

Co-operative Council Update

Introduction

The Council has outlined its ambition to become a Co-operative Council and to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN) in the 2019/20 municipal year. A report was presented to Executive Cabinet on 26 June 2019 for agreement to commence the process.

The CCIN is non-party political and by its nature encourages consensus across all parties represented on the council to work towards co-operative values and principles. A co-operative council follows a set of principles in the way services are developed and delivered in partnership with service users and the community.

Tameside Council will become part of a growing and influential network of councils committed to developing a new relationship with citizens. By becoming part of the network Tameside Council will:

- gain access to ideas and thinking on putting co-operative values and principles into practice
- be part of regional and national networks positioning Tameside Council as a national innovator helping to influence policy thinking at the national level
- share examples of projects and initiatives and learn from others about what works
- co-produce tools and techniques to support the development of co-operative approaches
- be invited to Co-operative Conferences around the country to meet and work with peers
- join an officer network who are leading the development of new approaches
- access to a cadre of public sector and local government leaders who are trying to bring change to their communities
- access a growing body of resources on the CCIN website
- profile Tameside Council's best practice and achievements nationally

Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN)

To become a member of the CCIN a number of tasks need to be completed, or have a clear intent to do so. In summary, an application to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN) needs to show Tameside Council has:

- Discussed the cooperative council approach with other parties
- Taken an Executive Cabinet decision to endorse cooperative values
- Endorsed the values and principles of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN)
- Engaged with strategic partners, community partners and residents to discuss the co-operative approach
- Carried out internal corporate communication and public campaigns that demonstrate co-operative values and principles
- Adopted co-operative values in the approach to commissioning and procurement
- Discussed the co-operative council approach at Full Council
- Changed or have plans to change the council constitution to reflect co-operative values
- Evidenced examples of co-operative values and principles currently in use in service delivery

Tameside Council's application for membership will be reviewed, and decided upon, by the Executive Oversight Committee of the CCIN on 2 October 2019 at their Annual Conference "Developing Co-operative Councils – Building Co-operative Places" to be held in Rochdale.

Co-operative Values

Tameside has a long standing tradition of working in partnership with the community in a way that fits well with the required co-operative values and principles.

The tables below show existing links between the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN) values and principles, the public service reform (PSR) ways of working that underpin the Corporate Plan ('Our People, Our Place, Our Plan'), and the STRIVE workforce values.

CCIN values and principles	PSR ways of working	STRIVE workforce values
Social partnership	New relationship with citizens & communities	Support
Democratic engagement	Asset based approach	Trust
Co-production	Behaviour change	Respect
Enterprise and social economy	Place based approach	Integrity
Maximising social value	Wellbeing, prevention and early intervention	Value difference
Community leadership	Evidence led	Engage
New models of meeting priority needs	New investment and resourcing models	
Innovation		
Learning		
Walking the talk		

Members of the CCIN should also adopt cooperative values in their approach to commissioning. Tameside Council can show it has done this through both its membership of STAR Procurement and the adoption of Social Value Guidance in Commissioning.

Key elements of the STAR Procurement approach relevant to co-operative values and principles include:

- Responsible procurement strategy
- Social value
- Local investment

In addition to the above, in November 2018 the Tameside and Glossop Strategic Commissioning Board (SCB) adopted new Social Value Guidance. The guidance, developed in partnership with STAR Procurement, builds on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Social Value Policy and the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

Engagement & Communication

Engagement and co-production with communities is a key component of co-operative values. Given that, it is appropriate to engage with stakeholders and residents on the intention to become a Co-operative Council.

An elected member development session is planned for 5 September 2019, to facilitate understanding of the Co-operative Council work amongst all councillors, and to build a cross-party consensus.

Next steps for engagement include:

- Tameside Youth Council - September 2019
- Strategic Neighbourhood Forums - October 2019
- Tameside & Glossop Partnership Engagement Network (PEN) conference - October 2019
- Tameside Co-operative Summit – 3 October 2019
- Staff workshops
- Online survey for anyone to give views on the values & principles, thoughts on co-operative working now, and ideas / suggestions for future projects using co-operative values.
- Other events to be identified including (but not limited to): Age UK, Diversity Matters North West, Action Together, Grafton Centre, Cranberries, Tameside College, Ashton 6th Form College, Together Centre.