



City of Westminster

# Cabinet Member Report

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| <b>Decision Maker:</b>    | Councillor Adam Hug, Leader of the Council  |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 06 July 2023  |
| <b>Classification:</b>    | General Release   |
| <b>Title:</b>             | Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network   |
| <b>Wards Affected:</b>    | All   |
| <b>Policy Context:</b>    | Fairer Westminster Delivery Plan commits to putting residents at the heart of decision-making. Ensuring that the the needs of Westminster communities form the basis of service delivery. |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>      | No  |
| <b>Financial Summary:</b> | N/A   |
| <b>Report of:</b>         | Pedro Wrobel, Executive Director - Innovation and Change  |

## **Executive Summary**

The Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network is a non-party-political active hub working alongside the LGA establishing co-operative policy development, innovation and advocacy.

There is increasing interest, across the political spectrum, in how to share power and responsibility with citizens, support the development of community and civic life and find more cost-effective ways to create successful and resilient communities. Membership is open to all councils, opposition groups, and businesses wishing to show their support and engage in the processes of developing innovative co-operative councils.

They provide a voice for co-operative councils, informed by real experience and practice, with the aim of drawing on, influencing and framing national policy and political debates about the future of public services, local democracy, and communities across the country.

### **1. Recommendations**

- (i) That the Leader of the Council agrees that Westminster City Council (WCC) should become a member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network.

### **2. Reasons for Decision**

The Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network is a collaboration between local authorities who are working together to find better ways of working for, and with, local people for the benefit of their local community.

The Fairer Westminster strategy puts residents at the heart of decision-making and emphasises the importance of collaboration and engagement in order to build a Fairer Westminster for all.

The strategy dovetails perfectly with the network's aims and objectives. The network is about sharing best practice for collaboration and engagement and will provide WCC with support and advice from peers across local government. Working together with the network will allow the council to draw on further expertise and work collaboratively to achieve our Fairer Westminster objectives.

### **3. Background, including Policy Context**

The Co-operative Council Innovation Network is the fastest-growing Network in Local Government and currently have 126 Members and Supporters. The members believe the unprecedented challenges facing the public sector and local communities mean that traditional top-down governance models and economic growth are no longer fit for purpose. They want to reclaim the traditions of community action, community engagement, and civic empowerment that can transform communities. This approach will help deliver radical and innovative programmes designed, led, and delivered in partnership with communities and other sector partners, maximising the social dividend they bring.

### **4. Financial Implications**

The fiscal implications arising as a result of membership would be £7,900 per annum which would begin on the 1st of August 2023. Given the relatively minor expenditure this can be accommodated within the existing budget of the Innovation and Change department.

### **5. Legal Implications**

This report recommends a decision which may impact on strategic policy planning of the Council, and it is therefore a decision to be taken by the Leader of the Council in line with the Council's Constitution

### **6. Carbon Impact**

There are no Carbon Impact implications.

### **7. Equalities Implications**

There are no equalities implications attached to this decision.

### **8. Consultation**

There are no consultations needed attached to this decision.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact:**

Simran Kharay

## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

For completion by the **Leader of the Council**

### Declaration of Interest

I have no interest to declare in respect of this report

Signed:

Date: 06 July 2023

NAME: Councillor Adam Hug

State nature of interest if any:

*(N.B: If you have an interest, you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter)*

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled **Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Signed:               |              |
| Leader of the Council |              |
| Date:                 | 06 July 2023 |

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment:

If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Director of Law, City Treasurer and, if there are resources implications, the Director of People Services (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication to allow the Policy and Scrutiny Committee to decide whether it wishes to call the matter in.

## **Appendix A**

### **Other Implications**

- 1. Resources Implications**
- 2. Business Plan Implications**
- 3. Risk Management Implications**
- 4. Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment including Health and Safety Implications**
- 5. Crime and Disorder Implications**
- 6. Impact on the Environment**
- 7. Equalities Implications – See section 13**
- 8. Staffing Implications – See section 13**
- 9. Human Rights Implications**
- 10. Energy Measure Implications**
- 11. Communications Implications**
- 12. Counter Terrorism and Security Implications – See section 13**

Note to report authors: If there are particularly significant implications in any of the above categories these should be