

Application process for councils wishing to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN)

Introduction

This process is designed to ensure that all CCIN member councils make a commitment to the values and principles of the Network and signal their determination to seek to put these values and principles into practice in the way they work as a council and in their relationships with their communities and partners.

This process applies to all councils who apply to join the CCIN from May 2014 onwards.

We recognise that becoming truly cooperative is a journey. All member councils, including founder members, are asked to use the questions below to regularly review their practice against cooperative values and to continually deepen and develop their commitment to cooperative working.

The application process

This process is designed to ensure that the Network as a whole can demonstrate the values and principles of cooperative working. However, it is also designed to be realistic and practical and to recognise that aspiration and commitment are important first steps towards cooperative practice.

The process is in three stages. We are not suggesting a particular timescale, but councils need to complete all three stages before becoming full members of the Network.

• Stage one

A request to join, which signals an aspiration to commit to the values of the Network.

The Council is sent an application pack including information about the Network, its values and principles, activities and the membership fees.

• Stage two

The council completes a self-assessment evaluation and there is a visit from the CCIN to discuss the application.

After this stage the Council can join the network as a provisional member upon payment of the fee.

• Stage three

The Executive Oversight Committee reviews evidence of the council's corporate commitment and endorses council membership.

The Council is now a full member of the CCIN.

The self-assessment evaluation

CCIN is looking for evidence that member councils have a corporate commitment to the values and principles of the Network.

As a cooperative council we are asking you to corporately endorse our values and principles. The following questions are intended to help you to give us a full picture of the stage of development your council is at in relation to the values and principles of CCIN.

Questions:

1. Have you considered or taken action on any of the following (please provide details):
 - Discussed the cooperative council approach with other parties (informally)
 - Discussed the cooperative council approach at full council
 - Discussed the cooperative approach with strategic partners and/or community partners
 - Endorsed the values and principles of the Network at a corporate level
 - Established a code of ethics
 - Adopted cooperative values in your approach to commissioning
 - Carried out any corporate communication of cooperative values
 - Taken a Cabinet decision to endorse cooperative values
 - Undertaken any public campaigns that demonstrate cooperative principles
 - Changed or have plans to change the council constitution to reflect cooperative values

2. Please give examples of innovations in your approach to public service reform, which reflect cooperative principles