town

Signed the 'Modern Slavery' Charter

Identified a Cooperative Champion (Member &/or Officer) for the council

Actively encourage co-op innovation within staff teams

What you can do with CCIN

Encourage Members and Officers to undertake CCIN certified training modules

Offer CCIN accredited training courses for member and officer development

Actively participate in the CCIN Officer Network

Member of the CCIN governance

Engaged in Policy Labs and / or Prototypes

Engaged in WhatsApp Groups

Submit regular Case Studies for inclusion on CCIN website

Engage with CCIN social media channels

Use the CCIN Dynamic Purchasing System to bring in capacity & expertise

community wealth building

- Develop an Inclusive Economy Charter
- Promote a progressive procurement policy
- Support the creation of a regional mutual/community bank by investing
- Work with local anchor institutions to buy and recruit local
- Regulate rent and rates for 'local' businesses in council-owned property
- Offer business rate rebates for those businesses that become Living Wage Accredited
- Champion Local Employment schemes
- Have insourcing Council Services as an objective

cooperative placemaking

- Develop a cooperative development strategy
- Establish a cooperative development network
- Commit to community engagement in local decision making including participatory budgeting
- Invest in local community production, particularly those focusing on community energy to tackle the climate emergency
- Promote the circular economy
- Support local enterprises to convert into coops/worker coops
- Have an Asset Transfer policy to manage land and assets which support Community Land Trusts

Our Values

Whilst not a registered cooperative, the CCIN has adopted the Cooperative Values developed by the ICA:



Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Our Principles



Social Partnership



Democratic Engagement



Co-production



Enterprise and social economy



Maximising social value



Community leadership and a new role for councillors



New models of meeting priority needs



Innovation

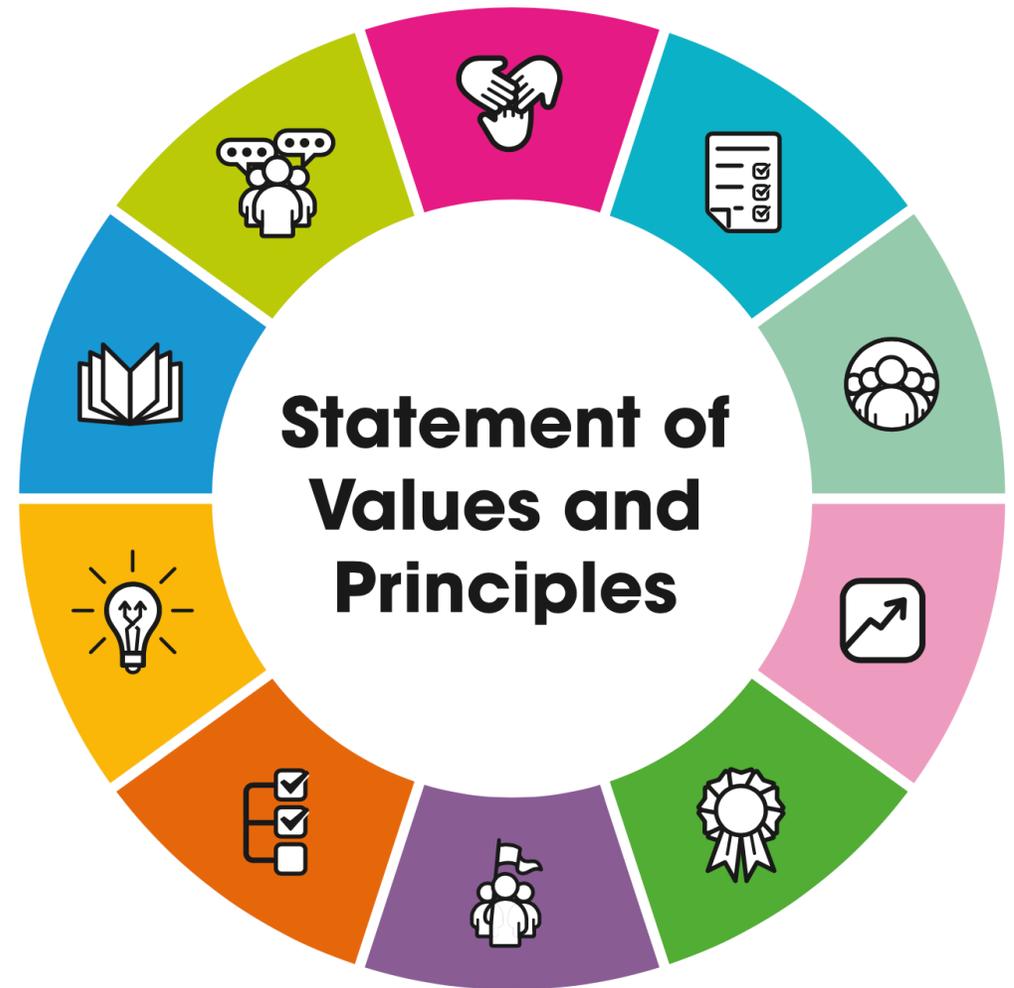


Learning



Walking the talk

These icons are used to demonstrate how cooperative councils are putting our cooperative principles into practice, demonstrating the **'cooperative difference'** in the work that they are doing



Membership Benefits – Updated June 2021

Member benefit	Membership Category			
	Full	Associate	Affiliate	Supporter
Mailings inc Monthly eNewsletter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to Officers' Network	Yes	Yes ¹	No	No
Access to Procurement Framework (DPS)	Yes	Yes	No	No
Access to 'Membership Category' WhatsApp Group	Yes ²	Yes ³	Yes	No
Able to apply for Policy Lab & Policy Prototype funding	Yes	Yes	No	No
Submit Case Studies for the website	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Submit Case Studies for the Case Studies printed pack	Yes ⁴	Yes ⁵	Yes ⁶	No
Submit articles for the Monthly eNewsletter	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Submit a blog post ⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Annual conference and AGM attendance	3 free places, others at 50% discount	1 free place, others at 50% discount	1 free place, others at 50% discount	25% discount
Invitations to CCIN events ⁸	Yes (at least one free place)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Printed publications on request ⁹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to bespoke Induction Programme ¹⁰	Yes	Yes	No	No
Eligible to stand for EOC	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Eligible to vote for EOC members	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Eligible to stand for V&P Board	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Eligible to vote for V&P Board members	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

¹ For Town and Parish Councils

² Officer Network and Portfolio Groups

³ Different Groups for Opposition Groups and Town & Parish Councils – self-managed Groups

⁴ Double page spread for one or two Case Studies

⁵ One page for one Case Study

⁶ One page for one Case Study

⁷ CCIN reserves the right not to publish a blog post, if it doesn't, a reason will be given

⁸ Depending on the nature of the event the mix of free and discounted spaces available will change ⁹
Subject to availability

¹⁰ Delivered by, and contracted directly with, the Co-operative College

E: comms@councils.coop | **T:** [@CoopInnovation](#) | **W:** councils.coop