

Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network – application to form a Special Interest Group (SIG)

Purpose of Report

For decision.

Summary

The Co-operative Councils' Network is a group of 15 LGA member councils, other public agencies, think tanks and charities, which work together to drive innovation in public services.

The Group's Chief Executive, Charlie Parker (Chief Executive of Oldham MBC), has written to Carolyn Downs asking that an application to form an LGA Special Interest Group be considered by the Board.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board considers an application from the Co-Operative Councils' Network to form a Special Interest Group.

Action

Officers to action in accordance with the Board's decision.

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Background

1. The LGA Constitution provides for member authorities with common characteristics to be able to form groupings of authorities to express a sectional interest. The LGA will provide limited administrative support for such groups, which they can supplement from their own membership. The LGA's Statement on Special Interest Groups is attached at **Appendix A**.
2. It is open to ten or more authorities, with common features, interests or concerns, who are in full membership of the Association, to ask the LGA to establish a Special Interest Group (SIG) for them.
3. Prospective SIGs are asked to define the nature of the common interest and to undertake that all authorities who can identify with that interest will be admitted to membership.
4. The **attached** letter, received from the Chief Executive of Oldham Council, acting on behalf of 15 founder authorities in membership of the LGA, proposes to establish a SIG to better represent the interests of authorities in their Group.

Purpose of the Group

5. As the public sector faces unprecedented challenges ranging from an ageing population to economic stagnation and rapidly dwindling resources, the Group feels that a fresh and innovative approach to the way public service work together with communities must be found.
6. The Co-operative Councils Innovation Network will build on the work of the Co-operative Council's Network. This will mean working with partnership with communities, the third sector and with others across the public and private sector. The Group states that its innovative practice will be underpinned by the values of co-operation – self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.
7. The Co-operative Councils Innovation Network will frame the debate on the future of the sustainable solutions to public sector challenges. The Network expects that their work will ultimately improve outcomes for communities by enabling members to develop radical innovation in policy and practice, sharing best practice and learning, and enabling innovators to chart new territory together.

Financial/ Resource Implications

8. There are no unbudgeted financial implications in this report.