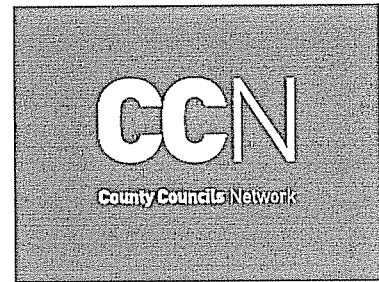


# Quick Guide to the CCN

June 2012



CCN is a special interest group of the Local Government Association which speaks, develops policy and shares best practice for the County family of local authorities, whether unitary or upper tier.

It is a cross party organisation whose views carry particular weight for a large proportion of the country outside the big conurbations: its 36 member councils, with over 2,500 Councillors, serve 23 million people or 47% of the population, over 44 thousand square miles or 85% of England.

CCN is a member-led organisation, working on an inclusive and all party basis. CCN Council and Executive Committees include Councillors from each of our member authorities. CCN recognises that member authorities must have the right to respond to their communities in different ways and seeks to make representations to government which can be supported by all member authorities.

CCN provides a range of services to member authorities including:

- Making representations to government and seeking opportunities to influence the development and implementation of government policy through making constructive proposals for improvement
- Enabling member authorities to share best practice and ideas and learn from others through a number of mechanisms including:
  - Formal meetings of CCN Council and Executive Committee;
  - CCN Briefings on key policy issues
  - Member Policy Networks on key issues;
  - Annual conference which attracts high profile speakers and provides opportunities for networking and sharing ideas. The conference is hosted by a different member authority each year;
  - Best practice publication, the County Beacon, which highlights the good practice of our member authorities on a range of issues;
  - Presence and annual reception at the LG Association Annual Conference;
  - Seminars on key policy issues;

- Website [www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk); and
- Electronic communications including a monthly newsletter.

As a small organisation, CCN targets its resources on issues of importance to member authorities, particularly those which represent the greatest opportunities or threats to the effective and efficient functioning of governance in county areas.

## CCN Structure

### CCN Council

Each member authority nominates up to four elected members to serve on the CCN Council. Top up places are then used to ensure that the overall political proportionality of the CCN matches that of our member authorities as a whole.

### CCN Management Committee

The AGM of Council elects the CCN Management Committee which comprises the Chairman and a Vice Chairman from each of the political groups.

The Management Committee provides strategic direction (including proposing the annual work programme to Council) and conducts the day to day business of the network. The members of the CCN Management Committee elected at the AGM September 2011 were:

- **Chairman** Councillor Robert Gordon (Hertfordshire County Council);
- **Vice Chairmen** Councillors Liz Tucker (Worcestershire County Council), Dave Wilcox (Derbyshire County Council), Roger Phillips (Herefordshire Council).

There is provision for a representative from a Unitary Authority in CCN membership to be co-opted as a non-voting member of Management Committee if all four members elected at the AGM were to be from County Councils in continuing multi-tier areas.

### CCN Executive Committee

The CCN Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the CCN work programme. Each member authority is guaranteed

at least one place on the Executive Committee, and proportionality is again ensured using top up places as for Council. The Chairman and Vice Chairmen of Council hold the same positions on the Executive Committee.

## CCN Policy Networks

CCN is a member-led organisation and works through Policy Networks to:

- Involve a wide group of CCN members in the work of CCN;
- Extend the number of members in leadership of CCN policy activity;
- Support CCN policy making and analysis by providing a mechanism for CCN members to contribute their expertise and experience;
- Strengthen links between CCN and LG Group activity at member level.

Policy Networks cover the following areas:

- Children & Young People;
- Community Wellbeing;
- Culture, Tourism & Sport;
- Economy & Transport;
- Environment & Housing;
- Improvement;
- Rural Affairs;
- Safer & Stronger Communities;
- Finance and Workforce.

## CCN Work programme 2012/13

The CCN work programme for 2013/13 was agreed by CCN Council in March. In proposing the work programme the Management Committee were conscious of the need for the CCN to support all member authorities and to focus CCN activity on issues where the specific implications for member authorities would otherwise not be raised collectively at a national level.

Over the year CCN will continue to focus on representing and advocating for our member authorities, including highlighting their role in driving economic growth and making the case for funding incentives and decentralisation of resources and powers to fully recognise that role.

The work programme is based around three Clusters of activity that together encompass the CCN Policy Networks. The Clusters relate broadly to "people based", "place based" and "strategy and resource based" policy areas.

### People Based

- **Community Wellbeing** – Improving the well-being of adults, including Public Health, Social care and the National Health Service;

- **Children and Young People** – The provision of Education and Children's Services including Safeguarding and family support services;
- **Safer and Stronger Communities** – reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, including community safety, police and crime panels, public protection, fire service and emergency planning, licensing and other regulatory activities;
- **Culture Tourism and Sport** – The provision of Cultural services including museums, libraries and the arts and tourism and sport;

### Place Based

- **Environment & Housing** – Planning, housing, environmental sustainability, and waste;
- **Economy & Transport** - Economic development, business support, regeneration and job creation, skills and training provision and transport;
- **Rural Affairs** - The impact of rurality and sparsity on public service delivery, the future of rural communities, government rural policy and the rural dimension of other government policies;

### Strategy and Resource Based

- **Finance and Workforce** - Local government finance system and funding issues, workforce issues including pensions and workforce strategies;
- **Improvement** - local performance and improvement agenda including transparency;
- **Cross Cutting** - Localism, democratic accountability and structures, "big society".

## Dates for the Diary

Date	Meeting
CCN Executive Committee	18 July 2012
CCN AGM & Council	07 September 2012
CCN Executive Committee	07 November 2012
CCN Conference	19-20 November 2012
CCN Executive Committee	09 January 2013
CCN Council	22 March 2013
CCN Inaugural Council	19 July 2013
CCN AGM & Council	20 September 2013
CCN Executive	06 November 2013
CCN Conference	18-19 November 2013

### Further Information

If you would like further information on the work of the CCN during the past year, and the work programme for 2012/13 please contact Lisa Wood on 020 7664 3011 or by e-mail to [countycouncilsnetwork@local.gov.uk](mailto:countycouncilsnetwork@local.gov.uk)