**Motion – Sample 1**Council believes that a Co-operative Council is a system that reflects the honest truth about politics locally and nationally. A Cooperative Council does not have all the answers, but if elected representatives want to help the maximum number of people in a time of dwindling resources, the only way forward is together.

Council further believes that after years of austerity, it is clear that local authorities are nearing a tipping point beyond which our aspirations for the City/District/Borough and its people will not be met. The way to avoid this happening is to develop ourselves into a cooperative city that works with others in our communities and across the country who share the same values and principles of working with residents, hearing what they say and being more inclusive in decision-making so that no one is left behind.

PLEASE ADD AREA SPECIFIC info:

Council notes that this City/District/Borough has a long tradition of cooperation, that we are seen as providing best practice in working with ………

The council agrees a clear, shared aspiration to become recognised as a Cooperative Council and asks the Chief Executive to bring forward a detailed breakdown of the specific actions that would be necessary to realise this aspiration to enable a fuller debate and a more informed decision on the specific details of its implementation, within the next three months. This report will include what actions would be necessary to a) ensure that future procurement practises conform to the ethical commitments contained in the membership of the network and b) align the priorities of the Council to those of the network, plus any other germane considerations.

Motion – Sample 2

Recommendations:

* 1. That Council agrees to make an application to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network in xxx; and, if the application is successful, to review the outcomes after 12 months to inform any decision as to the renewal of membership for future years.

1. Executive Summary

2.1 This report provides the rationale for the Council to join the Co-operative Council’s Innovation Network (‘CCIN’).

2.2 It sets out the benefits to the organisation and wider community of doing so, how membership will align with the Council’s existing policy framework and the financial implications of joining the CCIN.

1. Background
   1. The CCIN is a Local Government Association (LGA) Special Interest Group and is open to all UK Councils. Its stated aim is to drive innovation and reform within the framework of Cooperative values and principles, building an equal partnership with local people.
   2. **Cooperative Values**: *self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity*.  
      Ethical Values: *honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.*
   3. The **Principles** are:
      * **Social Partnership** We will strengthen the co-operative partnership between citizens, communities, enterprises and Councils, based on a shared sense of responsibility for wellbeing and mutual benefit.
      * **Co-production** We will develop systems that enable citizens to be equal partners in designing and commissioning public services and in determining the use of public resources.
      * **Democratic Engagement** We will support the active engagement of the full range of residents in decision making and priority setting.
      * **Enterprise and Social Economy** We will promote community-based approaches to economic development that focus on supporting the creation of jobs, social enterprises and other businesses and providing an environment for co-operative and mutual enterprises to thrive.
      * **Maximising social value** We will support the development of a framework and criteria for social value, giving substance to the concept and supporting Councils with the tools to ensure better local social and economic outcomes.
      * **New models of meeting priority needs** In exploring new ways of meeting the priority needs of our communities we will encourage models, such as co-operatives and mutuals, which give greater influence and voice to staff and users. in designing and commissioning public services and in determining the use of public resources.
      * **Community leadership and a new role for councillors** We will explore ways for councils to act as a platform for helping the community to contribute to local outcomes, and to re-think the role of councillors as community connectors, brokers and leaders.
      * **Innovation** We will embrace innovation in how we work with local communities to drive positive change.
      * **Learning** We will capture and ‘expand’ the experience and learning from individual projects and approaches to encourage broader application of cooperative principles within individual member Councils and across the Network.
      * **Walking the talk** As a membership organisation, we will make this statement of our principles operational by:

• Co-operation among members: Our members work together to help each other implement our values, sharing experiences and learning.

• Openness of membership: Full, Associate and Affiliate Membership is open to any qualifying Council, organisation or individual who shares our values and is committed to putting them into action.

• Co-production of the Network’s work: Members help shape the Network’s work programme and the content of events and written products.

• Action-focused: The network is a vehicle for helping councils translate cooperative values and principles into policy and practice.

• Membership-based: The network is majority funded by modest membership subscriptions from its member Councils, Associates and Affiliates.

• Non-party-political: Members believe that working co-operatively within and across communities holds the key to tackling today’s challenges.

* 1. The Network operates to improve knowledge and practice in a wide variety of areas, from tackling climate change at a local level to finding community-based solutions to improve outcomes in the Health and Social Care arena. The premise is that members of the CCIN share best practice and ideas within the network to find solutions to common problems.
  2. The practical definition of ‘co-operative’ is fluid, providing flexibility. Some Local Authorities refer to themselves as Co-operative Councils [such as Oldham in Greater Manchester] based on the set of values adopted by the organisation as opposed to being wedded to a particular service delivery model.

1. How would membership align with the Council’s existing policy objectives?

PLEASE ADD.

1. What are the benefits of joining the CCIN?
   1. These are as set out below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BENEFITS:** | **COSTS:** |
| The principles and values of the CCIN align with current Council policy context around localisation | There is a resource implication of £xxxx (the membership fee [is calculated depending on population and disposable budget](https://www.councils.coop/membership/membership-fees/)). |
| Membership will allow for best practice and innovative ideas to be shared with the Council and communities from across the country |  |
| Limited cost of membership |  |
| Provides a focus and means of joining up existing agendas that require the Council to think differently in terms of how it engages with communities e.g. Community Wealth Building, Covid Recovery and the work around Climate Change which will require significant ‘grassroots’ participation; |  |
| There is potential to bid for funding (up to £20,000) from CCIN to support innovative practice when working with other councils. |  |

* 1. Joining the CCIN will provide a useful insight into best practice from other areas relating to community engagement and empowerment. It will provide resources to both elected members and Council Officers which will be particularly useful in supporting the existing policy direction around localisation and help support the development of innovative policy solutions.

1. Financial Implications
   1. The cost of a full-year membership is xxxx.