



Co-operative Council
Innovation Network

CCIN V&P BOARD ELECTION

GAVIN CALLAGHAN PERSONAL STATEMENT



BEARTAS

GAVIN CALLAGHAN

As the Managing Director of a public policy and communications consultancy I am delighted to be an Affiliate member of the CCIN.

Every day my role enables me to work with councils from across the political spectrum and across the four nations of the United Kingdom, to support them to improve the services they run and the partnerships that they build.

Prior to founding Beartas I served for ten years as an elected Councillor in Basildon and was Leader of the Council from 2017-2021. I understand the pressure and the challenges and the enormous opportunities that Councils are working through each day. As a Councillor I had several roles but having led a Council with a Committee System form of governance, I have gained huge experience in serving on and chairing committees where scrutiny and effective challenge is critical.

I know that to work successfully, Councils need partners and as an Affiliate, I believe the CCIN provides a safe space for business and councils to work together on developing public policy solutions and effectively communicating these to the public. Aside from the Council I also worked as the Head of Policy and Communications for disability charities Scope and the Papworth Trust as well as spending 5 years working with Steve Rotherham on securing new coronial inquests for the families of the victims of the Hillsborough disaster.

I am a proud member of the Cooperative Party and at Beartas good social value is pivotal to what we do. My business is accredited by the Good Business Charter, we are a Living Wage company as well as signatories to the Care Leavers Covenant, Ecologi, the PRCA and the Public Affairs Code of Conduct.

I believe passionately in cooperative ideals and believe that in the current social, economic and political climate that they will be needed now more than ever. I believe that the V&P Board has a crucial role to play in protecting cooperative values but also in enhancing the role of the network and encouraging member participation. To do this, you need to be an effective communicator, which is something I would bring to the role.

As an elected Affiliate member of the Board, I would represent the views and opinions of Affiliates, ensuring that I regularly spoke with Affiliates and gauged your views on the direction of the network. I would ensure these views were reflected in the work of the committees and that you were apprised of the developments and actions coming out of committee meetings. This two-way process would be through regular meetings and surveys.

I would be proud to represent the Affiliates on the Board and I hope I can count on your support.

Gavin Callaghan

Twitter: @gavincallaghan_

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gavincallaghan16/>