

LABOUR

LEADERSHIP

HUSTINGS

the co-operative party
politics for people





co-operative party annual conference 2014

 party.coop/conference2014  [coopparty](https://twitter.com/coopparty)

co-operative party annual conference 2015

19th-20th September

London Holiday Inn Regent's Park

 **Register online** at party.coop/conference2015

Contents

Leadership Candidates

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Andy Burnham | 4 |
| Yvette Cooper | 6 |
| Jeremy Corbyn | 8 |
| Liz Kendall | 10 |

Deputy Leadership Candidates

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Ben Bradshaw | 12 |
| Stella Creasy | 14 |
| Angela Eagle | 16 |
| Caroline Flint | 18 |
| Tom Watson | 20 |

Andy Burnham

 [andy4leader](#)

 andy4labour.co.uk



The roots of the Labour movement are deep in the Co-operative Party.

So are mine.

I joined the Co-op Party when I saw the benefits that mutual support and collectivism could bring in the modern world.

I was working with a football task force set up by the Labour Government to stop unscrupulous directors from asset-stripping clubs and taking them away from their communities and fans.

Northampton Town found a new way of owning a club through a supporters' trust, where fans ran the club through a democratic forum.

It was obvious that this new mutualism was the way forward.

On the recommendation of the Football Task Force, working with former Culture Secretary Chris Smith, we set up Supporters Direct to promote fan ownership of clubs. The idea blossomed. The number of supporters' trusts exploded.

But for me, the importance of that was not just that many football clubs were saved. It was that the Co-operative ideal, the belief in mutualism, was brought to a new, younger generation of people, who had never heard of co-operatives before.

That is the way I want a Labour Party I lead and the Co-operative Party to work together. If big ideas can work in football they can work

in many other areas of the economy and society, and I want Co-op members to be leading the way on new ideas, new policy solutions and new thinking for a 2020 Labour government.

On health, I have valued your work on whole-person care - meeting the physical, mental and social care needs of a person together. It is an idea I championed as Health Secretary in Government and in the Shadow Cabinet.

On housing, I believe that absent landlords should not be allowed to let whole streets fall into disrepair while raking in housing benefit. Communities should have stronger powers to buy the properties and restore and regenerate them.

On business, we have to look at new models of shared ownership and profit-share schemes. And on finance, there is still work to do on setting up local credit unions, so that people can access financial services at the fairest price.

I said five years ago that, in order for co-operative ideals to flourish, we have to be louder and prouder of the achievements that we have already made, and bolder about what we can achieve in the future.

The same remains true today. I want your big ideas.

Because it is big ideas which will break Labour out of the Westminster bubble.

It is big ideas that will give this movement our pride back and get us off the floor. And that is the way we win again in 2020.

Yvette Cooper

 [yvetteforlabour](#)

 yvetteforlabour.co.uk



Labour has a long and proud tradition of working with the Co-operative Party and as leader I would want to build on and strengthen that bond. We have much to be proud of through our history, but as the workplace changes, as our communities become more divided and as the Tories' spending plans stretch families to breaking point, the principles underpinning the co-operative movement are more relevant than ever. I applaud the hugely important work of Karin Christiansen in the last few years, particularly the efforts she has made to save and strengthen the link between our Parties. If we are to champion a new wave of cooperatives or mutuals, campaign for the end of child poverty in a generation or promote the growth of credit unions, we need to work together, more closely harnessing the widespread expertise and reach of the vibrant cooperative movement.

The next five years will be tough for so many people. In the Budget, we've seen the Tories put forward plans which will make people worse off in work, reduce work incentives, hit millions of working families, and mean thousands more children grow up in poverty. In the first quarter of this year, we've seen unemployment rise. And although the Tories crow about the jobs they have created since 2010, we know so many of them are short-term, insecure, zero hours jobs. As the Labour Party, we must stand for better than this. And the Co-operative Party must be at the heart of our campaign for better working conditions with a bigger voice for employees in the strategic direction of companies and the spread of mutuals.

We achieved a huge amount together when we were in Government – bringing in the minimum wage and creating 2 million more jobs. We were successful in promoting employee share ownership, democracy

at work and reducing red tape. And we worked hard to enhance our communities, providing social housing and leisure centres and pushing for more devolution and democratisation of our public services.

Now our struggle will be harder as much of our work is being dismantled by the Tories. So we need to put forward new plans – to create the new high tech jobs of the future, so Britain can lead the digital revolution; to restore our mission to end child poverty in a generation; to help every family get on with a revolution in childcare with universal free childcare; and a new relationship with business so we can build a strong economy, as well as a fairer society.

And neither Labour nor the Cooperative Party have ever believed our fight for social justice ends at our borders. Just as we have in the past, we need to use this period in opposition to call for action on trade – including ending slavery in our supply chains – removing the burden of remaining debt and ensuring we meet our obligations on overseas aid. We must also continue to fight to truly ‘make poverty history’ – both in and out of Government.

A strong Labour Party goes hand in hand with a vibrant Co-operative Party – we are united by our common values of self help, self responsibility, democracy, equality and solidarity. And we need to stand together to ensure these are the values of the next Government – a Labour Government in 2020.

Jeremy Corbyn

 [corbyn4leader](#)

 [jeremyforlabour.com](#)



“Of the best leaders, the people we say we did it ourselves”, so said Lao Tzu. It was a quote Tony Benn was very fond of remembering.

Tony was one of the few ministers of state to truly try to bring co-operative principles into the heart of government. As a young trade union official I had the pleasure of working with him when he was encouraging workers to come up with co-operative plans to save their jobs, like at Triumph.

What that process unleashed was greater creativity and innovation that top-down management - and some very top-down unions back then - felt comfortable with. But what it showed is that if you involve people as mutual participants in building their own future then you release their energy and enterprise, in the true sense of that word.

I believe in public ownership, but I have never favoured the remote nationalised model that prevailed in the post-war era. Like a majority of the population and a majority of even Tory voters, I want the railways back in public ownership. But public control should mean just that, not simply state control: so we should have passengers, rail workers and government too, co-operatively running the railways to ensure they are run in our interests and not for private profit.

This model should replace both the old Labour model of top-down operation by central diktat and Tories favoured model of unaccountable privatised operators running our public services for their own ends.

Take education, where local schools are now encouraged to compete against one another. I want them to co-operate, and the best way for that to be achieved is through an accountable co-ordinating and co-operative structure that involves parents, teachers, and councillors in reformed local education authorities. Within this structure, schools can co-operate, share best practice, and pool their resources. It would be addition and an expansion of what you have achieved with your network of co-operative schools.

Our vision for 2020 must be about improving living standards, which will fall further for many in the wake of George Osborne's Budget proposals. But it must also be about improving people's control over their own lives - especially in their work and their housing.

For too many people their job and their housing is not a source of security, but a cause for anxiety. We need to change that. So I want to give employees a statutory right to request employee ownership during business succession, and to tenants to demand the same if their landlord decides to sell multiple properties.

The co-operative movement is a force for human emancipation here in the UK and around the world. I want the next Labour government in 2020 to work with you so that we are driven by co-operative principles: self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.



The Co-operative Party isn't just Labour's sister party, it is the political voice of a co-operative movement that shares common roots with Labour and the labour movement.

The first trade unionists were also co-operators. Friendly societies, educational associations and trade unions gave working people the power to shape their own lives. They didn't differentiate – all were simply mechanisms through which working people could use their collective power to build a better life for themselves, their families and their communities.

I want to modernise those traditions of radical democracy for our age – not as new or old Labour but today's and tomorrow's Labour.

The truth is that both the Labour Party and Co-operative Party share a common challenge. We both need to revitalise and re-connect with the movements that created us. I want to congratulate the Co-operative Party for its success in the Keep it Co-op campaign, which bravely and convincingly made the case for a modern, outward-looking co-operative politics, rooted in communities. As leader, I would work closely with the Co-operative Party – including the talented Co-op group of MPs to ensure that our two movements continue making that case together.

In policy terms too, the Co-operative movement has led the way in showing that a different approach isn't just possible, but practical. Co-operative councils in places such as Milton Keynes and Glasgow have led Whitehall in demonstrating how services can be delivered in a way that builds people's self-confidence, restores civic pride and

deepens our democracy. Power needs to be shared with communities and individuals, not just with town halls and local politicians.

In areas such as community renewable energy and football, co-operators are showing how ordinary people can help to drive the shift towards the diverse, innovative and long-term economy we need. The success of co-op schools shows how pupil, parent, patient and staff voice must be at the heart of our plans to reform public services.

At the heart of Co-operative Party's 2015 manifesto was the ambition not just to support the co-operative movement, but to use co-operative values to build a fairer economy. Like the Co-operative Party, I want to see employees given a real voice in the workplace. Not just a single person on remuneration committees but a real voice in how their companies are run.

I'm standing not just to be Labour leader, but the next Labour Prime Minister. And as the leader of a Labour and Co-operative government, the Co-operative movement will continue to be a not just a partner, but a priority. The labour and co-operative movements have always been on the side of the powerless and calling the powerful to account. Winning in 2020 means rediscovering those radical traditions once again.

Ben Bradshaw

 [benbradshaw](#)

 [ben4deputy.org.uk](#)



For almost 100 years the Co-operative Party has championed co-operative values and ethos in society. For almost ninety of those years the Co-operative Party has stood in partnership with the Labour Party. It is a partnership that has strengthened Labour and informed our values. I am proud to be a member of the Co-operative Party.

The right wing press this year tried to bring down the Co-operative model but on the ground, in our communities, it works. I am proud that my local Labour Council in Exeter has worked to develop a co-operative housing model; I worked with Community Union to save my local Pluss disabled factory and turn it into a workers' collective.

The history of Labour Co-operative partnership has been too often one of election defeat. We have spent almost two thirds of our partnership in opposition. Could you imagine a Labour Chancellor slashing tax credits? Could you imagine a Labour government attempting to break the BBC? Could you imagine Labour MPs trying to re-introduce fox hunting? I am proud of the work of my local council implementing co-operative values; I am frustrated that we are unable to do so in government.

I am running for Deputy Leader because I can help Labour win again. We have a huge mountain to climb to win in 2020 in England, Scotland and Wales. But there is no route back to government that does not go through England.

England is not a Conservative country – in fact the Conservatives despite holding a majority of seats did not come close to winning a majority of votes in May – but to win again Labour must win again in

England. In 1997 I won a seat off the Conservatives. I have held off a Tory challenge ever since – trebling my majority at the last election.

At the last election we did not maximise the strength of our partnership with the Co-operative movement to articulate a message about the future of Britain under a Labour government. We lost the election in part because voters didn't think we were credible on the economy. But what was also a huge challenge was many voters just didn't see a brighter future under Labour – they saw a Labour government as something to fear rather than then an opportunity for a better future.

Contrary to the impression that you would get from some sections of the media, the Co-operative sector grew in the recession faster than the UK economy as a whole. There are almost 13 million members of co-operatives in the UK; over a billion members worldwide. Co-operative ideals have not been rejected by the public, at home or abroad.

The last Labour government was too slow at looking at how the model could help deliver public services and strengthen communities. We made a start in government, but only a start, the next Labour government must look at what Labour councils have already begun to do, and put the ideas and value of the co-operative movement at the heart of our programme.

Stella Creasy

 [stellacreasy](#)

 stellacreasy.org.uk



I'm proud to be a Labour and Co-operative MP; the only Labour and Co-op MP in this leadership contest. My values as a co-operator are at the heart of my politics – and that's why I'm honoured to have won the backing of the Co-op Party's NEC.

When the Co-op Party faced a threat to our very existence earlier this year, I worked alongside so many of you, our members, in the campaign to Keep it Co-op. We campaigned and won together – being at the AGM in Manchester that day and securing our victory was proof that when we organise, we can change the course of events.

As Deputy Leader, I would want Labour to become a movement again, and not a machine. Too many people feel that they only see us at election time. Being a true Labour movement must include the co-operative movement - millions of people who want to see a society where power and wealth are more equally shared. My Labour values and my roots in my local community told me that what legal loan sharks and payday lenders like Wonga were doing was wrong. But it was my Co-op values that offered a solution.

The work we did to take on Wonga showed that empowering people and communities to fight back helps to build our movement.

Co-op solutions like a stronger credit union and building society sector are key parts of the answer to building financial resilience in communities, and to developing ethical alternative providers of more affordable financial services. In my role as Shadow Consumer Affairs Minister, I worked closely with the Co-op Party to champion rights and

empowerment in both the public and the private sector in the last parliament through the Consumer Rights Bill. Whether in our financial services, housing rights or insurance industries, I fought for more power for consumers to help them get a better deal.

Labour must champion the co-op, mutual and employee owned sector as part of our vision of the future of the economy under a Labour government. We know the facts; co-operatives were more resilient in the economic downturn than privately owned companies. Employee owned businesses are more productive than their privately owned competitors. An active enterprise policy which encourages more of Britain's companies to share ownership, decision making and profits with their employees would be good for business, good for our economy and good for our society. The same is true in bringing our values to public services too. From the railways, to our schools and social care services, mutualism can give people and communities a real say in how their services are run. But for this potential to be realised, we need leadership figures who understand the value of the Co-op movement.

As a fellow co-operator, I ask for your support to be Labour's next Deputy Leader – and help put Co-op values back at the heart of our Labour movement.

Angela Eagle

 [angela4deputy](#)

 angelafordeputy.org.uk



After our heartbreaking election defeat I can unite the Labour Party as we rebuild to win again.

I am being supported for the role of Deputy Leader by constituency activists, co-operators, trade unionists and senior members of our movement. I love and respect the Party and as Chair of the NPF and conference, I have a proven track record of opening up debate and listening to all voices.

I've been a Party member for 38 years. I've been a CLP secretary, Vice chair of PLP, chaired the NEC the conference and the National Policy Forum. In every job, I've acted without fear or favour.

As Shadow Leader of the House of Commons I take the fight to the Tories every week across the dispatch box. Twenty three years as an MP, eight as a Government Minister including in the Treasury, five in the Shadow Cabinet means I have the experience and political judgement to strengthen the leadership team in these difficult times for the future of our Party.

I joined the Labour Party at sixteen to change the world. I have never afraid to fight for what I believe in. I fought for NHS workers as a Trade Union official. I am in the forefront of the fight for LGBT and women's equality. In Parliament. I've always been loyal to the leader but I've never been afraid to say when we got it wrong just like I did over Foundation Hospitals and University Tuition Fees.

I'm proud to have grown up in a working class family on Merseyside. It shaped my politics, and it gave me my fighting spirit. And I'm a proud member of the Co-operative party. Earlier this year I supported the successful 'Keep it Co-op' campaign which defeated the attempt to neuter the political voice of the co-op movement.

I am a strong believer in the co-operative aim of building a society where wealth and power are shared fairly. Whether it's supporting Fairtrade and fighting for a better deal for workers in the developing world, setting up co-operative schools or championing the credit unions that are an alternative to payday lending, the Co-operative movement has always led the way.

I'm a proud trade unionist, and I will always fight for the voice of workers to be heard louder in our Party and in the country.

I won my seat from the Tories in 1992 and I've held it ever since.

David Cameron may have told me to 'calm down dear', but I never will while the Tories are in power. I'll be a campaigner in the country, a reformer in the Party and a candid but loyal advisor to our new leader. I will keep our Party together while we rebuild.

I will be a Deputy Leader who puts you, our members, first and I hope I can count on your support.

Caroline Flint

 [caroline4deputy](#)

 [caroline4deputy.com](#)



My starting point is simple. Real life. Let the experience of co-operative initiatives guide us. If it really works – we learn from it.

Whether that's a run-down brick pond, now transformed by community endeavour (I've been a volunteer for six years) or a Children's Centre threatened with closure, where we canvassed for a co-operative option (the Brigshaw model) run by local schools and the community. A battle not yet won. Where library closures appeared imminent, I have supported community ownership.

This doesn't stop with the public sector. We need to support communities, particularly deprived communities, where the last pub or shop closes, to bid and run as collective enterprises. These challenges are not easy. They require enabling councils or government to build capacity or provide expertise. Time and again, communities show the resource to succeed.

I have a community centre in a mining village now run by the users. Its members are in their 70s. It was a battle to get our elected English Democrat Mayor (we now have a Labour one) to hand it over, but they now run it more efficiently than the council did.

As Housing Minister in the Labour Government I championed community land trusts; and I saw first-hand how ALMOs could be brought closer to the people they served by adopting a mutual model. "Arms-length" shouldn't mean "unaccountable".

Some housing associations are now large national companies. I have seen examples, like Rochdale Borough Wide Housing, where the model is adapted to empower the tenants.

As Shadow Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change, I published the Power Book, jointly with the Co-operative Party, SERA and the LGIU. Dozens of policy ideas, for community empowerment. People power reshaping our energy market. 65% of Germany's renewable energy is community owned. So why not here?

Likewise, where wind farms and solar farms offer payback to communities, instead of free football shirts, isn't it time they provided some infrastructure to deliver an ongoing community dividend.

It won't surprise you that Labour championed energy co-ops and collective switching. In 2011, I announced that Labour would be the first party ever to organise a collective switch. Co-operative Councils such as Oldham, used people power to buy a cheaper energy for thousands. Plymouth Energy Community went further, taking a holistic approach to generation, insulation, advice and enabling the public to be at its heart.

And not forgetting the power to support social enterprise. We should be inspired by workers from using redundancy money from Remploy in Morley to re-open as Enabled Works. Given the opportunity people defy expectations.

As Deputy Leader I will insist on being at the heart of policy making and communications. I already campaign – 200 visits as a Shadow Cabinet member in the last parliament. I will engage you - the pioneers, the experimenters, the community entrepreneurs not just as inspiration, but as models for future policy.

I've proved in the past, I don't just talk the talk... If I'm Deputy Leader, mutualism will have a friend and ally as our party rebuilds and reaches out to win again.

Tom Watson

 [tom_watson](#)

 [tom-watson.com](#)



If I'm elected deputy leader I'll foster a new spirit of support between the Labour Party, Trade Unions and the co-operative movement that recognises we share a political agenda and a common purpose.

Since 1917 the Co-operative Party has been the political voice of our movement. My job as deputy leader will be to ensure everyone, inside and outside the Labour movement, hears that voice.

Working together, our two parties have delivered real achievements and have much to be proud of. Our 1927 agreement to field joint candidates has resulted in the election of Labour and Co-operative Party councillors, MSPs, AMs, and MPs who've given real power back to ordinary people. We've acted to protect consumers, shaped public services to meet local needs and developed innovative solutions to affordable housing.

But there's much more we can do by working closer together. We've an opportunity to develop a deeper and more effective dialogue between the Labour Party and a reinvigorated Co-operative Party following your successful vote at the Co-operative Group AGM.

That's why I'd establish a Labour/Co-operative Forum. The Forum would bring together frontbench representatives from the UK and Scottish Parliaments, the Welsh Assembly, City Hall and local Town Halls with representatives from the Co-operative Party, the Labour Party and Trade Unions. I believe that would help ensure co-operative ideals are at the heart of Labour's policy development and political

programme, whether in opposition or in Government, across our cities and towns in England and Wales.

We can only do that by sharing examples of co-operative values in action and that only happens when we sit down and exchange ideas. I passionately believe every manifesto we produce, at whatever level, should have Co-operative Party input.

The Forum would plan joint campaigns and initiatives, helping to re-engage members of the Labour and Co-operative parties in the political process and becoming a powerful force for community action.

With a renewed focus on policy-development, and a greater emphasis on working together, Labour can help the Co-operative Party demonstrate to the new leadership of the Co-operative Group that it remains a potent political force.

I've made it clear that the key to Labour winning again in 2020 rests with our members and councillors working in their communities. This includes the thousands of Co-operative Party members and the hundreds of Labour and Co-operative councillors who demonstrate the importance of community organising every day.

Co-operative approaches are inspiring Labour councillors around the country. That's why Labour has so much to gain by developing an even closer relationship with your movement. Labour can develop deeper relationships with communities all over Britain by learning from the Co-operative Party's example.

That's why I'd like the Co-operative Party to be given an ex-officio seat on Labour's National Executive Committee and increased representation on the National Policy Forum. We've fought elections together for 88 years to make our communities, our country and the world a better place. We share a proud history. Our sister party deserves a seat at Labour's top table.

follow us on social media



[coopparty](#)



[fb.me/coopparty](#)



[party.coop](#)

politics for people

65 St John Street, London EC1M 4AN

020 7367 4150

info@party.coop

 @CoopParty



www.party.coop

Promoted by Karin Christiansen

General Secretary, the Co-operative Party, at

65 St John Street EC1M 4AN

Co-operative Party Limited is a registered Society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Registered no. 30027R.