



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

CCIN innovation funding – 2018/9 Policy Labs

Would you like to collaborate with other CCIN Members (Councils, Associates and Affiliates) to find co-operative solutions to the challenges facing local government? Is there a co-operative idea that you would like to run in your local area? If yes, we want to hear from you!

As a CCIN member you can apply for up to £10,000 to deliver a Policy Lab. This could be anything from co-operative approaches to tackling food poverty to initiatives that put communities back at the heart of local decision making. We are open to all ideas, the more innovative the better!

So what do we need from you? If you have an idea, please complete the expression of interest form below, telling us about your idea for a Policy Lab. Don't be shy: we want to hear ideas from ALL our members.

Please return your completed EOI to comms@councils.coop

Expression of Interest – CCIN Funding

CCIN Member Authority: Newcastle City Council

Name of CCIN Lead Member: Newcastle City Council

Name and Job Title: Philip Hunter, Principal Policy Advisor

1. What is your idea?

Provide details of what your proposed project is, the story of how you identified the need or opportunity for the proposal and how the money will be spent.

The project is about:

- Improving co-operative working between the City Council and residents in Newcastle's most multi-ethnic inner city neighbourhoods, chiefly by evaluating the experience and effectiveness of a joint working group created by the City Council and the residents' led Greening Wingrove & Arthur's Hill Community Interest Company (which is an environmental community co-operative).
- Increasing awareness and participation in a 'pilot' scheme to revive recycling in a set of streets where recycling has suffered a severe set-back over the past year.
- Providing residents' feedback on what would work for them in make good use of the recycling service, and feeding responses into a City Council review of recycling.
- Strengthening residents' awareness of how to participate in the local community and gain improvements that they may want to see.

The proposal flows from experience over the past few years to tackle extreme waste, fly tipping and littering in a set of Newcastle's older terraced streets. Labelled by the 'Clean for the Queen Campaign' as one of the UK's twelve worst 'grot spots', these densely built Arthur's Hill and Wingrove Terraces contain over 2000 households with a large transitory population. Residents' surveys, conducted by the City Council and by a local residents' led environmental community organisation, Greening Wingrove, have consistently shown that waste tends to be the most visible local problem about which people feel strongly.

Residents have tried to deal with the situation in a number of ways over the past few years, successfully starting regular group litter picks, a network of individual 'freelance' litter pickers, reviving gardens across the bleak terraces, and working on anti-waste projects with local primary schools. Beyond these reactions, the Greening Wingrove CIC established a working group with the City Council's waste disposal and enforcement services about a year ago to devise a more strategic approach. Unfortunately, a new 'shared bin' recycling system introduced by the Council ran in to difficulties, and recycling effectively collapsed.

The CIC suggested rebuilding recycling by offering to return individual blue recycling bins to households who indicated that they wished to recycle. This idea has been taken up in the past month and has the advantage of growing recycling based on residents who are keen to do so. Over time this could become a 'critical mass' influencing others, and especially new residents, to recycle.

The Policy Lab would be a way of advancing and evaluating this new initiative in co-operative working by:

- Holding face to face survey interviews with 20% of the area's households (it's notoriously difficult to find people at home but 20% would still be a substantial set of respondents);
- Conducting in-depth interviews with Council and residents' participants in the joint working group to evaluate effectiveness and suggest any improved ways of operating as a co-operative partnership.
- Producing a report that evaluates the findings and includes recommendations that could feed into the City Council's overall policy response to the work of an independent Waste Commission that submitted its report recently.

Between 1 February and 30 April 2019, the Policy Lab will seek to survey 450 residents in depth and interview 20 people who have taken part in the working group. Two Greening Wingrove workers will undertake most of this 'action research' – the established Community Organiser assisted by a Research Assistant (to be appointed) – and the CIC's volunteer Board members and other members with relevant expertise will sift data and draft reports. A total of 250 hours is thought to be required for interviews, meetings, preparation and planning, promotion and publicity to help to attract local participation.

The outline budget is as follows:

Policy Lab Budget	£
Research Team	
Research Lead for Survey and Evaluation work: Community Organiser: Feb-April 2019 @ CO costs (172 hours)	3033
Research Asst Survey work (150 hours @ £12 ph Feb-April 2019, Self-Employed)	1800
Resources	
Tablets for data input x 2 @ £125 each	250
Printing (survey materials, newsletter, report)	1900
ID badges	20
Room hire (NCC/CIC Working Group meetings + evaluation session)	80
Mobile phone x1 for personal safety (Nokia 3.1) pay-as-you-go	350
Project Management	
Insurance (part contribution)	700
Office base	300
Management costs @ 15%	1300
DBS clearance	60
CCIN Reference Group meetings (via Zoom hire facility)	200
Total required for the Policy Lab =	9993

2. Who will you work with?

A key requirement of Policy Lab Funding is that you work in partnership with other CCIN members. We recommend engaging a minimum of **three** other CCIN members (Affiliates and Associates should bid alongside Full Council members) to create a working group to support the development of your project.

The Co-operative College has agreed to be one member, and enquiries are being made to identify other CCIN members.

3. What are the outcomes you hope to achieve?

What are the outcomes you hope to achieve through this project and how will you know if your outcomes are achieved? What is your measure of success?

- A report will be produced and used to inform and influence Newcastle City Council's recycling policy, and can be made available for sharing or other uses within the CCIN.
- We hope, too, that co-operative working will be further developed on improving recycling and waste disposal between Newcastle City Council and residents mobilised via the Greening Wingrove & Arthur's Hill community environmental co-operative.
- One measure of outcomes will be the numbers of households joining the Council's new recycling service 'pilot'. We hope to at least double the numbers from 12% of households in the area of interest to 24%.
- Another measure of outcome achieved will be that 20% (450) of the households in the target area will be more aware of recycling options, will be more aware of options for community participation in tackling waste problems, and will know how to contribute their views effectively to decision-makers.

4. How does your project support the aims and objectives of the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network?

The Co-operative Councils Innovation Network aims to frame the debate on the future of sustainable solutions to public sector challenges. Our work will ultimately improve outcomes for communities by enabling members to develop radical innovation in policy and practice, sharing best practice and learning, and enabling innovators to chart new territory together. Please provide details of how your project will support this aim.

The project partner, the Greening Wingrove CIC, has developed a culture of wanting to engage with public and private sector agencies to share the experience and findings drawn from its work over about seven years. Some details may be seen via this link: <http://greeningwingrove.org.uk/>

The project as a piece of 'action research' is intended to produce practical changes in relation to environmental sustainability and cost saving, and is aware that new means of communication and working between local councils and communities have to be developed in the context of austerity cuts. The focus of the project – boosting recycling and evaluating a working group – will tell us much more about the value and impact of initiatives undertaken in a resource stretched situation.

5. How does your project demonstrate the Values and Principles of the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network?

Our Network is based on the Co-operative values developed by the International Co-operative Alliance: "self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity... honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others". Further details about the CCIN's Values and Principles is available [here](#). Please provide details of how your project will demonstrate the CCIN's Values and Principles.

The project is firmly committed to the aims of CCIN, and is chaired by a Councillor who has also been active in co-operative movements for many years, and lives in a housing co-operative in the target area.

The CIC's values are those of the International Co-operative Alliance, to which we have added 'Fun' as it's important to approach serious and sometimes depressing issues in a style of working that is not itself depressing.

6. How will you share your learning with the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network?

How will you share your learning with other CCIN members? How will you share your learning beyond the project? This could be through producing a report, holding a workshop or presenting at the CCIN's annual showcase event.

A report will be produced, and results could be displayed on the CCIN website. We'd be happy to lead, or contribute to, a CCIN workshop or presentation session.
