

In this Document

Introduction	8
The original questions	10
List of respondents	11
NEC Policy Subcommittee Responses	12
Organisations	12
Branches	22
Individuals	36
Full Text of Submissions	42
Organisations	42
Branches	79
Individuals	109
Other contributors	129
Appendices	131

Introduction

Between 2013-15 we conducted a full review of Party policy. The outcome of this process was a series of 12 policy papers which were passed at Party Conference in 2013 and 2014.



These 12 policy papers form the basis of our Agenda for Britain, the Party's platform for the 2015 General Election, and for our platforms in Scottish, Welsh, London and local government elections.

However, these 12 policy papers are intended to be 'living documents' which can be expanded and updated in response to changing circumstances and environment.

Following feedback from Party members and a review, the policy subcommittee of the NEC agreed to produce three 'policy summary' documents based around the following themes:

- 1. Creating a more equal society
- 2. Secure and confident Communities
- 3. Building a shared Economy

(The Appendices contains the different areas of policy contained within each document as well as a list of the 12 in-depth policy papers and links)

Using these three summary documents the NEC wanted to ensure that individual members, local parties and co-operatives have the opportunity to help shape, develop and communicate the policies of the Party.

Therefore, the three summary documents were issued to all members, parties and organisations in February 2016 along with a series of questions for potential respondents to use to frame their responses. Between February and mid-July the Party sought responses and collected feedback.

This document lists the respondents, the NEC responses to the submissions along with a full transcript of the collected material.

Ahead of Conference in Cardiff from the 9th-11th September, this report of responses has been sent to members to stimulate discussion and can be used to shape debate and plenary sessions at Conference, and we hope that responders themselves will take an active role in these discussions.

Thank you for to everyone who contribute to what has been a successful policy process.

Rt Hon Alun Michael PCC

Chair of Policy Subcommittee

The original questions

As above the NEC policy sub-committee issued the below questions along with the three summary documents to help frame responses:

1. National campaigns -

What campaigns would you like to see the Co-operative Party take up in relation to the policy proposals contained in the three thematic documents?

2. Local campaigns

What campaigning ideas and action can local parties and members engage in within their own areas in relation to the three thematic documents?

3. Missing policy asks

Are there missing policy asks in the three documents?

4. Future policy

What areas of policy need to be inserted or expanded upon in the twelve original policy documents agreed upon at conference 2014?

Index of responses

Introduction			3	
The original questions			5	
NEC Policy Subcommittee Responses - Organisations				
ABCUL	8	CSNetworks	13	
BSA	9	Fair Tax Mark, Director Paul Monaghan	4 4	
CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)	9		14	
CCH(Confederation of Co-operative Housing)	11	Fairtrade Foundation Head of Policy Tim Aldred	15	
Co-operative Party Youth and Exeter and		Responsible Finance	16	
Devon Branch (Stephen Brimble)	12	Social Enterprise UK	17	
Co-operatives UK	13			
Co operatives on	. •			
NEC Policy Subcommittee Respons		Branches	18	
NEC Policy Subcommittee Response Central England Co-operative Eastern and Southern Society Party	ses -	Branches Hampshire and Isle of Wight Co-operative Party Council	18 25	
NEC Policy Subcommittee Response Central England Co-operative Eastern and Southern Society Party		Hampshire and Isle of Wight		
NEC Policy Subcommittee Respons Central England Co-operative Eastern and Southern Society Party Council	ses -	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Co-operative Party Council	25	
NEC Policy Subcommittee Response Central England Co-operative Eastern and Southern Society Party Council Chesterfield Branch	s es - 18	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Co-operative Party Council Islington Branch	25 26	
NEC Policy Subcommittee Response Central England Co-operative Eastern and Southern Society Party Council Chesterfield Branch Coventry and Warwickshire Branch	s es - 18 19	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Co-operative Party Council Islington Branch Kettering Branch Newton Abbot and Totnes Branch	25 26 27 28	
NEC Policy Subcommittee Response Central England Co-operative Eastern and Southern Society Party Council Chesterfield Branch Coventry and Warwickshire Branch Dorset Branch	s es - 18 19	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Co-operative Party Council Islington Branch Kettering Branch	25 26 27	
NEC Policy Subcommittee Response Central England Co-operative Eastern and Southern Society Party Council Chesterfield Branch Coventry and Warwickshire Branch Dorset Branch Dover, Deal and Thanet Branch Exeter & Devon	ses - 18 19 19	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Co-operative Party Council Islington Branch Kettering Branch Newton Abbot and Totnes Branch North East Party Council	25 26 27 28 28	

NEC Policy Subcommittee Responses - Individuals			33	
Carl Packman	33	Jim Lee	36	
Cathy Trevaldwyn	34	Martin Strube	37	
Chris Magee	35	Richard Bickle	37	
Christian Wilcox	35	Steve Watkins	39	
Full Text of Submissions - Organisations				
ABCUL	40	Co-ops UK	57	
BSA (Building Societies Association)	43	CSNetwork	65	
CAMRA		Paul Monaghan, Fair Tax Mark	68	
(Campaign for Real Ale)	44	Tim Aldred, Fairtrade	72	
CCH (Co-federation of Co-operative Housing)	<u>z</u>)	Responsible Finance	72	
	54	Social Enterprise UK	76	
Stephen Brimble,	F.6			
Co-operative Party Youth	56			
Full Text of Submissions - Branch	ies		77	
Central England Co-operative		Exeter & Devon		
Eastern and Southern Society Party	77	Co-operative Party Branch	87	
Council	77	Greenwich Branch	90	
Chesterfield Branch	80	Hampshire and Isle		
Coventry and Warwickshire Branch	82	of Wight Co-operative Party Council	93	
Dorset Branch	85	Islington Branch	94	
Dover, Deal and Thanet	0=	Kettering Branch	98	
Co-operative Party Branch	85			

Newton Abbot		Notts, Lincs and Erewash Branch	102
and Totnes Branch	99	Reading Branch	103
North East Party Council	100	Sutton Branch	104
Full Text of Submissions - Indivi	iduals		106
Steve Watkins	106	Richard Bickle	114
Chris Magee	106	Islington Branch	118
Martin Strube	108	Cathy Trevaldwyn	121
Christian Wilcox	113	Carl Packman	123
Other contributors			125
Appendices			127

NEC Policy Subcommittee Responses - Organisations



▼ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' policy paper

- The policy sub-committee welcomes the submission from ABCUL, and recognises our shared commitment to encouraging the growth of the credit union sector. The expertise about the sector, and how to modify our language and policy positioning, is greatly appreciated.
- We look forward to reading your research with Social Finance into how social investment might be used in credit unions. Your initial analysis provided is informative and will inform our policy development on credit unions.
- Again, your feedback regarding financial inclusion, your explanation of the practical difficulties that face our policy position are useful and will be considered. Regarding reform of the UK payments systems, your nuance will inform our considerations moving forward and ensure our policy is relevant to the existing regulatory and market environment.

Response **BSA**

Topic: 'Secure and Confident communities' policy paper: Co-operative Housing

NEC policy subcommittee response

- This submission reaffirms the need for Co-operative Housing Tenure contained within the summary document which would in turn ensure a simplified legal system which lenders could more easily navigate.
- However, within the more in-depth Housing document there should be a refining of the drafting to reflect the submission, especially the point that lenders have a good experience of working with housing coops and that there have be few repossessions as well as noting that the complexity of legal structures continues to dissuade lenders.

Response **CAMRA** (**Campaign for Real Ale**)

♀ Topic: Secure and confident communities Policy Paper: Cooperative Pubs and the heart of the community

- The Co-operative Party is pleased to have had CAMRA and the Plunkett Foundation brief its Parliamentary Group on the importance of co-operative pubs and the need for further political and legislative support. The Party is equally pleased to have highlighted this work with its members who are Councillors. We believe that the development of co-operative community assets is an important part of our local government platform. The Party will ensure that its Councillors are equipped to identify community groups looking to go down a co-operative route and facilitate best practice in their regions.
- The NEC policy sub-committee notes the stark statistic within the submission that '21 pubs are closing across the UK every week' – co-

- operatives and community groups making use of localism powers can and do play an important part in saving these community assets.
- The NEC policy sub-committee believes that assets such as these need protecting and notes that co-operative pubs (as opposed to 'community' pubs which may not make use of co-operative structures) are set to double in the coming two years to almost 90.
- It is noted that whilst co-operative pubs do feature in the Party's local government platform (available here: https://party.coop/2016-council-hub/co-operative- values-in-local-government/) there is no specific policy demand within the summary documents. This should change and the policy-sub believes that the below drafting includes other important aspects of the Submission
- Twenty one pubs close each week across the country, the Government should review the implementation and effectiveness of the Localism Act 2012 to ensure that proper support and understanding exists in order for communities to form co-operatives and potentially take over threatened local community pubs. Further the Co-operative Party believes that the current six month moratorium on the sale of list assets of community value such as pubs does not allow enough time for community cooperatives to fulfill their potential and should be significantly extended'
- Finally, the Policy sub-committee notes CAMRA's support for the Party's work on extending Localism powers over bus services and draws CAMRAS attention to its 'People's Bus Campaign' which is working to amend the current Bus Services Bill in Westminster to achieve this aim.

Response **CCH** (Confederation of Co-operative Housing)

♀ Topic: Secure and confident Communities policy paper: Co-operative Housing

- The Policy sub-committee believes that the wording within the 'Ambition' for Co-operative Homes' within the summary document can and should be further strengthened. Alteration will be made to switch the word 'can' to ensure that this is as bold as it should be.
- The policy sub-committee agrees with the submission that definitions for community led housing is important and as such is included within the summary document.
- Whilst this submission suggests that tenure may not be met with full civil service support work, Wales demonstrates that with Labour and Co-operative ministerial support steps forward can be achieved.
- The policy sub-committee will reflect upon RICS terminology in relation to 'best value' with a view to updating the more in-depth housing paper.
- The ambition including targets for the number of new cooperative homes is designed to show the potential of the sector and the ambition the Party holds for its expansion.
- The policy sub-committee will listen to contributions in the relevant debate at conference as to whether there is need to change the summary document and is pleased that CCH will be represented in the debate and will run a workshop afterwards.
- The need for further engagement with Local Government actors in relation to co-operative housing, community led housing and further democratization of Tennant Management Organisations is clear and the Party will ensure this is an important part of its on-going policy work and local government agenda.

■ Finally, the in-depth housing paper that conference approved will be updated to ensure it includes specific reference to the 1001 co-operative homes report which can be found here: http://www.cch.coop/1001co-ophomes/

Response Co-operative Party Youth and Exeter and Devon Branch (Stephen Brimble)

▼ Topic: 'Building a Shared Economy policy paper' and 'Secure and confident communities' policy paper

- The policy sub-committee endorses the need for increased social value to be generated across the economy. Indeed, the Co-operative Party have worked with Social Enterprise UK to increase the awareness of the Social Value Act especially with Party Councillors. The inclusion of social value within procurement is an important way to generate private sector social value and this Act is currently the best way of leveraging it. The policy subcommittee notes that there is currently no policy demand relating to the Act within the economy paper and believes the below's inclusion captures the need for the party and its elected representatives to promote this cause:
- The Co-operative Party believes that local government procurement must, where legal, demonstrably include the provisions of the Social Value Act.'
- The FairTax Mark is a good way for companies to demonstrate they are paying their fair share of tax and is one way that businesses can demonstrate their public commitments.
- The Financial Transaction is included within the Building a shared economy policy paper.
- The Policy sub-committee hopes that Co-operative Party Youth will be able to take part in the policy debates at conference and look forward to hearing 'community strategy' within the Safer and stronger communities' policy debate.

Response Co-ops UK

Topic: 'Building a more shared economy' policy paper

NEC policy subcommittee response

- The policy sub-committee would like to thank Co-operatives UK for allowing the Party to include its submission on the co-operative economy to the Labour Party's NPF process within this process. The policy-sub-committee believes it is a concise and interesting precis of the opportunities for central and local government to be a driver of a more shared economy.
- Much of the content within the document is included within the summary documents and or will be included within new policy work the Party is undertaking on enhanced city and county regions. This is especially true of the Preston work using the Cleveland model of local economic development.
- The Policy sub-committee notes that the current summary documents do not make specific reference for the need for the development of 'Mutual Guarantee Societies'. This will be rectified with the below policy demand:
- 'The UK Government must take the necessary regulatory steps to ensure that the UK benefits from Mutual Guarantee Societies. Societies which currently help 8% of European Small and Medium size business lend without significant capital.

Response **CSNetworks**

Topic: 'Creating a more equal society' policy paper: Co-operative Schools

NEC policy subcommittee response

■ The Policy sub-committee thanks CSnetworks for its thoughtful contribution and welcomes the fact that it is in agreement which much of the wording and meaning of the co-operative education and schools policy demands and campaigning ideas.

- The policy sub-committee recognises the need for some of the wording relating to the numbers and how different types of schools involved in co-operative clusters and schooling and believes that the in-depth Education paper should be updated to reflect this.
- The policy-sub recognises CSnetworks point that there are now some cooperative focused further education courses, as sponsored by the BSA mutual finance Masters courses. The policy sub-committee believes that co-operative education will only ever benefit the whole economy. Whilst it might be difficult to make this into a campaign to change public policy, further promotion, support and platforms for these under-going courses must be included. It is therefore suggested this is included within the in-depth education policy paper.
- In relation to the mixed stakeholder model campaign and policy demand, the policy sub-committee accepts CSnetworks suggested wording change and especially the withdrawal of the word 'mainstream'. The update summary document will be updated to include this.

Response Fair Tax Mark, Director Paul Monaghan.

▼ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' policy paper: Tax avoidance

- Firstly, the policy sub-committee agrees that Fair Tax should be part of the building a shared economy policy paper and that change has been made.
- The Co-operative Party is proud to be the first political party in the UK to be awarded the Fair Tax Mark and as over the last year been a strong supporter of the initiatives and the need to promote the steps outlined by the campaign within local and national governance.
- The policy sub-committee notes the inclusion within the submission that 'In December 2015, the <u>Institute of Business Ethics</u> reported that their annual survey had found, for the third consecutive year, that corporate tax avoidance is the number one concern of the public when it comes to business conduct'

- and this further underlines the Co-operative Party's need to stay and the forefront of political supporters of the need for tax reform and tax fairness.
- As part of this work the policy sub-committee agrees that the policy demands and campaigns contained within the summary document which relate to this issue require expansion. The points made within 3a to 3f will be incorporated in a number of further calls to be included in the economy summary document and reflected in the more in depth policy paper.

Response Fairtrade Foundation **Head of Policy Tim Aldred**

▼ Topic: 'Creating a fairer society' policy paper

- The policy sub-committee agrees with the need to specifically mentioned the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) commitment in relation to trade distortion whilst being explicit about the aim being to open up opportunities for developing countries rather than allowing for a reduction in developing countries trade tariffs.
- Following the Brexit referendum vote and the feedback from the Fairtrade Foundation on the UK Gov't to campaign for EU to lower or remove trade tariffs in order to create a favourable tariff regimes for sustainability produced products, the policy sub-committee believes there is a need to change the focus of the policy ask in order to reflect the trade situation post-Brexit. It is possible that this will become something the UK Government could do at a national level.
- The feedback from the FairTrade Foundation is stark that 80-90% of the 1.6 million farmers in the Fairtrade system are working within cooperatives, yet DfID's preference remains for plantation production or contract production with management companies. Therefore the policy sub-committee believe that a reworked policy demand must be:
- 'Given the fact that 80%-90% of all farmers within the Fairtrade system work within co- operatives, the UK's Government must not seek to give preference

to other forms of Fairtrade production and must focus on International Development policy aiding the expansion and development of co-operatives.'

Response **Responsible Finance**

Topic: 'Building a shared economy' policy paper

- The policy sub-committee is heartened by the support for the identified aspects of the building a shared economy policy paper from Responsible Finance.
- The policy sub-committee agrees that the 'duty to serve' policy call should specifically reference 'building upon the Community Reinvestment Act in the US'. As well including a reference to the need for re-investment from lending organisations which are shown to have geographic black spots in relation to community lending. This changes will be made to the summary document ahead of conference.
- The proposal from Responsible Finance in relation to the 'payday lenders levy' is interesting and reflects feedback from ABCUL regarding the medium/long term viability of the pay day lending market. The Party aims to produce a 'Shared economy pamphlet post summer 2016 and hopes that this will be examined and included along with further collaboration with Responsible Finance through its drafting.
- Changes will be made to the UK System of Payments will be made following comments from Responsible Finance and others about the more recent developments and reform of the system in relation to the non-banks access to BoE finance.
- The fact that between 1m and 1.5 million people are unbanked in the UK underlines the party's need for further campaigning work both locally and nationally.

Response **Social Enterprise UK**

▼ Topic: 'Building a more shared economy' policy paper

- The policy sub-committee thanks Social Enterprise UK for allowing the reproduction of the Key findings; trends and insights within the realm of the Social Value Act.
- This is an important report which demonstrates the need for the greater understanding and adoption of the Social Value Act within Local Authority procurement officers and frameworks. The fact that just one third of organisations are not considering social value across all services shows there is work still to do. The Policy sub-committee is pleased that the Co-operative Party and Social Enterprise UK is already working together to promote the importance of this Act.
- The Key recommendations in the submitted are important and must form a part of policy demands and campaign ideas within possibly both the Building a Shared Economy and Creating a Fairer Society policy papers. The policy subcommittee will adjust the summary documents ahead of conference to include:
- 'Local Authorites and public sector bodies must have a written policy and nominated lead for social value.'
- And 'Local Authorities and public sector bodies must measure social value being created against a clear sense of what is trying to be achieved, proportionately and throughout the length of a contract.'
- The in-depth Local Government paper will be updated with these inclusions as well.

NEC Policy Subcommittee Responses - Branches

Response Central England Co-operative **Eastern and Southern Society Party Council**

♡ Topic: **All three documents.**

- The way in which the Policy sub-committee have embarked upon this year's policy work and process is very much in line with the overall view expressed by the Party Council. For example, this work, the in-depth policy documents as well as specific policy developments such as in Social Care will building towards a new Local Government platform for council elections in the coming months. We hope that the documents will be adapted for campaigning use locally to reflect priorities on the ground.
- On the transport aspects of the Submission the Party's in-depth Transport paper includes many of the aspects the Party Council has identified, for example it contains good case studies of co-operative care share schemes the Party Council may want to review ahead of campaigning on the topic. The Party's commitment to rural transport and its proliferation are covered within our 'Peoples Bus Campaign', the Party is currently actively seeking to amend the Bus Services Bill in order to improve and expand not for profit travel. The national party would be happy to engage with the party council in order to stimulate local campaigning on the topic.
- Fairtrade, Health and Social Care and BBC feedback fits well with the existing policy demands within the summary documents and the Party's BBC campaign (as part of this campaign the party has met with and lobbied the BBC directly).

■ The Policy sub-committee will reflect upon the identified missing policy element within the Shared Economy paper and will ensure it is included in forth coming work on the topic.



Response Chesterfield Branch

▼ Topic: 'A co-operative manifesto for Chesterfield; a work in progress'

NEC policy subcommittee response

- The work the Chesterfield Branch is embarking upon is clearly a template for others around the country. Whilst the submission doesn't necessarily fit with the process set out by the Policy sub-committee the policy sub-committee hopes the branch will engage with the national party should there be support we can offer.
- It is heartening that many of foundation blocks contained within the vision with the emerging manifesto for 2030 are included within the prepared summary documents. For example, community energy production, the development and proliferation of local community assets and housing co-operatives are well covered.
- The Policy sub-committee hopes that there will be representatives of the branch at conference to share their thinking and vision as well as benefits from the debates, events and specialist input in order to help continue the Branch's manifesto work.



Response Coventry and Warwickshire Branch

Topic: all three papers

NEC policy subcommittee response

■ It is clear that the Coventry and Warwickshire Branch held a detailed policy session which has focused on Housing and Social Care.

- The Party will shortly issue a new policy pamphlet on co-operative social care and if the Branch would like to take forward its work towards campaigning for cooperative rather than private provision locally with procuring authorities and local councilors the national party would be delighted to provide speakers and support.
- The Branch has set out that social value within contract should be a national campaigning priority, the policy sub-committee agrees and has in response to its work with Social Enterprise UK and their submission found within this document has drafted a number of new social value related policy demands to be added to the summary documents. The social value aspect within social care provision will feature heavily within the new social care pamphlet.
- Much of the submission the Policy sub-committee agrees with especially the need for co-operative housing tenure, the Co-operative Housing Bill the Party prepared is focused on this topic and is included within the summary documents. The work the Party has done to promote student housing co-ops has included events, articles and lobbying support and this will continue both it and the nationwide landlord co-op are featured within the prepared summary documents.
- The Co-operative Housing target was set looking at current co-operative housing numbers and using a percentage of national housing building targets, some organisations and branches within this process have called for no target or an increased target. The rest of the summary of policy demands sets out a clear direction for a significant uplift in co-operative housing and the policy sub-committee will review the target set.



👺 Response **Dorset Branch**

▼ Topic: Creating a fairer society

NEC policy subcommittee response

■ The Party's commitment to co-operative and community energy is well documented within the current summary documents and the Party's campaigning over the last number of years.

■ The Policy sub-committee extends an offer on behalf of the National Party to work with the Dorset branch to develop a local campaign on developing local community owned renewable schemes.



Response **Dover, Deal and Thanet Branch**

♀ Topic: **Secure and confident communities**

- Thank you very much for your submission, the comments and ideas below are very useful for moving forward the Co-operative Party's policy platform. This is a critical time for the party in fighting the Tories and spreading co-operative values and principles to all sectors of the economy and society. Your submissions assist this task facing the party.
- The policy subcommittee of the NEC welcomes your submissions regarding Co-operative Housing. We certainly agree that a target 20,000 co-op homes is modest and that 100,000 is more desirable, but felt offering a target that might be adopted by central government to be the best way forward. Equally your idea of bringing old properties into use is excellent and we support this initiative.
- The link between the Party and the Co-op movement is a vital relationship. Indeed, this policy process has engaged with a wide range of co-operatives, listening to and learning from their ideas for growing co-operation.
- The Party's policies support the growth of the Co-operative School, which involve parents and the wider community local education, and the idea of a co-op apprenticeship scheme is warmly appreciated. This would certainly help spread the technical skills needed for the building the co-operative movement.
- The policy sub-committee recognises the great contribution that generations of migrants have brought to British society and economy. In offering voluntary and open membership, co-operative principles offer a way of fighting against discrimination faced by those from a range of ethnicities and cultures, and achieve the problems you have rightly identified in your submission. By spreading co-

- operation further within society, economy and politics, the Co-operative Party is creating a country that is more welcoming of those all ethnicities and cultures.
- Your comments of health services are warmly welcomed, reflecting a pressing issue for many people around the country. The policy subcommittee agrees that co-operation amongst health services can ensure a 'wole person' approach, where an individual's needs are assessed together rather than separately.
- The branches suggestion of further research into convalescent types homes is appreciated, and reflects a piece of detailed policy development ongoing currently on the need for social care co-operatives. This work, to be reported in September, shows that by moving beyond for-profit care providers and developing social care co-operatives, the issues you have highlighted can be address.



♀ Topic **On all three summary papers**

- The policy sub-committee notes Exeter and Devon Branch's key role in the organisation of the South West Summer Schools a key part of co-operative party education in this part of the country.
- The policy sub-committee agrees that there is often overlap between the three strands of summary. It notes that the twelve in-depth quite separate policy papers have not been superseded by the production of the summary papers rather the summary papers have been produced to stimulate discussion and debate on individual campaign ideas and policy demands. The policy sub-committee commits to listening at conference and further post conference work to ensuring the allocation of each idea and demand is within the correct summary document. For example a judgement on the allocation of the Fair Tax Mark inclusion already has been altered.

- The policy sub-committee agrees that sustainability is a key concern which runs through often separate policy areas. The policy subcommittee would like to hear at conference what additions to the papers are required to recognise that outside of the important inclusion on sustainability within the 'Building a more equal society' policy paper.
- In relation to the branches suggestion of a citizens income and health and social care commissioning; the citizens income will be considered within forth coming work on the Shared Economy (post summer 2016) and the policy sub-committee agrees as to the need for social value to be included in commissioning, following this suggestion and the work from Social Enterprise UK there are new policy demands within the summary papers which relate to this and it is noted that it will be within the recommendations of a forth coming pamphlet on Adult Social Care in particular.
- The policy sub-committee are clear that the twelve agreed policy papers are living documents and thanks the branch for the suggestions to the Women and Equalities paper which will be added to the improved paper ahead of conference.



Response **Greenwich Branch**

▼ Topic: all three papers

NEC policy subcommittee response

■ The policy sub-committee thanks the Greenwich Branch for its submission, on the suggested national campaigns the Committee believes that the three identified areas are of importance to the Party. The upcoming Social Care policy pamphlet will provide the Party a fresh platform to campaign nationally for a more cooperative sector. Working with ABCUL the Party is also to launch a new guide for promoting and working with local credit unions for Councillors and parties, this will form an important part of the Party's work in the coming months. Similarly, the Party understands the need for further campaigning work on Co-operative

- Housing and is pleased that conference this year will have a strong housing focus with events and practitioners speaking and stimulating new campaigning ideas.
- The three summary documents produced in this process are aimed at giving a clear set of policy demands and campaigning ideas for the national and local parties, they follow on from the twelve more in-depth policy documents agreed by conference over the previous three years. More detailed narrative and explanation of the Party's full policy platform can be found in these documents. The twelve policy documents can be found on the Party's website and were circulated along with the summary documents. For detailed explanation of what co-operative schools, as well as Foundation Trusts and co-operative housing and why are found within the separate Housing, Health and Education documents.
- The Policy sub-committee agrees with the branch on the importance of social care and hopes the Party's forthcoming policy pamphlet on the topic goes a long way to underscores the Party's commitment to campaigning for a more co-operative and ultimately improved social care sector.
- The Policy sub-committee will reflect upon the branch's submission relating to the policy demands around pay day lenders especially on a cap. The existing cap is still relatively new and may need to be reviewed by the Party. The in-depth documents show strong support for clean energy and fossil fuel divestment and it has always been an important part of our work promoting renewable energy co-operatives.
- The missing policy areas identified by the branch included food banks and child protection. Two hugely important topics for our communities. The Party has always been an active advocate for support for food banks with our elected members often campaigning for them and local branches holding collections. The policy sub-committee will consider how the Party can turn this support in to a new policy demand. Within these documents focus has been given the co-operative solution or activity which requires support or promotion the important issue of child protection has not been one where a clear co-operative solution or option has been identified we will investigate to see whether there should be additions which relate to this within the Party's full platform.

Response **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Co-operative Party Council**

▼ Topic: All three papers.

- Secure and confident communities, the policy sub-committee agrees with much of the submission and intent behind the feedback the three bullets on the topic are included and will be reflected in the Party's new social care pamphlet and the policy sub-committee will assess the New Zealand example for its applicability within that work.
- Within the feedback on housing there is the specific example of housing not encroaching on community assets, the UK planning system does facilitate some of this protection and the policy sub-committee believes that the commitment to sustainable development which does not damage the environment is covered within the policy demand contained within the 'Creating a fairer society' policy document. The policy sub-committee will reflect upon the call for more specific language on the Land Use proposal and will update ahead of conference.
- Building a shared economy the policy sub-committee hopes that representatives of the Hants and IoW party council will be able to attend conference and bring forward discussion on the type of separate levy for Building Societies which is suggested.
- The financial diversity paragraph reflects the more in-depth assessment if its importance and application with the Economy paper that the Party has produced and hopes that it is sufficient for the Party Council. The summary document is aimed at brevity and ease of use for others but the policy sub-committee will reflect on the wording ahead of conference.
- Creating a more equal society The policy sub-committee thanks the Party Council for the helpful suggestion regarding the inclusion of rugby and this change will be made. The People's BBC campaign is aimed at ensuring that the proposed mutual model allows for licence fee payers to have a

- proper say in the type of service which is delivered, it is recognised that within the current charter there is a need for this type of programming.
- Whilst it is outside the gift of the party to impose new structures on cooperative schools the Party will continue to work with the co-operative schools sector to ensure its models and applicability are well known and understandable. The policy sub-committee recommends the Party Council engage with the sector to develop local events on the topic to ensure members have a great chance to engage with the model and its aims.



Response Islington Branch

♀ Topic: **All three summary documents**

- The Policy sub-committee thanks the Islington Branch so this wide ranging response to the summary documents. As ever the Committee sought to balance the need for shorter usable policy demand and campaign idea documents with the longer in-depth documents published over the last three years. Post conference the policy sub-committee will be updating these documents and some comments from the respondent are more appropriate within this context.
- The Policy sub-committee and national Party are considering the need for fresh post Brexit policy making and have taken steps within upcoming policy pamphlets to reflect a post-Brexit landscape. This work is on-going and will be discussed at conference. Other respondents have rightly pointed to areas of particular concern in relation to Fairtrade, environmental and consumer issues which need specific and urgent attention.
- Ideas for pharmaceutical buying clubs, specific co-operative duties on BIDs and driverless cars will be considered for the updated summary documents.
- The policy sub-committee recognises the large areas of agreement between the submission and the Party's platform including issues on the single ombudsman and the exploratory work surrounding University

- Governance (in this the Branch may like to look at the work within University of Lincoln and in particular Joss Winn's proposals).
- Areas of the submission relating to public services and social care are also agreed with and will feature heavily in the Party's new policy pamphlets on 'enhanced city and county regions' and 'co-operative vision for social care'.
- In relation to the work on the need for a mutualised BBC whilst the need for regional representation is well taken and is implied within the well balanced second tier board proposed the Party's main call has been to include license fee payers in a more enhanced and meaningful way more generally but alterations will be made within the People's BBC campaign materials which can be found on the Party's website.



Response **Kettering Branch**

▼ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' and 'secure and confident communities'

- The policy sub-committee thanks the Kettering Branch for its supportive submission and looks forward to hearing from representatives of the branch at conference.
- The understanding and access to credit unions is clearly an important aspect of financial inclusion the Party is therefore pleased that a new guide for supporting and promoting credit unions will be available from ABCUL at conference and is a product which the policy sub-committee feels the branch would be well placed to promote and utilise.
- Public sector body automatic pay roll deduction for credit unions is an important campaigning feature after the Party's success in campaigning for military personal to have this facility we are as determined as ever before to spread this best practice.
- Housing and the democratisation of housing features heavily within the summary documents and the policy sub-committee will

continue to develop the Party's thinking to ensure that we are an active part of the lobby for increased housing of this nature.



Response Newton Abbot and Totnes Branch

Topic: 'Building a shared economy' and 'creating a more equal society'

NEC policy subcommittee response

- The policy sub-committee is heartened to hear of the lengths taken by the Newton Abbot and Totnes Branch in ensuring the policy documents were seen by its members.
- Whilst these summary papers are primarily focused on the need for and importance of co-operative public policy it is of course right that an integrated, not for profit, co-operative public transport system is a priority for the running and management of the nation's infrastructure especially in places like the South West.
- It is noted that the summary documents include reference to the need for fair tax, incentives for community energy and the need to use public buildings for solar.



Response North East Party Council

▼ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' and 'creating a more equal society'

NEC policy subcommittee response

■ The Policy sub-committee is aware for the need for a new Co-operative Party platform in relation to enhanced City and County regions covered by new 'City Deals'. This is an important development, which is not always universally welcomed, but the Party is cognisant that these new structures and decision making processes are underway. The Party will shortly be issuing a paper which aims at

- ensuring that any co-operative or mutual opportunities within this deal are able to be taken by Labour and Co-operative representatives in the affected regions.
- The feedback on the priority areas for the Party is welcomed and agreed with by the Policy sub-committee. The People's BBC campaign has been successful in reaching a wider audience and efforts will be made to ensure the amplification and emphatic communications on the topic are reflected within the 'Creating and fairer society' policy paper.
- The proposed Sugar Tax was a popular measure within George Osborne's last budget and the Party will watch for its enactment and roll out with the changed Conservative administration.



👺 Response Notts, Lincs and Ereward Branch

Topic: All three summary documents

NEC policy subcommittee response

The Policy subcommittee thanks the Notts, Lincs and Erewash Party Council for taking the time to consider the policy summary documents and send in this response.

The policy subcommittee is pleased to report that the Co-operative Party was the first political party to be awarded the Fair Tax Mark. The Party has been working hard to raise the profile of the Fair Tax Mark, both in Westminster and local government. Model Council motions and draft press releases related to the Fair Tax Mark are available on our website, and the Party will continue to help develop this campaign.

Aspects of the feedback received from the Party Council in relation to the need to ensure a strong platform is given to the desirability and inherent benefits of the co-operative model is well documented within the in-depth economy paper supplied alongside the summary documents. The summary documents are aimed to be a summary of the Party's policy demands and campaigning ideas.

The policy subcommittee believes that a Minister for Mutuals would ensure Co-operatives are given equal treatment in dealings with Government, the Policy subcommittee believes the reality of each Minister being given cooperative and mutual responsibilities may have a lessened effect compared to a Minister with cabinet authority who seeks to press co-operative and mutual solutions working with Ministerial colleagues across Government. The Cooperative Party campaigns to increase the currently unsubstantial civil service support for coop and mutuals within the Treasury and believes that proper Treasury support for the sector is vital in order to develop the sector.

The question raised regarding social care are being address by the party through the production of a piece of policy development that outlines the case for the growth of social care co-operatives. The report will be published at Annual Conference 2016, and we hope the Notts, Lincs and Erewash Co-operative Party will be present to offer a response.

The party is currently development its policy platform in regard to devolution and the recently established city and county authorities. The outcome of this work will be contained within a report published this autumn.

Thank you for emphasising local efforts in Nottingham to spread cooperative and mutual enterprise. It would be good if you could engage with Party's Policy Officer to discuss the lessons from these examples

The policy subcommittee hopes to hear more from Notts, Lincs and Erewash delegates at Conference 2016 regarding the wedding co-operative idea. We hope one of your delegates can contribute to advance the idea further.



Response Reading Branch

Topic: 'Creating a more equal society' policy paper

- These motions have been passed to the policy subcommittee by the Conference Arrangements
- Committee as they were not organisational motions, whilst the Party has sought to move to a different system of policy process away from motions the policy sub-committee welcomes policy involvement and development from the Reading Branch.
- It may be useful for the Reading Branch to meet with the Party's new Policy and Local Government Officers to develop and champion the work mentioned within the above.
- The Policy sub-committee is in absolute agreement with the Reading Branch on the devastating effect of Government policy in relation to Community Energy. This is an area the Party has campaigned on over many years and will continue to do so. Specific reference to this work is contained within the 'Building a Fairer Society' policy document.
- The Party is happy to be committed to promoting the Big Clean which is an important part of Co-operatives Fortnight as it is a good example of co-operation in operation.



▼ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' and 'creating a more equal society'

- The policy sub-committee thanks the Sutton Branch for its support for the identified policy areas. It hopes that the summary documents provided a focus for the branch's on-going work. The identified areas of agreement do reflect some the priority areas of work the national party has or is conducting both in the fields of campaigning or policy development.
- The policy sub-committee looks forward to hearing and learning from representatives of the Sutton Branch through the conference debates especially the areas the branch believes should be the party's focus.
- On the specific of bilateral trade deals the policy sub-committee are concerned that post Brexit decision these deals will require ever increased scrutiny and understanding as the parameters of the debate are likely to change significantly. It is vital that co-ops and co-operation are not hindered through these new and complex arrangements.

NEC Policy Subcommittee Responses - Individuals

Response Carl Packman

♀ Topic: **Building a Shared Economy: Fintech**

- The policy sub-committee of the Co-operative Party's NEC welcomes your comments regarding fintech, and note this to be a recent technological development that offers both risks and opportunities to the co-operative movement and its members. We thank you for the explanation of how Fintech works.
- The policy sub-committee would support any joint conferences between community financial organisations and fintech organisations.
- The Co-operative Party supports the growth of credit unions, as reflected in our policy platform and summary documents. We will take a supportive stance regarding any policy stance the credit union sector develops to enhance their competition with payday lenders.

Response Cathy Trevaldwyn

♀ Topic: **Secure and Confident Communities: Foundation Trust Hospitals**

- Firstly, the Policy Subcommittee thanks you for taking the time to read and response to the policy summary documents. Your input is vital to our ongoing policy process, ensuring our policies remain valid, supported and practical.
- We welcome your comments regarding the terminology regarding Foundation Trusts. We continue to assess the suitability of the terms and phrases used through the Party's policy documents, and your comments will help with this task.
- The policy process asked members to consider what local campaigns they might take forward within their branch, and we welcome your idea to encourage party members to engage in the NHS with Healthwatch groups and other similar boards.
- The national party is currently developing its policy on adult social care, considering the role of healthwatch groups, and how to ensure co-operative values and principles inform the integration of health and social care services. This work will add to the existing policy relating to health and social care, and will be published at conference. Subsequent to this policy development, the national party will be considering the feasibility of a campaign to support the fulfilment of our policy recommendations therein. This will focus both on increasing demand for greater public engagement through reform of commissioning procedures as well as increasing the supply of those co-operators willing to involve themselves as you describe. As such, your comments are particularly welcomed.
- The policy sub-committee will consider this recommendation, as we see value in bringing together interest groups who are able to participate prior to release of documents such as the ones in question. Indeed we have in the past engaged informally with interest groups for the purposes you describe, and will consider whether there is scope for formalising this process.

Response Chris Magee

Topic: **Animal testing**

NEC policy subcommittee response

- The policy sub-committee has sought within this process to summarise the existing Party policy platform in order to stimulate debate regarding the campaigning and policy demands which are required to bring about co-operative solutions and public policy change across the country.
- Whilst the policy sub-committee recognises the importance and depth of feeling which surrounds this topic however the submission does not propose cooperative solutions and fit with the way in which this years process has been run, of course the respondent will be welcome at conference and within plenary to press the case for individual action and further understanding of this topic.

Response Christian Wilcox

Topic: **Health**

- The Co-operative Party is always looking for innovative ways to ensure that Co-operative Housing is able to benefit from much needed capital, the Policy sub-committee would point the respondent towards our 'New Foundations' policy pamphlet.
- The Policy sub-committee believes that the respondent may like to engage with the Party's new policy officer to develop the idea of a co-operative solution within the pharmaceutical industry.

Response Jim Lee

♀ Topic: **Creating a more equal society**

NEC policy subcommittee response

- Many of the points raised within the first three paragraphs around the difficult operating environment for community energy schemes are well reflected within the in depth energy paper that supports the summary documents, but we will work to ensure that wording reflects any recent changes within the current summary.
- The party has campaigned hard for the detrimental policy brought forward by this government to be reversed, up to and including achieving a policy commitment from John McDonnell that a Labour Party government will give proper support to the sector and repair the damage done by the Conservative policy.
- Direct supply is an important issue and we will continue to work with the sector and all members of the party to make the sale electricity to members and communities more achievable.
- The respondent is to right to point out a missing component in the summary documents relating to district heating. We will add a policy demand or campaign idea into the summary documents to adequately reflect this point.
- We have looked into CARES and it is a really good example of a way to support community projects, and will ensure these are reflected in the in-depth energy policy document.

Response Martin Strube

▼ Topic: Creating a more equal society

NEC policy subcommittee response

- Whilst the respondent has not followed the process and policy exercise the Policy sub-committee has instituted for this year's conference it is none the less an important essay on the need for mixed stakeholder management and democracy in schools.
- The legislative specifics called for are in part recognised within the co-opreative model for co-operatives schools and hence why the Party is such a strong supporter of them.
- The issues of democratic elements within schools has been the subject of much debate, especially following the publication this year of the education white paper. The Co-operative Party has represented the sector in Westminster, defending the model described and facilitated meeting with Government ministers where representatives of the Co-operative schools sector have made these arguments clear. We will continue to support mixed stakeholder governance for schools.
- The Policy sub-committee hopes the respondent is able to attend conference and add to the debate on Secure and Confident Communities.

Response Richard Bickle

Topic: All questions set

NEC policy subcommittee response

■ National campaigns: this is a helpful suggestion which the policy subcommittee will reflect upon, the theme of the upcoming new platform

- for enhanced city and county regions very much centers upon 'taking control' and has a strong focus on energy, bus and community assets.
- Local campaigns: The Party will continue to develop its work with both CAMRA and Plunkett Foundation, in recent months both organisations have separately briefed the Westminster Group on campaigns and policy demands and within this process new drafted policy relating to the review and expansion of ACV have been added as a result of responses from CAMRA in particular. The Party will continue to inspire activity surrounding community assets and pubs within our work in Local Government the most recent guide for campaigning was sent on this topic to councilors just over a month ago.
- Missing policy: The Policy sub-committee accepts the respondents' assertion regarding a lack of foreign and defense policy demands, the Party has traditionally focused on more domestic co-operative solutions and a lack of available or traditional co-operative thinking has meant that this has been omitted. However, the policy sub-committee extends an offer to the respondent to explore a potential pamphlet in area should it be helpful.
- Whilst not in the remit of the policy sub-committee we would echo the respondents concern regarding a widened pool of candidates for all levels of government, the Party is running a series of new training sessions for potential candidates which has been widely advertised and new simplified processes for local Government will hopefully lead to a new influx of candidates.
- With regard to changing policy environments following Brexit the respondent has identified important areas of co-operative and mutual policy which could be subject to flux and the policy sub-committee and wider Party will be active in championing new opportunities and defending important rights through these public policy debates.
- Other comments on the summary documents are extremely useful and will be reflected upon through the re-issuing of the documents for conference especially the financial and housing sections of the submission. It is hoped that the respondent will be at conference to talk to some of the submitted comments.
- The Policy sub-committee has sought to strike a balance between usable short summary policy demands and campaigns within the documents and the agreed

- in-depth policy papers. Post conference the policy sub-committee will ensure that the in-depth documents adequately cover new and submitted details.
- The comments relating to social care will be considered for inclusion within the Party's forth coming policy pamphlet on social care and current drafting does reflect the balance between the personalisation agenda and needed regulation.

Response Steve Watkins

♀ Topic: **'Secure and confident communities' policy paper**

NEC policy subcommittee response

- The Policy sub-committee believes that this is an important aspect of potential work. There are parts of the platform which is applicable to rural communities and villages such as local co-operative community assets and transport.
- The National Party would like to work with Steve and others to ensure that we have a stronger platform for these issues. It is hoped this will be raised through the conference debates.

Full Text of Submissions - Organisations

Submission ABCUL

♀ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' policy paper

1. **Banks: Duty to serve**

Good idea, but challenge is that it is difficult to pin down the meaning of the duty and enforcement procedures. We have seen with other such proposals that there is a gap between high-level commitments and the grass roots experience on the ground.

2. Payday lenders levy

Cautious as do not want to be seen as the only alternative to payday lenders. Credit Unions would like to diversify their membership. Consider refocusing onto all forms of high cost credit. Also, question of how the levy will be used. We think the other question is about whether there is really any available money in the PDL sector now since the regulation have significantly reduced the sector's scope and reach. Wonga for instance has faced significant challenges and has made significant losses for the past few years.

3. **Banking Governance**

The question of whether banking law actually disallows banks becoming co-operatives or mutuals.

We don't think current legislation prevents banks mutualising. The challenge is how this would be funded since shareholders would need to be compensated in any process of mutualisation. This may be dealt with via tax incentives.

4. **Raising capital**

Challenge is how to make them attractive or non-members. Build market for these kind of shares – could CU members try and sell these shares? Challenge is how you raise capital for PIBs.

We are close to completing a research project undertaken with Social Finance which looks at how social investment might be used in credit unions and a key challenge is that there is no market for the secondary trade of credit union capital instruments. This makes them much less attractive since they can only be redeemed in very limited circumstances otherwise.

The other issues here are: credit unions need clear and credible plans for sustainable growth and development in order to attract and service capital investment requiring returns; investors need to adopt a patient approach to investment in order to provide credit unions the breathing space to make best use of capital investment.

One policy option we are keen to explore here is whether there might be a case for tax relief to be provided for investment in credit unions – this would drive down the required return on investment direct from the credit unions and thereby make the investment more attractive.

5. **Finance diversity**

Support as stands. There are commitments to promoting (or more precisely, not discouraging) diversity of corporate forms in the financial services industry already. What this means in practice is limited though. I think there are ways in which public policy could perhaps encourage and incentivise the creation and expansion of co-operatives in financial services – perhaps through tax policy or

an explicit statement on how regulation should be lighter on co-operatives since their structure and restrictions in activities make them inherently less risky.

Financial Inclusion 6.

Enforcement details required. Look to Community Investment Act in the US. Should be a challenge to a free bank amount model. The difficulty is how the CRA interacts with the financial services and jurisdictional eco-system in the US. Banks are chartered on a state or federal level and it is at the point of wanting to expand charters – perhaps to enter a neighbouring state – that the banks' record on community reinvestment is taken into account. Those with a bad record are denied the right to expand.

The area I was referring to in on free bank accounts is about the model whereby the vast majority of us enjoy a free account provided it is in credit. This is partially funded by foregone interest and partly by punitive charges on failed payments and unauthorised overdrafts. The prevalence of the free model – as well as being regressive in that the poorest pay most – also creates structural problems since small providers like credit unions are unable to provide a competitive product because their lack of scale means that they are generally unable to provide the product for free. This would be a difficult thing to argue for politically though since it would involve politicians calling for extra charges on customers which is unlikely to be popular.

Worth looking at the Competition and Markets Authority report recently on competition in the current account market which stopped well short of recommending the curbing of the free-in-credit model in favour of comparison sites and other market-based measures to increase competition. These are unlikely to work, I think, since there is very little to choose between most current account services which are largely the same.

7. **Access to finance**

As with the feedback above, I think the challenge here is about practicality. While it's true that people should in principle have access to such financial products and services, I am not clear as to how this could be legislated for. I think

measures to support the likes of credit unions and others to develop sustainable business models are the areas in which we should focus our efforts here.

8. Reform of UK payments systems

Generally we are of the view that there are lots of positive developments here with the Payments Systems Regulator, Payments Strategy Forum, PSDII, Real Time Gross Settlement review and Open Banking initiative. These will all provide much greater competition and choice in the provision of payments and we are optimistic about the positive effect this is likely to have for credit unions. This does not deal with the free-in-credit problem I mention above, though, which remains in the commercial space but is currently anti-competitive.

9. A British Investment Bank

Support.

(Submission received as a transcription)

Submission **BSA** (Building Societies Association)

♀ Topic: The Co-operative Party's 'Co-operative Housing Bill'

Lending under the terms of the Bill would be subject to legal advice on the mortgagee in possession clauses proposed.

There have been some legal precedents within the current housing co-operatives world (the Mexford case) which have caused some concerns re the definition of members versus tenants and the potential to have a permanent sitting tenant.

http://ukscblog.com/case-comment-berrisford-v-mexfield-housing-co-operative-ltd-2011-uksc-52/

For those reasons, and the general issue of complexity, may have limited appeal in the market.

Market feedback is that apart from Triodos, co-operative housing tends to be a struggle, even with other social lenders such as Unity / Charity Bank and even Co-operative Bank seem to be pretty inactive in this field at present.

However, the member has lent to a number of Housing Co-operatives and had a very good experience of this, with very few defaults and no repossessions to report.

Submission **CAMRA** (Campaign for Real Ale)

♀ Topic: Secure and confident Communities policy paper: 'Cooperative pubs: The heart of the community'

Thank you for providing the opportunity to respond to the Cooperative Party's Policy Consultation. Please find enclosed CAMRA's response to each of the three policy papers, which are attached as individual appendices to this letter.

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is a UK consumer organisation representing over 180,000 individual consumers on matters relating to beer and pubs. We are an independent, voluntary organisation campaigning for real ale, community pubs and consumer rights.

Well run pubs play a pivotal role in local communities, but are increasingly under threat of demolition or being converted to another use by large developers, with 21 pubs closing across the UK every week.

Pubs have become much more than a place to drink and are now vital community facilities that bring local people together, and have diversified to provide services such as village shops, post office and even house defibrillators.

CAMRA works to protect and promote community pubs at both a national and local government level. We run a national campaign to encourage Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing, lobby Local Authorities to use strong propub local planning policies, and support the running of campaigns to save pubs by CAMRA volunteers and members of the local community.

In particular, and in relation to the outcome of the policy consultation, CAMRA would like to see the Cooperative Party:

- Encourage all Cooperative Councils to identify and support community groups who are listing pubs as ACVs, or looking to bring pubs into community ownership.
- Commit to lobby the Government to conduct a full review of the Asset of Community Value scheme in England, including the Community Right to Bid D
- Extend the moratorium period for community groups to raise funds to buy ACV listed pubs to beyond the current duration of six months, and to allow greater fairness in the application of the ACV listing across England
- Work to encourage banks to prioritise newly set up cooperative groups and mutuals trying to open bank accounts who are looking to raise funds to bring a pub into community ownership
- Lobby for improved national planning regulations to prevent the demolition or change of use of any public house without the requirement of a full planning application so that local people are able to have a say.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any of these points further on 01727 798 448 or jonathan.mail@camra.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Ionathan Mail

Chief Campaigns Officer, CAMRA

Appendix 1: Creating A More Equal Society

1. Campaigns CAMRA would like to see the Cooperative Party take up in relation to the policy proposals contained in this paper:

1.1 Sustainable Development

CAMRA supports an approach to sustainable development which considers future generations and seeks to balance environmental, social and economic needs. We

encourage the protection of public houses as valued community facilities, and would like to see the Cooperative Party encourage the use of community facility policies within local planning policy in England and Wales. This would be line with Paragraph 70 of the National Planning Policy Framework which defines pubs as community

facilities that Councils should seek to retain.

1.2 Bus Routes as Community Assets

CAMRA is already a strong supporter of ACV powers and runs a high profile national campaign to encourage the listing of pubs as ACVs by local people and CAMRA branches.

We strongly support the improvement of the provision of bus services, particularly evening services and in rural areas, which allows a greater number of the local community to support pubs through their patronage, and also provides a safe means of transport home for pub goers. Pub closure rates in rural and many suburban areas are particularly concerning due to the lack of alternative community facilities. The last pub in an area is often the only remaining place for the community to meet and socialise good public transport links throughout the day and evening would help to combat this worrying trend.

CAMRA supports the proposal in the consultation paper or the extension of the Localism powers to allow for bus routes to be deemed ACVs and encourages the Cooperative party to launch such a campaign to help protect vital public transport links.

- 2. Campaigning ideas and action that local parties and members can engage with in their own areas in relation to this document
- 2.1 Local CAMRA Campaigns CAMRA operates a branch structure with over 210 local branches across the UK campaigning on issues surrounding pubs and beer in their areas. We would encourage all Cooperative Party MPs, Councillors and members to engage with their local branch and find out about campaigns being run in their area. Your local CAMRA branch can be identified at: http://www.camra.org.uk/camranearyou
- 3. Missing policy asks within this document

3.1 Sustainable Development CAMRA would like to see recognition of the social value of pubs and

the vulnerable position that they are in under the current planning system through a commitment by the Cooperative Party to remove permitted development rights for pubs and instead create a 'sui generis' use class. This would prevent any further demolitions or conversions of pubs occurring without planning permission and behind the backs of the local communities who use their facilities.

Appendix 2: Secure and Confident Communities

1. Campaigns CAMRA would like to see the Cooperative Party take up in relation to the policyproposals contained in this paper:

Cooperative Councils

CAMRA supports the Cooperative Party's policy that support should be given to Councils committed to supporting the growth and development of cooperatives, specifically cooperatives set up to take ownership of community pubs through the 'Community Right to Bid' power introduced in the Localism Act. CAMRA would like to see the following initiatives adopted under this approach:

- The encouragement of Cooperative Councils to identify and work with community groups who have registered pubs as ACVs, and provide them with the support to do so.
- The establishment and facilitation of local or regional forums for community groups who have either successfully registered pubs as ACVs, are bidding for a pub to be brought into community ownership, or have successfully brought a pub into community ownership to share their experiences and ideas.
- The identification of gaps in public services which community owned pubs might be able to fill. Pub is the Hub, for example, is an existing organisation

which works to promote diversification of pubs and supports licensees and communities looking to provide further community services in local pubs.

Case Study: the New Inn in Tholthorpe, North Yorkshire:

https://www.pubisthehub.org.uk/casestudy/newinntholthorpenorthyorkshire/

The encouragement of Cooperative Councils to enact robust local planning policies to protect community facilities, including pubs, and to ensure that these factors are always material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications. CAMRA also supports to withdrawal of permitted development rights for such facilities through Local Authority use of Article 4 Directions.

1.2 Localism Act 2011 Powers

CAMRA runs a national campaign on ACV listings in England a power introduced under the Localism Act and strongly encourages the nomination of community pubs, and supports CAMRA branches and individuals who wish to do so.

We echo the assertion that further reform is required to the Localism Act, specifically the extension of the moratorium period within the 'Community Right to Bid,' which is currently only six months. This will allow more time for community groups to raise funds to bid for ownership of ACV listed pubs which are put on the market.

In 2014, Simon Danczuk MP conducted research, via a Freedom Of Information request of all Local Authorities, which found that of the 122 groups that triggered a moratorium following ACV status, 60 were unsuccessful in their bid, 27 bids were outstanding and only 11 had resulted in a community buy out.

For some communities, particularly those in deprived areas, a six month moratorium period is simply not enough time for a community group to raise sufficient funds to purchase their local pub.

Case Study: The New Inn, Yealand Convers

The New Inn at Yealand, Conyers, closed in November 2014 after its owners, Robinsons Brewery, said it was no longer a viable business. The local community - who had already lost their local shop and post office - then formed a group to try and save it. The pub was listed as an Asset of Community Value, which triggered the six month moratorium period to give the community the opportunity to bid to buy the pub from Robinsons and turn it into a community venture.

Following the ACV listing, the group conducted a survey which found that 79% of respondents felt it was important to have a pub in the Yealands and 73% said they would consider investing in the community pub. Following the survey, the group set up a business plan to reflect the desires of the local community, and launched a community benefit society to start the fundraising process. The group begun raising the share offer to purchase the pub – with plans to diversify the property and bring it back to being at the heart of the community.

However, the group struggled to close a deal within the six month window. Having been caught up in a lengthy funding application cycle, Robinsons only accepted their offer after the six month window had closed.

This ran the risk of the community group being unable to raise further funds – and Robinsons being free to then sell to whoever they choose at whatever price agreed. We would also like to see the Cooperative party support our call for a full Government review of ACVs, in order to guarantee fairness for community groups across England and equal application of the regulations and statutory guidance by Local Authorities.

CAMRA is concerned that a number of Local Authorities are gold plating the requirements for community groups nominating pubs to be listed as ACVs. While this can partly be attributed to Councils finding their feet with the legislation, several Councils have clearly gone beyond what is required of them and are asking for more information than necessary before accepting nominations (such as requiring business plans to support ACV nominations).

These additional barriers are deterring community groups from submitting further nominations, and preventing the ACV scheme and Community Right to Bid from operating properly. CAMRA has continued to work with Local Authorities to ensure community groups have a fair chance of securing an ACV nomination, however this must be supported by a review from central Government.

Case Study: Enfield Council

Enfield City Council rejected a number of pub ACV nominations on the basis that the group could not provide evidence that the pubs were used by the whole community, rather than just their customer bases. CAMRA has since worked with the Council by providing evidence at a roundtable session with neighbouring Local Authorities to share best practice on accepting ACV nominations. Enfield Council are now working with CAMRA to renew their guidance to ensure community groups can nominate pubs as ACVs.

Case Study: Sheffield City Council

Sheffield City Council rejected 10 pub ACV nominations on the basis that the pubs are alcohol establishments – which is clearly not allowed under the ACV regulations as the Government encourage ACV listing of pubs and also stated that they needed confirmation that the pubs were used beyond just their customer base.

The Council also rejected one pub nomination on the basis that a reason given for nomination of the pub was that it was considered "haunted" by local people and that this could not be evidenced by the nominating group.

Further examples of 'gold plating' found by CAMRA include:

- Councils not accepting pubs on the basis that there is another pub in the area.
- A pub being rejected by St Albans City Council on the basis that the pub was located on a housing estate.
- Councils rejecting pubs on the basis that the nominating group could not afford to purchase the pub.
- Councils rejecting pubs on the basis that no business plan had been provided by the nominating group.

 Councils rejecting pubs on the basis that there was not enough. community support – despite 21 local people supporting the nomination as defined in the ACV regulations.

CAMRA encourages the Cooperative Party to work with Cooperative Councils to ensure that communities wishing to nominate local community assets as ACVs are fully supported and are not required to navigate arbitrary additional requirements.

CAMRA also strongly supports the Cooperative Party's 2016 Welsh Manifesto comments on the introduction of ACVs in Wales and the proposal that a Welsh scheme could be more advanced than the English system.

1.3 Community Assets/Right to Try

CAMRA strongly supports the Cooperative commitment to strengthening the Localism Act by including a Right of First Refusal. This would allow the nominating group or a community group the first chance to buy an ACV listed pub put up for sale at its market price, if they are able to raise the funds. CAMRA also welcomes the statement within the 2016 Welsh Manifesto that this is an elementthat could be included in a new and improved upon ACV scheme for Wales.

2. Campaigning ideas and action that local parties and members can engage with in their own areas in relation to this document:

2.1 Assets of Community Value

CAMRA believes that an ACV listing is a 'badge of honour' for pubs that receive them – to list a pub as an ACV, local people must come together to nominate the pub and state why it furthers the social wellbeing and interests of the community. ACV listing also allows for a community group to attempt

to raise funds to purchase the pub, should it come up for sale, by triggering a moratorium period during which the pub can only be sold to that group, bringing it into community ownership.

ACVs provide vital protection for pubs within the existing planning system currently 21 pubs closeevery week, and a pub can be demolished or converted to shop use

without planning permission, denying the local community the right to object. ACV listing prevents this from happening by removing the permitted development rights for a pub.

CAMRA would encourage Cooperative Party members to engage with our national campaign to get local community groups and CAMRA members to list pubs as ACVs. More information on our campaign and the support service that we provide can be found on our website:

www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal

Local CAMRA Campaigns

CAMRA operates a branch structure with over 210 local branches across the UK campaigning on issues surrounding pubs and beer in their areas. We would encourage all Cooperative

Party MPs, Councillors and members to engage with their local branch and find out about campaigns being run in their area. Your local CAMRA branch can be identified at: http://www.camra.org.uk/camranearyou

3. Missing policy asks within this document

3.1 Community Assets

CAMRA welcomed the Government's launch in March 2016 of the Pub Loan Fund which is a two year, £3.6 million package of business support, advice, and loan and grant funding for community groups looking to take ACV listed pubs into community ownership. More information can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ new36millionprogrammetohelpcommunitiestakecontroloftheirlocalpub CAMRA would like to see the Cooperative Party commit to extending the fund or establishing a longer term programme with the aim of supporting more community groups through the process of community pub ownership.

Appendix 3: Building a Shared Economy

- 1. Campaigns CAMRA would like to see the Cooperative Party take up in relation to the policy proposals contained in this paper:
- 1.1 Prioritisation by Banks of Newly Formed Cooperatives and Mutuals

CAMRA has firsthand experience of the practicalities of the Community Right to Bid scheme. Based on these experiences, CAMRA would recommend that alongside extending the moratorium period during which a community group can raise funds to buy an ACV listed pub, the Cooperative Party should also encourage banks to prioritise assisting newly set up cooperative groups and mutuals which have formed to purchase pubs and bring them into community ownership.

CAMRA has received a report that suggests that community groups have had issues with the Cooperative Bank, with regard to the waiting times for setting up accounts once they are formally incorporated as a group and able to bid for a pub. This eats into the six month moratorium period during which they must raise the funds to put in a community bid.

Case Study: The New Inn, Yealand Conyers

The community group looking to purchase the New Inn approached the Cooperative Bank to open an account, but were told that this would take 68 weeks to process. This was a significant setback for the group, especially considering the already narrow window available under the Community Right to Bid during which to raise funds.

A representative from The New Inn had presented their case at a panel discussion with the Parliamentary Coop Group this year.

2. Campaigning ideas and action that local parties and members can engage with in their own areas in relation to this document:

2.1 Local CAMRA Campaigns

CAMRA operates a branch structure with over 210 local branches across the UK campaigning on issues surrounding pubs and beer in their areas. We would encourage all Cooperative Party MPs, Councillors and members to engage with their local branch and find out about campaigns being run in their area. Your local CAMRA branch can be identified at: http://www.camra.org.uk/camranearyou

3. Missing policy asks within this document

3.1 Business Rates for Public Houses

In order to support community pubs, CAMRA believes that consideration needs to be given by central and local Government to the large tax burden that currently affects these small businesses.

CAMRA would like to see the Cooperative Party agree to promote community pubs and pubs in community ownership through reduction of business rates.

Submission CCH (Co-federation of Co-operative Housing)

♀ Topic: Secure and confident Communities policy paper: Co-operative Housing

Suggestion to be bolder on language on co-op housing – potentially an integral part of the housing system given the failure of most markets. Suggested to look at 1,001 Co-op Homes.

Discussion about the CCH's focus on practical and deliverable vs. Co-op Party need for simple sexy messages for the politicians. Both have value.

Question mark about inclusion of targets – civil servants don't like targets.

Question mark about deliverability of co-op housing tenure – a nice to have – but not essential and likely to be scuppered by civil servant solicitors asking do we really need this?

Need for something on local authorities and housing associations – ie. encouragement for them to look at developing co-operative and community-led housing – AND something on democratising (may not be the right word) housing associations and council housing.

Community-led housing definition – good to have

Land use – suggested using terminology relating to best value consideration (RICS)

Finance – options spelt out in CCH finance research – but not a need for intermediary body until tipping point reached

Concern about encouraging TMOs to be co-ops (as opposed to Comps Ltd by Guar). Perhaps something about reviewing existing TMOs to ensure they remain viable (or something like that).

Request to include reference to 1,001 Co-op Homes

Need to refer to cross tenure

Submission **Stephen Brimble**, **Co-operative Party Youth**

♡ Topic: 'Building a more shared economy policy paper' and 'Secure and confident communities' policy paper

We have discussed several ideas which would improve the appeal of co-operatives to the British public. Here are some of the ideas that my branch and the youth committee have discussed:

The economy

Ensure that private organisations are rewarded through demonstrating social value replacing corporate social responsibility.

Give tax breaks to new enterprises including limited companies and sole traders that can demonstrate social value and social purpose within communities.

Ensure that there is a credit union on every high street funded through a financial transactions tax in order to provide an alternative to pay day loans and the big banks.

Communities, health and well-being

Ensure that local authorities develop a community strategy to ensure that local people are able to run and fund local services including children's services, youth clubs, community organising and libraries. Funding should be provided to help deliver more community organisers that are able to encourage volunteering, youth participation and support for the elderly. A community strategy should be funded through community ward grants, savings in back office management and through working with charities and external organisations.

Submission Co-ops UK

▼ Topic: 'Building a more shared economy' policy paper

Consultation Response Labour Policy Commission: Building a Productive Economy lune 2016

About Co-operatives UK

Co-operatives UK is the network for Britain's thousands of co-ops. We work to promote, develop and unite member owned businesses across the economy. From high street retailers to community owned pubs, fan owned football clubs to farmer controlled businesses, co-ops are everywhere and together they are worth £34.1 billion to the British economy.

1 What do you think we can do to ensure we have the right skills, for workers of all ages, to boost productivity now, and take advantage of future opportunities?

Worker ownership

- 1.1 Higher degrees of worker ownership across the economy will lead to more emphasis being placed on the value of human capital. Greater investment in skills and potential and a subsequent boost in productivity will result.1 Where firms have corporate purposes directed specifically at meeting the needs and aspirations of worker-owners, such as in worker co-ops, the impact in terms of human development tends to be especially significant.2 Greater worker empowerment and ownership could give a particular boost to sectors with markedly lower wages and lower productivity. Recent IPPR research suggests such reform of business in these sectors could be a strategy for boosting productivity in this crucial but too often overlooked 'foundational economy.'3
- 1.2 Currently we are also observing a big increase in the number of new worker co-ops in tech sectors. This way of doing business gives these skilled workers greater commercial control and a more meaningful shared stake in being flexible and innovative. We even see examples of co-ops, such as Founders and Coders, which put the development of worker-members' tech skills and commercial potential at the heart of their mission.4

1 http://www.uk.coop/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/worker_co-op_report.pdf

2 Ibid

3 http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/low-wagesectors_summary_May2016.pdf?noredirect=1

4 http://www.foundersandcoders.com/ 2

Labour Policy Commission: Building a Productive Economy

1.3 As part of a skills and productivity agenda for the whole economy Labour should support worker ownership in general, and co-op forms in particular, where the needs and aspirations of workers are core to corporate purpose.

Co-ops for the self-employed

1.4 We have recently published research demonstrating how new forms of coop can support and sustain the growing number of self-employed workers in the UK.5 Such co-ops could provide the shelter, space and scope for these workers to develop their skills, access opportunities, and fight back against a race to the bottom. We've found examples from in the UK and around the world of self-employed workers co-operating specifically on skills and capacity.6

1.5 Labour should support the development of co-op solutions for the self-employed.

5 http://www.uk.coop/NotAlone

6 Ibid

Skills co-ops

1.6 While it can be practicable for larger companies to develop working arrangements with education institutions to provide apprenticeships and other developmental pathways, many business and education representatives say individual SMEs lack the capacity to do the same. Government will of course run schemes to develop

apprenticeships in specific regions and sectors but ultimately this can only go so far. Business-to-business co-ops acting as the interface with education institutions, owned and controlled by groups of SMEs with common skills needs, could build greater capacity among these firms to develop apprenticeships themselves.

1.7 Labour should support SMEs with shared skills needs to develop their own 'skills co-ops.'

2 What do you think we can do to encourage business investment in order to boost innovation, efficiency and competitiveness?

Mutual ownership as a source of investment

- 2.1 One of the most powerful and fundamental qualities of co-ops is how they allow people and organisations to pool capital to meet their common needs and aspirations through business. In the right circumstances some co-op businesses models allow for more engaged patient investment, 'crowdfunded' from nonfinancial stakeholders. This is especially true of community and consumer co-ops.
- 2.2 The rapid growth of community shares as an investment model demonstrates that a co-op approach to enterprise, combining mutual self-help with shared ownership and control, creates the right conditions and incentives for high impact investment. The number of community share offers per year has increased fivefold between 2010 and 2015, with £60.8 million invested last year alone. Labour should also consider the example of the UK's established consumer retail societies which draw on an existing member-customer base as a source of engaged patient insider investment. When an enterprise is owned and controlled democratically by the people it serves it can raise investment of a special kind that other enterprises simply cannot. In both scenarios members are aligning their own financial interests with the common cause of the co-op.
- 2.3 Labour should see the promotion of community and consumer co-ops as a route to diversifying how businesses in the UK are financed as well as owned.

Protecting internal reinvestment

2.4 Smaller businesses and worker owned co-ops in particular can face challenges in raising the investment needed to bring innovations to market or grow to their potential. SMEs often find that many sources of external investment include characteristics and conditions at odds with their core ambitions and mission. The the ceding of ownership and control and increased susceptibility to volatile indifferent outside forces are the foremost of these. Co-ops in particular are restricted in how much equity they can offer to external investors without ceding member ownership and control. Instead these businesses must commit to intensive reinvestment of profits and a long term build-up of retained earnings and reserves to fund productive investment.

- 2.5 There is nothing necessarily wrong with this more patient longer term approach. It avoids some of the short-termism that can dominate investorowned businesses. This approach also makes more productive use of a greater proportion of a firms' revenue than in the investor-owned model, where paying dividends and encouraging higher exchange values for securities is so essential.
- 2.6 We believe smaller growing businesses, including employee-owned firms, co-ops and social enterprises, could benefit substantially from a tax relief on corporate profits that are reinvested productively.
- 2.7 At present too much emphasis in the UK tax system is placed on rewarding capital in the process of being extracted from an enterprise. That said we are not wholly opposed to venture capital reliefs such as the Enterprise Investment Scheme. These reliefs play an essential role in encouraging productive uses of private wealth, and through taxpayer subsidy can keep down the cost of capital for businesses, which in turn can benefit internal reinvestment. However, these reliefs will always be very limited in their ability to benefit most SMEs in the UK and there is an economic cost in rewarding

4

capital extraction. We argue for a recalibration of the tax relief system, with a new internal reinvestment relief for smaller firms, paid for by a reduction in the number and scale of reliefs attached to capital extraction.

2.8 To guard against abuse of this new tax relief Labour should consider taking a mechanism prominent in co-ops around the world, the 'indivisible reserve', and making it a legally recognised option for companies and co-ops in the UK. An indivisible reserve is an internal capital fund which cannot be reappropriated in the future for private gain. Smaller firms could receive a relief on profits they pay into their indivisible reserve.

Worker co-op shares

- 2.9 Employee shareholding can boost productivity by giving workers a stake. It can also act as a useful source of engaged committed investment. Current tax reliefs for employee shareholdings attach some benefits to capital gains, or to differentials between the price employees pay for shares and their actual market rate. These benefits cannot reach shareholding members of a workers' co-op, as their shares cannot be traded for capital gain and so only ever retain par value.
- 2.10 While co-op employee shareholdings are thus limited in this regard, they operate as part of broader mutual relations of ownership which are both very direct and highly collective. The rewards of business success are shared equitably according to work contribution not shareholdings. Workers are incentivised to invest by earning interest as a percentage of their shareholding, which should be limited to no more than is necessary to attract and retain their capital. This generates a steady long term return on investment for workers at a more efficient cost of capital for the business.
- 2.11 Labour could create a share incentive scheme where the benefit is attached to co-op share interest, rather than to capital gains or share value differentials. This could be paid for by reducing tax support for elitist share schemes such as Enterprise Management Incentives and some Company Share Option Plans.

Systemic bias

2.12 At present our tax system is bias towards investor-owned enterprise to the particular disadvantaged of co-ops. Co-op capital does not fit neatly into the logical model that underpins how UK tax law has developed over time. Right now this has resulted in a situation wherein members investing in the equity of their

co-op get five times less support from HMRC than profit seeking shareholders do in a PLC. If co-ops are to thrive such bias needs to be addressed.

3 What role can a national investment bank play in supporting balanced economic growth and what other innovative mechanisms can be developed?

3.1 A national investment bank could provide specific tailored financial backing for co-ops, mutuals and employee-owned businesses, as part of a wider strategy to rebalance ownership, reward and corporate purpose in our economy.

Local wealth

- 3.2 Start-up finance for new worker-owned firms could be developed through locally or strategically focused investment intermediaries. For example, intermediaries pursuing specific economic and social outcomes, such as creating and sustaining equitable employment and developing a place's 'foundational economy', could carefully develop co-ops and other locally beneficial enterprise and then invest bank funds into them. This would require intermediaries with hands-on business development capacity alongside investment capacity.
- 3.3 Such developmental efforts should be focused at ultra-local levels inside communities; in and around schools, work places, employment centres, community centres and so on; looking at existing and potential human capital which could be catalysed into entrepreneurial activities to meet real needs and aspirations.

Employee buyouts

- 3.4 A national investment bank could also provide specific support for employee buyouts. This would be a practical tool for employee's exercising Labour's recently announced Employee Right to Bid.
- 3.5 Of course great efforts must be made to ensure financial support is only given on the basis of commercial viability. And the very real limitations of using government policy and state support to create effective worker-owned firms must be recognised. Around the world the best frameworks supporting employee buyouts tend to combine statutory

rights and specialised financing mechanisms with a patient long term commitment to co-op development, led by an autonomous and mutually supportive co-op sector.

Other innovations: mutual guarantee platforms

- 3.6 We are also very keen to suggest a demand-side solution to SME lending and investment: mutual guarantee platforms. These are a successful enterpriseled solution to the challenges of SME finance. They are 'business-to-business' co-ops through which sole traders, start-ups and SMEs club together and offer 'mutual guarantees' to lenders, and thus improve their access to finance.
- 3.7 On one estimate, around 8 percent of all SMEs in the European Union that have benefited from the activity of mutual guarantee platforms. In 2013 mutual guarantee platforms in Europe issued over 25 billion EUR of new guarantees to support financing of enterprise. 7 As of the June 2015 1,344, 432 SMEs were recorded as active members of mutual guarantee platforms across Europe.8
- 3.8 The role of mutual guarantee platforms in supporting SMEs and thus promoting broad economic growth is recognised by DG Growth in the European Commission.9 Meanwhile the OECD concluded in 2013 that mutual guarantee schemes internationally can be seen as representing: "a key policy tool to address the SME financing gap, while limiting the burden on public finances." 10
- 3.9 With the rapid rise of disruptive platform solutions across the economy we think the time has come for mutual guarantee platforms in the UK. In reducing risks for lenders mutual guarantees could improve the affordability of finance for firms and improve the cost of capital. They could also be an alternative solution which SMEs can own, control, understand and trust.
- 3.10 Labour could commit to removing current regulatory obstacles to mutual guarantee platforms and working with business, LEPs and local authorities to help develop them.

4 What role can Local Authorities play as engines of economic growth in their communities?

7 http://aecm.eu/about/mission/

8 http://aecm.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/scoreboard-H1-2015-2015-12-01.pdf

9 http://ec.europa.eu/growth/access-to-finance/fundingpolicies/loans-guarantees/index en.htm

10 OECD Report (2013) SME and Entrepreneurship Financing: The Role of Credit Guarantee Schemes and Mutual Guarantee Societies in supporting finance for small and medium-sized enterprises

Local wealth

- 4.1 Co-operatives UK is extremely supportive of Preston City Council's local wealth agenda. This aims to shift council procurement spending towards local firms wherever it's fiscally and administratively responsible to do so. The council is also bringing together other 'anchor institutions' such as universities and housing associations to do the same. Preston City Council is also exploring how anchor institution pension funds could also responsibly shift more investment locally. Alongside this the council sees supporting the development of worker-owned firms in the city as a means to creating for sustainable equitable employment, with more wealth created and crucially kept by local people.
- 4.2 The use of clearly focused investment intermediaries with developmental capacity discussed in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 should also be encouraged and supported by local authorities.

Community co-operation **7**

4.3 Labour should also champion community ownership of assets, assetbased community led-regeneration and community economic development. Community co-ops allow people to pool energies and resources to meet local needs and can catalyse more commercial activity. Local authorities have a huge role to play here in making positive choices in these regards.

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Submission **CSNetwork**:

♀ Topic: **Building a fairer Society policy paper: Co-operative Schools**

We work with schools across the whole of the Eastern Region and the London and SE Region - with an overall grouping of some 250 education providers in our combined area. In partnership with the Schools Co-operative Society, we are currently involved in developing closer working partnerships with colleagues in SW regions and NW, which we hope will continue to improve communications and co-operation across the country.

We have had working discussions in the last year with Gavin Shuker MP (leader of the Parliamentary co-operative party) to keep him posted on the co-operative schools network; Mark is currently leading work in the East of England in developing co-operative academy solutions for those schools which are looking for a lead in this growing field of educational development; this work will then provide a template for other regions, notably London and South East.

Jon has recently been appointed to represent CSNET and provide the "education voice" on the National Strategy Development reference panel for Co-operatives UK, which will be playing an active role at the Co-operative Congress at Wakefield, later this month.

The wording of the policy elements is familiar! - Jon was part of the team at the Co-operative College which we think probably formulated some of these ideas about two years ago, under the leadership of Mervyn Wilson.

The good news is that some of these goals have actually been achieved; however, others are subject to the rapid changes in government policy

- so we would recommend that a review and some fine-tuning of party policy is timely, as we move forward over the next few years.

To sum up our suggested position for consideration:

Co-operative Schools:

The proposal to amend the 2006 Education and Inspections Act 2006 to support formation of education co-operatives under the Co-op and ComBen Society Act is still valid, particularly to enable nursery schools to engage;

we would suggest maintaining this position with the addition of:

"A variety of legal structures, including foundation trusts and academy trusts now support almost 1000 schools in demonstrating their educational purpose and high aspirations based upon co-operative values and principles. The achievement of these schools should be recognised by the government and education policy should seek to apply the lessons of co-operation and collaboration to the developing new educational landscape, as a significant contribution to supporting a cohesive and coherent national education service."

Co-operation and collaboration for school improvement is the raison d'être of CSNET: we have a portfolio of work and programmes which support schools from differing co-operative legal structures in working together. We therefore suggest the addition to the second table section of:

"The growing regional networks of co-operative schools highlight the increasing interest in the co-operative and collaborative model. These networks should be actively encouraged and supported to grow. In time, these networks will ideally work together to share best practice across the country demonstrating true co-operation and adherence to the values and principles. The networks also demonstrate the valuable opportunities for not only sharing best practice but also best value in an economic and educational context which suggests the probability of a continuing reduction in resource and capacity for educational delivery over the next five years. By sharing expertise in

this way, schools can continue to develop and improve through peer-to-peer support systems, benefiting their learners, their communities and the country as a whole."

Co-operative education:

Still valid and well worth promoting, with the possible suggested addition of:

"A number of higher education institutions now offer advanced qualifications in co-operative education pedagogy and education management; further research and publications relating to best practice in co-operative studies are both needed to give the necessary profile to this work."

Mixed stakeholder models in education

This needs some further refinement, for two reasons:

Firstly, there is no sound reason why the special schools sector (which is very strongly represented in the co-operative education movement) is implicitly omitted from this: the phrasing should simply omit the word mainstream, we suggest.

Secondly, the changes in governance statutory regulations over the last two years, including new guidance last August are moving towards different models of governing body composition. This is oddly phrased as a policy statement.... Parent Teacher Associations are not necessarily representative bodies and it is hard to understand why they should be given the democratic remit for appointing governors outside of the legal framework that exists for governor appointments.

Our suggestion would be:

"The importance of democracy in the governance of schools and local learning communities cannot be underestimated. In all cases, schools should establish mechanisms for listening to the "learner voice" through student or pupil councils and in a similar way there should be secure arrangements for communications with families and the wider community which inform those with responsibilities for governance and management of schools."

Submission Paul Monaghan, Director, Fair Tax Mark

♀ Topic: 'Building a shared Economy' policy paper: Tackling Tax Avoidance

It's worth noting at the outset that Fair Tax Mark (FTM) considerations are largely focused on corporation tax, and not other tax issues such as the Financial Transactions Tax or EIS/SITR reliefs.

To this end: comments are focused on 'Building a Shared Economy'. I think this is the right place to explore these issues. But I've also looked at your most recent Manifesto (Agenda for Britain, 2015) and used this as a starting point for feedback given it covers vital issues such as the need for country-by-country reporting and beneficial ownership registers.

- 1) Worth noting that <u>Agenda for Britain</u> discusses 'fairer taxes' in the section headed A different way of doing business - closing the deficit through fairer taxes and 'Fair Tax' in the section headed Intentional Issues - Fair Tax. Would suggest that 'fair tax' not be used in the former instance and in connection with issues such as the Financial Transaction Tax and reform of business rates/ stamp duty/ land value tax – perhaps theses are headed 'tax reform'.
- 2) Would suggest that Tackling Tax Avoidance should be a major policy area for the Co-operative Party. Not least because Tax Avoidance is arguably the corporate responsibility issue of the day in the public's eyes. How a business responds to this issue now defines how it is viewed by a significant proportion of people. In December 2015, the Institute of Business Ethics reported that their annual survey had found, for the third consecutive year, that corporate tax avoidance is the number one concern of the public when it comes to business conduct. Surveys from Edelman (January 2016) and KPMG (July 2014) have come to the same finding.

Moreover, the funding of vital public services (both here and in the UK) requires that business pays the right amount of corporation tax, in the right place and at the right time. HMRC's conservative estimates put the UK tax gap (the difference between the amount of tax that should, in theory, be collected against what is actually collected) in the region of £35bn per annum, of which

£9.5bn is unpaid tax by big businesses; however, independent experts such as Richard Murphy estimate the tax gap to be as large as £120bn per annum.

Corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having an even more damaging impact on the world's poorest countries: the annual cost to poor countries in lost tax revenues as a result of tax havens has been put at a minimum of \$170bn – which is far more than they receive in aid. Unfortunately, resource constraints within developing world tax authorities means that they are often ill-matched when seeking to challenge the aggressive tax avoidance that is practiced by a significant number of multinational corporations.

- 3) Within Tackling Tax Avoidance suggested areas for consideration would be: supporting expansion of the Fair Tax Mark; progressing country-by-country reporting; extending beneficial ownership registers, leveraging public procurement, better resourcing of HMRC and resisting the race to the bottom on corporation tax.
- <u>3a) Supporting expansion of the Fair Tax Mark.</u> The time has come for responsible tax payers to differentiate themselves from the avoiders and evaders, and lead the next big development in corporate responsibility - The Fair Tax Mark. A number of major FTSE-listed plcs have now embraced the Mark (including SSE, Go Ahead and Marshalls) but it was co-operatives and social enterprises that kick-started the movement and continue to provide much of the momentum – much as has happened with Fairtrade. Accredited co-operatives include: Midcounties Co-operative, the Phone Coop, the Co-operative Group, East of England Co-operative, Radstock Co-operative, Scotmid, Revolver, Co-operatives UK and the Co-operative Party itself. Although the Mark was only established sin 2014 (as a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society), it has been well received, with the European Parliament recently (December 2015) urging the European Commission to look into establishing a label in every European country! The Co-operative Party should continue to support and promote the Fair Tax Mark.
- 3b) Progressing country-by-country reporting. As the global economy has grown more complex, more and more business is done within multinationals as subsidiaries in different countries trade with each other. This creates opportunities for companies to manipulate the prices of internal transactions in order to shift profits out of the countries where real economic activity takes place and into low-tax jurisdictions.

The process led by the G20 countries and the OECD to tackle global tax dodging has agreed on a reporting scheme that requires multinational companies to provide relevant information to national tax administrations in each country where they operate. But the OECD does not propose that this information would be public. Only by making these companies become more open will we restore public faith that they are paying fair taxes. The Co-operative Party should continue to call on the UK Government to take a lead on this issue, with a requirement for all large UK companies to publish country-by-country reports based on the OECD template.

3c) Extending beneficial ownership registers. It is welcome that, as of 2016, the UK has a central public register of company ownership. The Co-operative Party should urge the Government to extend the register to trusts and to Britain's Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories - such as the British Virgin Islands, which was very much at the centre of the ubiquitous tax avoidance uncovered by the Panama Papers.

3d) Leveraging Public Procurement. People already rightly expect their local council to screen out suppliers engaged in fraud, corruption and child labour. Tax dodging can and should be added to this list, especially at a time when local government is faced with so many painful cuts to local services. In January, 2016 Christian Aid and other NGOs launched a <u>sourced campaign</u> across England and Northern Ireland - urging people to lobby their local councils to get tough with companies that dodge tax. The value of goods and services procured by local authorities from private companies is huge, and in excess of £60bn per annum. This puts local authorities in a powerful position to insist on minimum ethical standards from the companies they do business with. The prospect of losing a multi-million pound contract is likely to concentrate some companies' minds and make them think harder about whether to dodge tax, here or in a developing country. It will also create opportunities for progressive social enterprises.

The campaign wants to see bidders for local council contracts asked to account for their past tax record. In addition, the Fair Tax Mark should be flagged as an example of enlightened business practice. Already, 19 councils have debated the issue and nine councils have passed a motion to amend their procurement policies – with Co-op Party councilors deeply involved in many instances (such as with Devon County Council and Manchester City Council). The Co-operative Party should continue to encourage councils to require contract bidders to account for their past tax record. Bidders should self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice, using the standards in PPN 03/14.

3e) Better resourcing of HMRC. HMRC needs the resources not only to take on wellresourced corporations and their expensive advisers, but also the problem of tax evasion – that is, criminal tax fraud. Over recent years HMRC has seen its overall budget and staffing reduced, undermining its ability to challenge both tax avoidance and pursue tax evasion. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) has stated that HMRC's funding "cannot go any lower without having a major effect on quality of service standards for taxpayers and business, and severely compromising efforts to tackle aggressive tax avoidance". In 2016, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) concluded that the number of criminal prosecutions for tax fraud including offshore tax evasion was still "woefully inadequate". Only 35 wealthy British tax dodgers were investigated last year despite tax fraud costing the country an annual £16 billion. The Co-operative Party should urge that HMRC's budget be increased so it can better undertake its functions, which in turn will bolster the public finances and help restore trust in the UK's tax system.

3f) Resisting the race to the bottom on corporation tax. Corporation Tax was 28% at the start of the last Parliament in 2010, stands at 20% today, and Budget 2016 pledged that it would fall to 17% by April 2020 - which is some way below the basic rate of income tax, which is 20%. It may fall further still given the Government's recent stated desire to see it fall below 15%, which would give the UK the lowest corporation tax of any major economy in the world. Coupled with changes which ensure that no profits arising outside the UK need be taxed here, the UK is slowly but surely transforming into a tax haven. The Co-operative Party should resist the UK pursuing a tax dumping strategy and a race to the bottom that undermines not only the UK's ability to fund public services, but also that of other nations.

Submission Tim Aldred: Fairtrade

▼ Topic: 'Building a shared Economy' policy paper

Fairtrade: Have you noted the SDG commitment which sounds similar? You could link this one to "HMG should deliver on its SDG commitment to... and this means..." The trap here is that richer country trade negotiators use it to ask poorer countries to drop their subsidies / tariffs while retaining their own... important that you are clear that we need to open up opportunities for developing countries.

Fair/tariff regimes: I like this one – but the devil of course is in the detail of what a fairly traded or sustainably produced product is, and who gets to make that judgement... the EU is not likely to give preferential status to one particular ethical scheme such as Fairtrade, only to the underlying requirements. Some guidance on this would help to steer the proposal.

International co-operative development: Most (80-90%) of the 1.6 million farmers & workers in the Fairtrade system are working within cooperatives. It is important that DFID sees coops as a preferred partner for business and puts resources behind strengthening coop organisational development and capacity so that they are able to operate professionally and as strong partners for their buyers, and as agents for development in their localities. DFID at the moment has a preference for plantation production or outgrower / contract production with management companies (cf DFID agriculture framework).

Submission Responsible Finance

▼ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' policy paper

About Responsible Finance

Responsible Finance is the trade body for responsible finance providers (also known as community development finance institutions (CDFIs)). Responsible finance providers provide loans and support to businesses, individuals, and social enterprises who find it difficult to access finance from commercial banks. Responsible Finance's mission is to support the development of a thriving and sustainable sector that provides finance for underserved communities and, as a result, contributes to the increasing economic growth and prosperity of these communities.

Co-operative Party policy platform

We agree with the Co-operative Party's overall platform, and believe that it prioritises steps to rebalance the economy and empower communities. Some specific comments on the areas of the policy platform that are most relevant to us include:

Banks: 'Duty to serve'

We recommend expanding this to include a Community Reinvestment Act, which would a) require banks to disclose their lending (which some do now on a voluntary basis¹) and be held to account by an independent regulator as to whether there is discriminatory lending activity; b) require banks to invest in responsible finance providers as a way of demonstrating they are reinvesting into communities in which they take deposits.

Payday lenders levy

We agree with the introduction of a levy on payday lenders, but suggest that it is also extended to the other forms of high cost credit, such as retail store cards, home credit, white goods, etc.

Banking governance

In addition to the proposals, we recommend adding the need for regulation to be appropriate and proportionate. Small social lenders – such as responsible finance providers and credit unions are regulated by a regime that is designed for mainstream banks. Parts of this regulatory burden, such as the Approved Persons Regime or the Senior Managers Regime, can be disproportionate and are a barrier to growth in the sector.

Financial inclusion

According to our market research, the number of unbanked and underbanked is much higher than 1 million. The Financial Inclusion Annual Monitoring Report from

^{1 &}lt;a href="https://www.bba.org.uk/news/statistics/postcode-lending/">https://www.bba.org.uk/news/statistics/postcode-lending/

2015² found that 1.5 million people alone are unbanked. Requiring disclosure of lending data would help to identify exclusion in particular geographic markets.

Access to finance

We appreciate the reference to the Community Banking Charter³ developed by our sister organisation, the Community Investment Coalition (CIC).

Reform of UK payments

We welcome this proposal and suggest that the policy documents are updated to reflect recent developments in the Bank of England announcing that nonbanks will now have access to money from the Bank of England.

Additional policy suggestions

In addition to the priorities included in the Co-operative Party's policy platform, we suggest the following additions, which we think will contribute to overall increased financial wellbeing and resilience:

Regulation of the SME lending market: There has been a recent increase in online high cost business lending, mirroring the rise in high cost online lenders such as Wonga. However, the business lending market is currently unregulated. We suggest that the Co-operative party incorporates a proposal to regulate the SME lending market, to ensure that fair and affordable lending practices are used.

CDFI Fund: Under-capitalisation of the responsible finance sector has long been identified as a significant constraint to growth. The creation of a dedicated governmentbacked Responsible Finance Fund – in the region of £150m - would unlock significant private sector investment (typical leverage is 1:3, which would equal a total of £600m). In the US, the government invests \$200m annually into a CDFI Fund. The CDFI Fund has been an important force in allowing CDFIs to operate sustainably by providing them with equity and is cited as one of the major milestones in achieving their \$45bn loan book.

- 2 http://www.friendsprovidentfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ <u>University-of-Birmingham-Financial-inclusion-report-2015-final.pdf</u>
- 3 http://www.communityinvestment.org.uk/wp-content/ uploads/2014/06/00518_4pp-A4-Charter_web.pdf

Duty on large employers to provide financial capability for employees: A healthy and scaled up supply side for affordable credit is important for consumers and businesses that cannot access finance from the mainstream. However, financial education and literacy plays a big role as well, ensuring that consumers are informed and understand their options before entering into any credit agreement. Although efforts have been made to incorporate financial literacy into early education, evidence indicates that there is a financial literacy gap among UK adults⁴. To tackle this we suggest the Co-operative Party includes a proposal for a duty on large employers to provide financial capability and literacy training for their employees.

https://masassets.blob.core.windows.net/cms/mas-baseline-report-2013-3.pdf 4

▼ Topic: 'Building a more shared economy' policy paper

Key findings: trends and insights

- 1) Social value can deliver cost savings and better services. The wider range of benefits derived from a focus on social value is substantial: 71% said that it had led to 'better service delivery', and 70% said it had led to 'opportunities for innovation', Importantly, more than half of respondents (52%) said delivering social value leads to cost savings
- 2) Social value improves external relationships. 82% of those surveyed reported that delivering social value had led to an 'improved image of their organisation', while 78% said it had led to 'better community relations'.
- 3) Only a third of organisations are not considering social value across all services. 66% of organisations currently consider social value across all the services they procure, but this still leaves one third of housing associations and local authorities which do not.
- 4) Social value leadership is crucial. Two thirds of respondents said their organisations have a nominated lead for social value. These organisations face fewer challenges in delivering and measuring social value than those without.
- 5) The Social Value Act has had limited impact so far. The Act created step-changes in how some organisations consider social value: 39% said it has had a high impact but 56% reported a low impact-largely because they were doing it already.

- 6) Current priorities are employment and iob-creation, 80% of respondents stated employment as a key local social value priority. The other most popular employment related choices were youth employment, training and volunteering.
- 7) Social enterprise is a route to social value. 90% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied that social enterprise was a route to delivering social value; many are using social enterprises to engage and involve tenants and residents.
- 8) Measurement is the biggest challenge. A majority of respondents report measurement as the main barrier to implementation, with 53% identifying it as the main barrier during the commissioning process and 55% as the main barrier post-commissioning in contract
- 9) Measurement improves with clarity of purpose. There is a strong correlation between those organisations which have a written social value policy, and those who have a method for measuring social value; only 37% currently have
- 10) Size matters. Smaller housing associations and local authorities tend to be less advanced. in terms of social value policies, definitions and measurement-highlighting the need for guidance and support.

Key recommendations:

- 1) Adopt a written policy and a nominated lead for social value
- 2) View social value as a route to innovation and cost savings, not just as the creation of positive social outcomes or, worse, compliance to the Act
- 3) Integrate and consider social value across all services, regardless of size
- 4) Workwith, buy from, start-up and support social enterprises to help deliver social value
- 5) Measure the social value being created against a clear sense of what is trying to be achieved, proportionately, and throughout the length of contracts.

Full Text of Submissions - Branches



V Topic: All three documents.

Overall View

There is nothing within the policy documents that we disagree however we believe some Policies are more important and this will vary in areas across the country. This is why we think that the party should link policy documents to the electoral cycle and that the documents submitted for comment should reflect this so the current rounds of documents should be aimed at the 2017 County Council elections

For example – in Northamptonshire services are been devastated by draconian County Council Cuts

leading to privatisation or out sourcing of services. It would therefore make sense for us locally to prioritise policy activity that delivers for the residents/services as required in Northamptonshire.

Thus we would like to prioritise issues that suit our area and have a chance of being delivered than spread ourselves too far. For example in Housing and Community transport.

Car Shares Schemes

The Co-operative Party should encourage the running of a pilot in a Labour controlled council. This should be grounded on co-operative principles.

In the East Midlands Nottingham runs its own transport services which is organised by local authority and has reasonable fares.

Leicester is close by and we would like to follow a similar policy for this City up via Co-operative Party.

Rural areas in Northamptonshire are very poorly served for transport services. We have a monopoly provider and currently services are being lost to rural villages etc.

Fair Trade

The Co-operative Party should encourage the more open use of fair trade across the Cooperative movement as the embodiment of Co-operative principles. As far as possible all products should be fairly traded and this should be extended to services and facilities offered within the movement and this ethic should be promoted beyond the movement.

We think that there should be better product control through the Group which could have a more extensive range of products especially on Fair Trade week.

BBC

The party is concerned at the pressure that is being put on the BBC by the present government. The party encourages the development of an arms length public service broadcaster founded on

co-operative principles. The party should work with the BBC and interested groups and individuals to develop a workable model for the organisation.

Stock Transfer

The party policy should be that stock transfers of housing and other assets should include an option for a Co-operative alternative to the provision of housing if this is going to be divested from local authority control or subsequent transfers.

Co-operative Housing Expansion

Following on from 5 above, the principle driving housing provision should include eliminating homelessness.

Co-operative values in health and social care

The whole issue of co-operative values is largely unexplored and requires more thought. We are aware of Doctors and dental practices organised as co-ops but we need to see the thought about how this would be applied in the wider provision of health care including a more inclusive approach to provision engaging patients, workers and commissioning group leaders.

Co-operative Education

The party should be seeking to develop links with more schools to get input with pupils and students of the notion of co-operative principles and the variety of co-operative organisations that exist.

Members are asking for more education opportunities for Co-operative Party Members

Other issues not covered

The Co-operative party should encourage the transfer of assets from one co-op to another as a first option when a co-operative has assets that it wishes to dispose of to raise funds or other purposes.

In conclusion -

The policy ideas are exciting and innovative although they are all encompassing and seek to meet the needs of everyone. With some areas such as medical care and transport the underlying discussion needs to be informed with reality checks on the number and quality of co-operatives that exist in those areas. It would be useful to know where they are and the degree of success they have achieved.



Submission Chesterfield Branch

♡ Topic: 'A co-operative manifesto for Chesterfield; a work in progress'

Where do we want to be by 2030? How can poverty be eliminated, social cohesion and economic opportunity enhanced? How can we deal with the consequences of conflict abroad or the impacts climate change so that future generations can have a decent quality of life? How can we seize the opportunity of new technologies for the benefit of all? Chesterfield Coop Party is busy developing a vision for our future. Here is our work in progress.

Societies with strong plans reap the benefits of investor certainty as well as the long term coordination of things like public transport and carbon reduction. Planning society means thinking about people's health, education as well housing and transport, it means thinking about how society feels, about culture and history as well as economic development.

More than ever we need a politics of hope, a politics committed to sustainable development which benefits everyone; an economy with social justice at its heart, a strong more accountable more open democracy with a strong knowledge based economy using technology to enhance people's lives. It means a society of artistic endeavour, of cultural diversity of economic efficiency with access to parks and recreation that encourage walking and cycling and reduces health inequalities.

To achieve all this our society should be based on the following principles:

- A more equal society that enables people to fulfil their potential
- A prosperous society which is innovative, productive and low carbon
- A resilient society which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy ecosystems
- A healthier society in which people's physical and mental well-being is enhanced
- A society of cohesive communities which seeks to heal social and sectarian divisions, that promotes and protects culture and heritage and which encourages people to take part in the arts, and sports and recreation.

A walk through Chesterfield as a cooperative community in 2030

Your home will be warm and secure, powered by renewable energy from a local community Coop. Chesterfield will be 'carbon positive' as it exports more energy than it uses. Your home may have been built, or renovated, by a housing Coop that you may well belong to. If you live in new home you may have commissioned it yourself playing a role in its design. It will have decent sized rooms with space to eat your dinner at a table, somewhere for the kids to do their homework and enough storage for life's necessities.

Your home will have either its own garden or access to a shared garden, depending on your preference, and the building fabric will blend the best of new technology with traditional craft design. It will sit on a safe street surrounded by green space and trees for shade, it will have play space so that children and pedestrians will come before cars.

You will be able to walk to the local school and shop so buying a pint of milk will also keep you fit. It will be great place for bike riders who will enjoy safe cycle routes making it easier to take exercise and be healthy with less pollution. It will be rich with wildlife, with development enhancing nature not destroying it. You will be able to book a pool

car via an App on your Coop phone whenever you need it or use the tram at the end of street and you won't need to leave the house until you know your tram is on its way with real-time travel information. Transport will connect together and take you to high speed rail. There will be land available to grow food in allotments and community gardens. There will be a community café. There will be space to meet and space for solitude.

The neighbourhood you live in will be built to be resilient to a changing climate using sustainable drainage that creates even more space for wildlife. Communities can be made greener by growing plants on buildings to reduce summer temperatures, pollution and enhance bird life. Many neighbourhood assets will be held in trust for the community to help fund the maintenance of the street and community activity over the long term.

Your neighbourhood will be set within a society which has localised and mutualised a large part of the economy from energy services and transport to food and IT, harnessing the power of new technology to make life easier and more fulfilling for everyone. It will be a well organised, secure and open society in which the town is a shared space for vibrant arts and culture.

The cooperative movement is at the cutting edge of social revolution building a fairer mutualised society from the bottom up. The vision we offer is partly a political choice but it is increasingly a practical necessity if we are to move away from a future of greater poverty, inequality and uncontrolled climate change which we currently face.

Based on work by Hugh Ellis, edited by Ollie Pardo and Mark Grayling for Chesterfield Coop Party.



Submission Coventry and Warwickshire Branch

? Topic: all three papers

The Coventry and Warwickshire branch met on Tuesday 12 July 2016 to discuss the policy papers set out by the national Co-Operative party, entitled Building a shared economy, Creating a more equal society and Secure and confident

communities. Our discussion mainly focused on two areas we believe pose significant challenges currently: housing and health and social care.

The branch warmly welcomes the ambition to construct 20,000 new co-operative homes a year.

There is a concern however, that with right to buy in its current form, there is no incentive for local authorities and co-operatives to work in partnership in achieving this. The branch therefore urges the co-operative movement to work with government in forming a distinct legal definition of cooperative housing to create a straightforward legal path to achieve more co-operative housing schemes. It is also desirable that the co-operative party create a national network of councillors to conduct study visits of successful co-operative housing schemes so that best practice may be shared across the country.

The branch also believes that co-operative housing could provide solutions for those in society that feel the housing crisis more acutely than others: the young and the elderly. Local authorities need to consider very carefully the impact of large amounts of houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) in communities, and should look to co-operative housing as a solution for large student populations.

The co-operative movement should also considering creating a nationwide landlord association to drive higher standards of accommodation. The branch also notes with concern the housing pressures felt by the elderly. More and more, retirees and the elderly find themselves having to sell their own property to purchase accommodation in retirement villages and upon their death, those properties are sold back to the housing association for less than it was bought. Co-operatives should begin to offer an equity release scheme and accommodation to ensure comfort and dignity for the elderly if and when they make the decision to move accommodation.

This branch believes that co-operative organisations are well suited to meet the needs of service specifications set out by Clinical Commissioning Groups. Mutual organisations should bid, and win, contracts tendered to provide health and social care in line with service specifications with an emphasis on increasing standards of patient care and value for money. It is therefore vital that the co-operative movement encourages those

with expertise in financial, legal, technical and HR capabilities to support and promote co-operative principles to frontline clinical and other healthcare staff. Co-operative organisations should be formed to support healthcare assistants and other nursing staff and allied health professionals in place of staffing agencies. This would ensure quality pay and a redistribution of profits to these professionals, often working long hours for low pay. We recognise that initial capital for the construction or acquisition of premises but believe this is a viable solution to face the healthcare challenges of the future.

The branch wishes to note that there is a lot of emphasis on the ethical advantages of co-operative organisations: however, we also believe that we should be winning contracts not just with our values but making the case that co-operatives are a more cost-effective, efficient and practical way of providing services. Local authorities are facing chronic financial pressures currently, and cooperative organisations should be looking to working with local authorities to ensure service provision is cost-effective for taxpayers.

Our suggestion for a priority campaign is lobbying our co-operative councillors and MPs to call for local authorities to publish their social values priorities and to award contracts for provision on the basis of these being met. Co-operative organisations would therefore be in a position to meet these criteria, but will also show that they can provide the services more cheaply and more effectively than other organisations. Cooperatives should not be left to pick up contracts of services seen as less profitable by other organisations, although quotas for service provision would be welcome.

The branch notes that many of the positions set out in the policy papers are more achievable than others. We urge conference to ensure the more achievable aims set out in the policy papers are given priority and hope that some of the suggestions mentioned above which, our branch believes, are pragmatic and practical, are given serious consideration as policy aims.



Submission Dorset Branch

? Topic: Creating a fairer society

The governments decision not to proceed with the navitus bay wind farm off of the dorset coast is regretted by the dorset cooperative party

We call upon the cooperative party to carry out a survey united kingdom wide as to the most efficient and practical system of fossil fuel free energy generation whether that be wind, wave or solar power. This information could be gathered from already available data.

We can then use this information and lobby the government to consider the appropriate system for each area of the united kingdom

Navitus bay was not a mutual or cooperatively planned system, we feel that such a system involving the participation and ownership of a local community would be more likely to succeed in getting the approval of that community.

We believe the creation of jobs, and prestige would have a great benefit for a local area, plus quality employment for the local workforce and economic community

To supply innovative sustainable energy and cut the reliance on fossil fuels would be a big plus for the united kingdom, we would be playing an important part in that goal

Submission **Dover, Deal and Thanet Co-operative Party Branch**

♀ Topic: Secure and Confident Communities.

Ambition for Co-op Housing:

We felt that the target of 20,000 co-op homes per year was nowhere near adequate and recommend we need 100,000 homes per year.

There is a need to bring old properties into use (flats over shops etc.) We need to show the links between the co-op movement (retail sector) and the Co-op Party.

Why not turn Housing Associations into co-ops?

We should help to fund co-op self build projects.

Builders should be required to use solar panels on roofs when building new properties and also to ensure that an environmental impact assessment is given more than just lip service.

There is also a need to integrate transport and housing, so that community transport access is good. Upgrade cycle routes. Have electric charging points in numerous locations.

Co-op Councils:

There is an accountability issue as there doesn't seem to be any mechanism of holding Co-op Councils to account. There needs to be clearer information that Co-op Councils are doing what they say they are going to do.

Co-op Education:

There is a need to have teachers trained in Co-op Values & Principles – similar to Woodcraft Folk staff and we need to engage more with parents and others who have a stake in children's broader education, not just academic targets.

It would be useful to explore the idea of a co-op apprenticeship scheme.

Immigration:

We need to ensure that children from across a wide range of ethnicities and cultures can access practical services, eg – translating services, an understanding of how

our government/political systems work and perhaps operate a buddy/mentor system to pair children of immigrants with local children and their families.

Health services:

There is a need to acknowledge that health care doesn't end when a person is discharged from hospital, particularly vulnerable elderly folk. Most folk would do well recovering at home, but there is very little reliable joined up services within our communities. Often, very little practical information is shared amongst the various organisations dealing with the health of people, eg hospitals, local authorities, ambulance staff etc. We need much more co-operation among and between these services.

We suggest that there should be research into establishing smaller, more convalescent type homes that can take on the role of looking after people who have been discharged from hospital but are not yet able to look after themselves in their own home. It may prove cost effective rather than individual health care workers visiting individual homes, at least in the immediate aftermath of a hospital discharge. Very often these visits are patchy and don't really provide an adequate service with time given to each 'client'.



♀ Topic: **On all three summary papers**

1. Overall Policy Presentation

There were too many unrelated topics in the three docments. We would recommend that the content be reviewed and additional statements added to focus on "Sustainability", e.g, "Achieving a more sustainable world" and "Creating a more equal society" should focus on the seven strands of equality. Policies should be grouped under headings within the documents, e.g Education, transport, housing, health and social care.

We would also propose that policies are divided into (a) achievable, (b) longer term policy (c) need for further research and discussion.

We propose that content could be reallocated as follows:

Building a shared economy"-

Bank "Duty to serve" and "Financial Inclusion "should be moved to "Equalities"

"Creating a more equal society"

The sections from Sustainable development to Community energy/tax incentives should be in the sustainability document., The economic aspects of Rail to ports should be in the economy policy with sustainability aspects of public transport in sustainability. and "Bus as community asset" in Community. BBC to Consumer ombudsman services would seem more appropriate in Communities.

Petition and Markets Authorities" should be in Economy. Fairtrade and fossil fuels in Sustainability. The final sections on education should be moved to Communities or separate section.

This leaves human rights which should be added the Cooperative Party policies on the seven equality strands: disability, gender, ethnicity, youth, old age, transgender and LGTB

2. Role of the Parliamentary Co-operative Party

The Co-op PLP should have a specific role to monitor the delivery of Co-operative Party policies in legislation and regulations.

Policy Proprosals

1. Building a shared economy

- <u>Infrastructure /utility companies</u> should include a. our policies on public transport.
- Credit Unions To strengthen credit unions: (i) a levy on financial services should b. be linked to providing capital to enable credit unions to lend to co-operatives

- and social enterprises (ii) add a section to require businesses to offer employees opportunity for pay roll deductions to credit unions, (iii) Local authorities should be required to support credit unions, (iv) should aim to locate a credit union in every high street (v) credit unions should be linked to the LEP.s..
- Local Enterprise Partnerships - Need more resources and C. increased commitment to co-operative values.
- <u>Citizens' Income</u> The Co-operative Party should consider d. the case for introducing a citizen' income.
- Business impact test All legislation should have a business impact test e.
- British Investment Bank A publicly owned f. investment bank should be established.

3. Secure and confident communities.

- Comissioners should not be able to agree contracts for g. social and health care without regard to social goals.
- Participatory Police budgeting Should add at end "and setting priorities". h.
- i. There should be a requirement for every town and city to have a community strategy

4. Creating a more equal society

- A section is needed on opportunities for young people and the j. importance of high quality technical education and apprenticeships
- This SW Party council submitted a number of recommendations k. to the 2013 conference focussing on women's issues and wish to re-submit them in an updated form:
- To decrease the gap between men and women 's pay;
- To ensure that benefit and other changes do not penalise women, particularly single mothers;
- To review change to child support that prevent single parents securing adequate maintenance for their children
- To monitor the changes to legal aid to ensure they are not causing hardship to women;

- To promote the Party's Policies on the living wage, fair pay for parttime work, the adverse effect of minimum hour and zero hour contracts and pressure on women to take up self-employment, to lift women and their families out of poverty and low incomes;
- To strengthen policies to combat domestic violence and enable women to have protection and where needed, refuge.
- To ask the PLP to monitor the effects of leaving the EU on women's pay and conditions, and campaign against any adverse effects.



Submission Greenwich Branch

? Topic: all three papers

General Comment

It is not clear from the three summary documents that the policies are linked as many co-locate with each other, so there needs to be an overarching framework explanation.

Community Document

Housing

The section is not clear in what it is trying to achieve, nor clear what is meant by 'co-operative housing' and 'outside the public sector', so a clearer explanation is needed of what those two mean.

Social Care

Should clearly state that we value Social Care and the workers in Social Care as much as we value doctors, nurses, etc., in the NHS.

Foundation Trust Hospitals

It is not clear what the Co-operative Party means by 'members' in this section. If it means members of a Trust, they are not involved in decisions as they hold the decision-makers to account. Does the reference to "monitor" refer to the role of members of Trusts? If so, is it written in light of the changing role of monitoring?

There should also be a more detailed explanation of how the idea of 'Cooperativeness' can work in the successful operation of Foundation Trust Hospitals.

Economy Document

Supporting Co-operatives and Mutual Enterprises

Business course should take into account co-operatives.

Diversity needs to be explicit as there are many kinds of cooperatives and the range is not clearly explained.

Credit Unions Payroll Deductions

The reference to payroll deductions needs strengthening.

Pay Day Lending

There should be more on this rather than leaving credit unions as the only alternatives. Argue for a cap not a levy, stronger legislation and emphasise the possible role of the Co-operative bank.

Society Document

Sustainable Development

The section is bitty and not clear; in particular, the shared economy is unclear on why it is sustainable development.

Consumer Ombudsman Services

There should be more flexibility in dealing with problems arising from Deceased Estates as The Ombudsman service follows set criteria with no flexibility in

exceptional circumstances. It should also be made more accessible with easier access provided to means of making complaints with better guidance.

Fossil Fuels

The Co-operative Party should support disinvestment from fossil fuels.

Co-operative Schools

What is meant by 'co-operative schools' and 'co-operative initiatives'? Needs to be clarity about indicators?

Also:

These two areas should be covered in the Party Policies:

Child Protection

We should recognize that Child Protection has become a key issue across the country; the Co-operative Party should emphasise this in all its dealings with the Government, Local Authorities and other agencies.

Food Banks

No mention in Summaries.

National Campaigns

- Credit Unions
- Social Care and its value
- Co-operative Housing
- With a general point that Co-operatives are not just about retail/Bank.

Submission **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Co-operative Party Council**

♀ Topic: **All three papers.**

Recorded Comments are set out below according to each document.

Secure and Confident communities.

Ambition for Co-operative Housing. – The meeting was in broad agreement but felt that this should not done at the expense of losing community assets such as school playing fields.

Community-led Housing – Co-operative Housing should be subject to an asset lock.

Land use – The meeting felt that this paragraph was not specific enough.

Stock transfer – that there should always be an option to choose to create a Housing Co-op.

Co-operative values in health and social care – patients and relatives/advocates should have a place in governance.

Health and social care provision/profit motive – look at the New Zealand model for an whole person approach.

Social Care 'market' – there is a need for national scale procurement of services.

Building a shared economy.

Infrastructure/Utility companies – the meeting was in agreement provided the proposed mutual organisations were multi-stakeholder models.

Financial Transaction Tax – the meeting felt that the party should seek to work with the international co-operative movement to create a world-wide system.

Business support – the meeting felt that Co-operatives and mutual businesses should have their own registrar.

Finance diversity – the meeting felt that this policy required fuller explanation.

Banking Levy – the meeting felt that Building Societies should be subject to a separate levy.

Credit Union accounts for children – the meeting felt that the initial deposit should remain locked throughout the child's school life.

Creating a more equal society.

BBC – the meeting felt that this policy should include, within legislation, protection for BBC Educational programming.

Sport – the meeting felt that this policy should also have a direct reference to Rugby clubs.

Co-operative schools – the meeting felt that there should be a move towards regularising the forms of Co-operative Schools – that the current range of models is confusing and acts to deter schools from adopting any co-operative model – that a single, easily understandable, co-operative model would help.

Co-operative education – the meeting felt that there is a need to explain and justify the term 'where appropriate',



Submission Islington Branch

▼ Topic: All three papers

General

Need to consider the consequences of Brexit throughout, and where uncertainty add in the appropriate clauses.

Language should be tightened – 'we propose' etc needs hardening.

Society

Ombudsman

There is a need for a single gateway for the public, simplifying the process of reporting. The ombudsman should be given stronger powers to address consumer complaints.

RRC

Would like the policy to suggest that any future board arrangement is balanced to reflect regional and national variation across the UK.

Sport

Queried the current ability of Football Clubs to change the shirts, branding or name of the club freely, as is implied by the policy recommendation. This should be checked.

Health

The Society section would benefit from language of health inequalities (particularly relevant for London, given the disparity of life expectancy).

Driverless cars

This seems to be an inevitable technological advance on the horizon, and it will have serious repercussions for public transport. The Cooperative Party and movement, working with local authorities, should offer co-operative solutions that use the technology available.

Fair trade

Brexit should be considered, as there will be ongoing and lengthy process of renegotiating trade deals between the UK and the rest of the world. The principles and objectives of Fair trade have a role to play in these negotiations.

Universities

Could the current governance of universities be reformed along co-operative lines so they are less elitist? The Party should have some policy on higher

education. Student Unions could consider becoming co-operatives, in line with the union-co-ops model emerging in the United States.

Economy

Stock market

To democratize the stock exchange a co-operative could be established that pools members money and invests in the stock market. Members could invest as much as they like, and receive dividends proportional to their investment, but would have one vote.

Duty to involve

Is it hypocritical to make this policy recommendation given that the Co-op Group do not have employees on their board? In principle support.

Financial Exclusion

Political refugees are the most financially excluded group: can credit unions step into this gap if they can operate more flexibly?

Fin Tech

As with other areas of technological advance, fintech is both a risk and an opportunity for the co-operative movement. As a party we should be seeking policy that encourages co-operative and mutual forms of fintech as an alternative to the private sectors use of the technology, which risks normalizing debt and exploiting the vulnerable.

Local currency

As a method of retaining wealth locally, is this something the co-operative party should be supporting?

Business Improvement Districts

The process of establishing BIDs and their operation once established should account for the special features, values and contributions made by local co-operatives.

Communities

National lottery

The party should recognize that establishing co-operatives is difficult and time consuming, and that there is often little support. One solution would be to distribute funding proportionally to the local/regional contribution.

Protecting publics services

The party should recognize that local public services are less vulnerable to cuts and closure when they are fully embedded in their local community. Co-operative and mutual ownership and governance are a way of achieving this. Sure Start is an example

- if Sure Starts had been owned and governed co-operatively there might have been more resistance to their closure, or indeed their closure may have been off the agenda.

Diversity

Can we insert some language on diversity throughout where appropriate, and specifically some ideas on safe spaces, community safety and the needed flexibility of social care.

Pharmaceutical buyers club

It was felt that co-operative buyers clubs might be a means of accessing drugs that are not currently made available on the NHS.

Housing

All public subsidy should be channeled to co-operative housing.

Housing Associations

The party should seek the democratization of housing associations, which are often now large and unwielding organisations. Membership should be open to all residents (not only tenants), One third of the board should be made of members, and HA residents should have the right to manage/transfer to co-operatives.



Submission Kettering Branch

♀ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' and 'secure and confident communities'

Overview

There is much in the 3 documents that is to be supported. The Branch sees little to change but we have made one or two suggestions that we feel will help.

Building a Shared Economy

Under access to finance we feel that we should place a greater emphasis on developing credit unions. Their existence is not widely known so perhaps they should be on the curriculum of every secondary school as part of the citizenship course.

We feel that the right to have the contributions to be made from deduction of pay should be extended to all workers in the private and public sectors. Also to see how the self-employed can have contributions to the credit unions be made, perhaps as a part of the tax return system.

Secure and Confident Communities

Housing is one of the major challenges to the next Government. On stock transfer we feel that residents must have the right to vote for a community led transfer. This policy statement needs to be much firmer in its wording.

On social care we believe that there must be National Terms and condition for all care staff and not left to the market to decide on these. There should also be National Training Standards set up by a Training Board, with representatives from the appropriate Trade Unions on the board.

There is a much greater need for closer monitoring of care provided both in residential homes and also care at home



Submission Newton Abbot and Totnes Branch

▼ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' and 'creating a more equal society'

It was noted that three policy papers had been prepared by the national party in advance of Party conference and comments had been invited. All three policy documents were on the party website but specifically paper copies of the document on 'Creating a more equal society' had been circulated to members without internet access

In discussion of this document the following points were made

- European countries seemed to have a much better and integrated system of public transport -what could we learn from these countries.
- A system of transparent fair corporate taxation where we could be confident every company paid according to their income was agreed

- as an objective. This would also empower consumers who would know which companies were avoiding their responsibilities.
- Incentives for locally based community energy schemes could make a real difference especially in relation to fuel poverty. There is already a Co-operative energy provider. Public authorities should be encouraged to lead on green energy schemes in their own buildings and when considering planning applications. Noted that privatisation of the energy industry had worked against the consumer and lead to the development of major multi national businesses.

Arising from the discussion the question was asked if the Co-op Party has a policy on fracking and if there are any Co-op Party M.E.P.s.



Submission North East Party Council

♀ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' and 'creating a more equal society'

Devolution

Calls for a more coherent policy on devolution. The region did not have a consensus regarding the city deal and wanted to explore more fundamental change for the regions.

This had to address the future of work, which was changing dramatically due to technology; it had to address the London and regional divide; it had to get a stable system of business rates, the area had lost £10million of business rates from SSI. There was a long discussion about the need to develop a more sensible and

federal solution to constitutional devolution. This also had to be for the whole of UK, there was strong support for the union of England, Scotland and Wales.

Finance

Members were concerned about the closure of bank branches and access to finance to those without access to digital services. An alternative was credit unions, but they weren't getting the support to go into areas where banks were closing in rural areas.

Co-op Development

Only Sunderland in the areas has the expertise to help development of co-operatives. This needed to be expanded.

BBC Charter

They felt that we should tone up and amplify the suggestions in the document. There should be a levy from ISPs as it's not just about TV now, and the membership fee should continue.

Consumer Affairs

Big concerns about obesity and the levels of salt and sugar in food. There needed to be an approach which included education, tax and statutory limitations. There was support for standardised food labelling and minimum unit prices on alcohol. We had to acknowledge the SNP were right and it had worked in Scotland. It is a loss leader in supermarkets and the minimum price prevents it.

There has also been a decrease in smoking, which shows legislation works.



Submission Notts, Lincs and Erewash Branch

♀ Topics: all three papers

Shared Economy

- Long term perspective essential
- Campaign on Fair Tax Mark.
- Not Shared, rather co-operative. Uber etc are exploiting sharing.
- A co-op for weddings?
- Needs to be bolder and more strategic and display superiority of co-op model
- Campaign to reduce ratio between highest and lowest paid in business
- Corporation tax/rates Needs to be restated to support development, exemptions need to be paid for, is there too much control given to Metro Mayors.
- Infrastructure/utility why highlight BT Openreach? Should be state owned or National Grid structure
- Payday lenders would query levy as this would invrease interest paid by borrowers – should be a cap on interest rates
- Minister for Mutuals query this, should be responsibility for all Minister. Chancellor should have it as part of his remit.

Secure and Confident Communities

- Hospitals Foundation Trusts have failed to engage staff and users and co-op models needs to promote greater engagement
- Social Care Providers Need set of critieria standards i.e. Living Wage, fair trax and skills training. Ensure deliver does not fragment services or undermine NHS principles. Reduce unaccountable bureaucracy.
- Housing Need a co-operative model/ownership of leaseholders to 'manage' and engage freeholders. Opposed to all sales of commonly owned housing stock. CLTs to be established on brownfield land
- Social Housing tenants need security of tenancy

- East Midland Housing is registered as a co-operative need to expand further
- Devolution Not Considered, need different approaches Elected Mayors, Combined Authority. Recognition of loss of power by local authorities – centralization and private involvement

Creating a more equal society

- Need to look at replicating Nottingham's model of running a public transport company
- Bring back locally managed trading standards
- Environmental commitments? Fracking, Lord Stern, core part of shared economy.



Submission Reading Branch

♡ Topic: 'Creating a more equal society' policy paper

That Conference calls upon the Government to end the deep cuts on councils which put the valuable work that Reading Borough Cooperative and also Labour Councillors do, with others in their work with residents, co-ops and local businesses carrying out co-operative clean-ups, which are initiatives which improve environment and build cooperation with local communities, thereby putting all this cooperation and work at risk.

That Conference calls upon the Government to reverse its deeply damaging cuts to the 'feed-in tariff, thus, impacting on community groups, charities and cooperatives who were able to develop community energy-saving schemes by using such tariffs - delivering environmental and social benefits to many people.

The Reading Branch is proud of the co-operative work undertaken between Reading Borough Council, and many other such councils and charities and believe that there is considerable scope to expand these projects listed above.



♀ Topic: 'Building a shared economy' and 'creating a more equal society'

1. Building a Shared Economy.

We endorse the proposals on Employee ownership, the "duty to involve" employees, and company profit sharing, However the main emphasis should be on promoting Co-operative and Mutual enterprises, as mentioned later on in the document, and we welcome the proposal that there should be a Minister for Mutuals.

Legislation on co-ops and mutuals should be amended to ensure a true level playing field.

The regulation of financial services should be reviewed to make it easier for Credit Unions and other financial service co-ops and mutuals to flourish. Financing of co-op and mutual enterprises needs to be strengthened. A British Investment Bank should be set up as per the document, with particular emphasis on supporting renewable energy co-ops and co-ops and mutuals generally.

We welcome the decision to give the UK Parliament a vote on CETA, which should be ejected. Similarly, any bilateral trade treaties negotiated post our exit from the EU should not include any provisions that enable big business to sue the UK government, such as ISDS or ICS. The Co-op Party should oppose any bilateral trade agreements along the lines of CETA or TTIP, alongside the trade unions. Trade justice should be the priority.

In principle, we support a Financial Transactions Tax and consider that Land Value Taxation should be looked at

2. Creating a More Equal Society.

We support the Fair Tax Mark. Tax rules should be amended to reduce Tax avoidance, in the light of the Panama Papers.

Not for Profit Rail Operators should be considered as an alternative to taking rail franchises back in-house. We agree that bus services should be regarded as community assets.

Consumer Ombudsman - we support the proposal to replace 17 different ombudsman services and 14 different complaint handling services with one Consumer Ombudsman, with the power to take up class actions.

The Competition & Markets Authority is important - there should be an annual Competition Health check.

Fairtrade - we agree that trade distorting subsidies and tariffs should be ended.

Community energy co-ops should be promoted as per the document, with tax incentives. This should be looked at in the wider context of reducing the use of fossil fuels and putting less reliance on nuclear power, given the huge subsidies needed to build future nuclear power stations."

Full Text of Submissions - Individuals

Submission Steve Watkins

♀ Topic: 'Secure and confident communities' policy paper

Under the section on Secure and Confident Communities I wish to raise the issue of the Cooperative Party

- having a policy towards rural villages a.
- seeing them as an area of potential organisation based on b. the idea that the party's policies of mutuality, enterprise, compassion and empowerment are village values
- seeking discussions with the flatpack democracy movement with a view, C. over a period of time, to persuading it not to remain outside national party politics but instead to identify with the Cooperative Party.

Submission Chris Magee

? Topic: **Animal testing**

I'm a party member, but also the Head of Policy and Media at Understanding Animal Research, which seeks to explain the use of animals in science.

There are numerous threats to UK political parties from animal rights campaign groups, which have taken to trying to infect party manifestos with policies that benefit their organisation, but not animals, not science and certainly not party members.

I would like to propose the following therefore so that a policy vacuum is not left to be filled. I hope you'll agree that it makes sense, and makes a sensible fist of policy in an extremely delicate area.

Scientific research involving animals

Scientific research involving animals remains a controversial and much misunderstood issue.

Animals are no longer used to test cosmetics, for instance, and the dogs and primates, which often spring to mind as common lab animals, in fact make up less than 0.2% of research animals. Instead, mice are by far the most common research animal and half of all animal experiments are the typically harmless breeding of genetically modified mice. Animals cannot be used if there is an alternative method.

Animal experiments remain an indispensable part of modern medical, veterinary, environmental and scientific research. Breast cancer drug Herceptin, for instance, is based on a mouse hormone, for which researchers needed a mouse. That said, there are a minority of people who feel on balance the use of animals isn't worth it, and polls show that most people would prefer not to use an animal if there is an alternative.

Wherever one stands on the issue, then, only one policy response makes any sense: to fund alternatives to animals in experiments. Campaign groups have long agitated for a ban on experiments, yet this would clearly just push them abroad and outside of the UK's strict regulations, thought to be the tightest in the world. Unlike a ban on animal-tested cosmetics, the government would not have a popular mandate nor basic ability to ban scientific knowledge or medicines deriving from animal research, which all but a handful have, from the UK. It is a nonsense to think that either the research would be prevented, or that the UK could be insulated from fruits of that research.

A smarter policy therefore is investment in the so-called '3Rs' of Reducing the number of animals used, Replacing them if possible and Refining experiments to minimise suffering. This is the approach that has been taken by successive governments through the National Centre for the 3Rs (NC3Rs). Outcomes from investment in the 3Rs might be technological replacements for animals, such as the 'lung on a chip' developed by

Harvard's Wyss institute, or experimental protocols by which animals choose whether to take part in experiments, as in the experiments of Nobel laureate John O Keefe.

In this way, the benefits of research are preserved and experiments take part in the world's kindest and most regulated environment, yet animals are replaced as viable, exportable alternative technology is developed. There are numerous secondary advantages to this approach, including cheaper alternative methods for medical researchers (animals are the most expensive assay available to them) and an exportable product for the developer. In terms of costs, to compare, say, a 'lung on a chip' toxicity test to animals, the price for this starts at around £15,000, which might seem expensive, but even a straightforward study in rats can cost over £34,000 and a more complex analysis can exceed £700,000.

Co-Operative policy should therefore be to fund 3Rs research, preserving its place in the national budget as an ethical investment into the bioscience sector that can have numerous positive side-effects in the realms of ethics, animal welfare and commerce.

Submission Martin Strube

V Topic: Creating a more equal society

A Democracy is only as good as its Education System

Every year thousands upon thousands of secondary school leavers are released into the society for which they have, supposedly, been being prepared. It is more and more widely recognised that:

these people have not enjoyed their final years in the secondary system and are anxious to leave, and this process, to which they have been more or less unwillingly subjected, has not even had the saving grace of succeeding in this supposed preparation.

Many of these people have come from schools where "discipline", still the cornerstone of current educational method, has been breaking down. Classrooms have been chaotic and learning has been an almost incidental by-product. Many

educationalists have been turning a blind eye to all this and have carried on developing theory which is totally divorced from the practical, day to day reality.

The consequential impact of this production line of disenchantment has been disastrous in ways too numerous to list. In fact, the impact has been so broad, so pervasive, so much a part of our every day lives that, for all practical purposes, it goes unnoticed. Escalating violence in the streets and homes.... Escalating stupidity and insensitivity in the forces of «law and order».... Escalating attitudes of rabid self-interest among the better-off.... And, above all, the rising torpor of large sections of the population who sense that they are under attack but lack the analytical and organisational wherewithal to respond.... These are all symptoms of a much larger malaise.

What is this larger malaise? Where is it coming from?

Many would argue that the malaise arises out of the obscenely unequal distribution of goods, resources, and services. This is certainly a large and fundamental part of it, but experience has shown, time and time again, that people with adequate access to goods, resources, and services don't necessarily develop attitudes of concern and commitment to making these same things available to everyone else. Material well being doesn't in itself generate a concern for society and the success of democracy.

Many would argue that this malaise arises out of the obscenely unequal distribution of power and justice. This too is very much and very fundamentally a part of the problem. But the same argument applies. Those already in receipt of satisfactory quantities of justice and power show little or no sign of using these to the general benefit of all those without. Legal and economic well being doesn't in itself generate a concern for society and the success of democracy.

Why not? Who cares, but the fact remains that they do not. More to the point, why aren't the people without material, legal, or economic well being creating hell to rectify this unsupportable situation?

To me the answer is glaringly and embarrassingly obvious. The production line of disenchantment is the main shaper of attitudes in this society. All the other distortions of information produced by distributive inequalities and nonsensical communications

media serve to reinforce, hone, and refine these attitudes, but the foundations are all but irrevocably laid in the primary and secondary education systems.

Our citizens are created in the education system.

Participative citizenship is, at best, a laughing stock. At its worst, it is non-existent. Where it does exist, it usually receives hysterical media condemnation as being the product of some "vocal minority" or other. What most people in this country assume to be taking place in the way of democratic process is a gross exaggeration of reality.

In the work place, poor communication between shop floor and management creates expensive and time consuming multiplications of initially small, manageable problems. Because the hierarchically authoritarian model of the education system is, for the most part, reflected in the workplace, there is virtually no upward flow of information (something upon which nearly every visiting Scandinavian, German or Japanese business person comments).

The cumulative message, first from the from the education system and then from the workplace, is "...do as you're told; don't ask questions." The absence of critical thought abounds. The proliferation of unsuccessful models of educational and work administration continues. They continue because people, themselves products of and participants in hierarchical authoritarian systems, tend to say of the processes that their children are experiencing, "What was and is good enough for us, is good enough for our children....". And those of us who managed (primarily by force of economic circumstance) to survive the process with some sensitivity and some critical faculty still intact seem unwilling or unable to make a concerted effort to precipitate change.

History is littered with isolated examples of attempts to contravene this educational process and its after effects. Many individual teachers and even entire schools have experimented with giving students a real say in the formulation of their own education. Many experimental initiatives have been taken to allow students to determine fully their courses of action within specific areas of study. Many schools, now and in the past, have successfully incorporated genuine student representation into the very management of their institution. But these isolated examples die out and are forgotten and, ultimately, have shown no sign of bearing influence on national educational policy making.

The main reason these experiments have died out, unnoticed, is that there has been no political will to provide the legislation to support and protect these initiatives.

What does this tell us about idealistic experimentation in the absence of political will? By and large it tells us that there have been a lot of good, committed, creative people who have devoted substantial parts of their lives to the betterment of educational practices, but whose efforts have amounted to naught because there has been no consistent interest in following up their initiatives. What's worse is that the absolute contrary seems to have been the case - that these committed and creative people have been induced into nowhere sidings where they could be contained and ignored at one and the same time. More sinisterly, it could be argued that there seems to have been a conscious policy in force - a policy which protects the education system from innovation whilst, concurrently, purveying an image of liberal, concerned, and forgiving interest.

So how does one break this destructive cycle. What strategies suggest themselves to us?

To my simple mind, the answer is gratingly obvious. What's called for is clear legislation for the democratisation of schools.

This simplistic (to some) but frightening (to others) conclusion has a number of inbuilt features which, one would think, might appeal to believers in the democratic system. A sensible, co-ordinated period of introduction could serve to popularise practical democracy among the public at large. Democratic processes are often portrayed as tedious, time-consuming, and of use only to careerist politicians - but they needn't be. Many of us know that collective decision making can be very dramatic and involving; even uplifting. General public enthusiasm for such procedures should, one might suppose, be welcomed by committed democrats.

But in the education system itself, a carefully introduced programme could harness much of the disaffected energy of the "misfits" of today to the benefit of systematic, orderly, and ongoing experimentation which, in responding to the needs of all the participants, could only serve to make of education the popular resource we so desperately require. And that very process of democratically evolved education would, even if the actual "transfer of knowledge" itself could be shown to be inadequate (could it possibly be less adequate than now?), produce generations of citizens fully versed

and fluent in the practices and techniques of democratic procedure. They would have a very real, firsthand grasp of the pleasures and pitfalls of collective authority and collective responsibility. Would they, ever again, settle for a non-participative role in the administration of their lives? Would we, as campaigners for social justice in a thousand and one different ways, ever again come across the stunning ignorance and listless lack of interest we, at present, face in such discouraging quantities every day?

What's called for

What's called for is legislation providing for the equal representation of students, teaching & non-teaching staff, and parents & local community on the Governing Boards of every secondary school.

This legislation should re-affirm the authority of these bodies in the running of their schools. There must be, associated with these provisions, schemes for the familiarisation of all concerned, particularly students and members of the local community in need of "positive discrimination" in these respects, with the fundamentals of democratic process and how to make genuine, practical use of them. All Governing Bodies would be linked through regional and national elective assemblies with the national assembly becoming the major educational policy maker. The whole process would probably require a carefully planned and staggered introduction, perhaps year by year and/or region by region.

We are talking about pressing for legislation (5, 10, 15 years?) for a scheme which will take six to ten years to implement. By current standards this is long term planning in the extreme, but can we afford to ignore the current reality of an education system spewing out disenchantment on a scale which ridicules every effort at reform?

As we struggle to take responsibility for what we have been and continue to do to the planet as a whole, can we afford to overlook the contribution of our educative systems to the process of allowing economic tyranny to prevail over democracy?

Submission Christian Wilcox

▼ Topic: Health

I've said in the past that when a patent on a medication drops in come the other providers and prices come down. This is fair enough, but that profit still goes to a bunch of Bankers & Shareholders. So...

Co-Op Pharma. Make it, stick an NHS Label on it, and charge the Co-Op Pharma for use of the NHS Logo. Profit goes to the Taxpayer then.

With the NHS Logo people are more likely to trust a brand name change from what worked to 'something new'. And with a Co-Op backend and a scrutiny deal to allow said Co-Op into Govt (where the NHS lives after all) then... Nice and accountable. This needs doing. Seriously. If we can get the Medication Bill down and get some more cash for The NHS we will be able to turn things around hugely. Why let Bankers have the Profit when we can have it?

If I could draw your attention to this blog post: http://ctgsnewsfeed.livejournal.com/348395.html

Co-Op Housing Associations, funded by Co-Op Bank. Like other Housing Associations they could REALLY help our poor. Both alone, and as part of the 3-pronged approach I describe in the above blog post.

Submission Richard Bickle

♀ Topic: All questions set

1. National Campaigns

- Taking control / community ownership should be the focus here - of energy systems, community assets, sports clubs, bus services and so on;

2. Local Campaigns

- Campaign around what local communities can actually do and what local councils can do - e.g. the Plymouth model of community energy purchasing and generation, 'how to' guides on the ACV process, working with CAMRA and Plunkett on community assets stuff;

3. Missing policy asks:

Creating a more equal society

I would frame this set of policies with narrative around the Equality Trust's work on the impact of inequality and research suggesting that more co-operative economies are also happier and healthier (based on some work in Spain and Italy about 10 years ago).

- Allow sports clubs (both the organisation and/or any land or buildings) to be listed as Assets of Community Value. Include in wider campaign to extend community rights to buy (linked to existing policy on bus routes etc.);
- Co-operative education is about more than just the business curriculum. The significance of co-operative forms of ownership should also be reflected in history, geography PSHE and elsewhere. Furthermore, the initial techer training curriculum should be reformed to include Co-operative Learning as a distinct form of pedagogy, based on the application of Cooperative Values to the way that Learning is organised and facilitated.

Secure and Confident Communities

■ Leasehold Reform. Organisations established by residential leaseholders to take over management of their freehold collectively should be structured

- as co-operatives. All new leasehold developments should have collectively owned freeholds which can then borrow to invest in shared infrastructure such as renewable energy hardware on the roofs of their blocks;
- All publicly subsidised housing development should demonstrate how tenants are to be given a real voice in the management of that housing, with a presumption towards at least TMOs and ideally fully co-operative housing being delivered;
- Tenants of Registered Social Landlords which are themselves constituted as Community Benefit Societies should have a statutory right to become members of that CBS and be represented on the Board;
- Personal Assistants within social care. Recognise that the ability to recruit As outside of the traditional social services frameworks and contracts. has been trans formative to the lives of disabled people. However, the responsibilities of becoming direct employers is itself problematic in terms of compliance costs with employment law and the need to provide fair employment for the PAs. Co-operative models whereby service users could join a co-operative to collectively manage their PAs' employment is a potential solution. Central Government should provide initial funding for the establishment of a series of regional pilot schemes for this kind of model;
- The Fostering Regulations must be reformed to allow foster carers who are members of a fostering co-operative to be full members with voting rights;
- The basis of the astonishing financial efficiency of the NHS over its history has been in its economic position as a monopsony - i.e. a monopoly customer of healthcare inputs (both day to day purchases, hospital buildings and staff employment). This economic advantage has been inadvertently undermined by 30 years of "reforms". In future, all providers of health and social care funded by the state should be obliged to join a purchasing mutual on the lines of FRTS, Anglia Farmers or NISA to ensure that suppliers do not play divide and rule and increase unit costs. The rules of the former East Anglian Federal Cooperative Society established by Bill Knowles in the 1980s are a useful model in terms of allowing procurement outside the framework if members wish, but obliging them to buy from the federal if its a line that the federal lists.

- Foundation Trusts should be structured as Community Benefit Societies and enabled to raise funds through community share and loanstock issues rather than PFI deals. hey should also give a key governance voice to primary care professionals who refer patients to them. Empowering patients s all very well in theory, but in practice the real customer of secondary and tertiary care is the primary care professional;
- Community assets, right to buy and try. This should be strengthened by working with Plunkett and Co-op & Community Finance to endow a long-term revolving loan fund and/or other finance mechanisms to support communities looking to exercise these rights. (Modeled on Government endowing the original ICOF Fund in the 1970s).

Building a Shared Economy

- Infrastructure utility ownership. Be careful about the Glas Cymru model. t is deeply oligarchic and controlled by a handful of old boys who are said to be chums from the Glamorgan Club in Cardiff. The point here is that long-term debt/bond financing is cheaper than equity funding for infrastructure. A new generation of infrasturcture utility co-ops would be quasi-statutory mutuals with representation of local communities (possibly from local/regional government) as well as from consumers and possibly investors and the utility companies that use the networks;
- Bank duty to serve. Link this to a regular renewal of Banking Licenses, say very 5 or 10 years - a bit like the old ITV franchises had to be renewed regularly;
- Match-funding available for specialist co-operative business advice if co-ops put aside a portion of their profits to fund this;
- - Banking governance. According to co-op legal expert Ian Snaith, it has always been possible to structure a bank as an IPS / CCBS under British Law, provided it has transferable rather than withdrawable shares. The claim that this isn't a case was basically an untruth perpetuated by the Co-operative Group to justify their former monopoly ownership of the formerly Co-operative Bank!
- LEPs should be structured as co-operatives with clear ownership and governance by their members;

- Raising Capital be very careful with external equity in co-ops, whatever he legal form. Take cognisance of the recent problems at Murray Goulburn in Australia which may lead to its demutualisation;
- Payroll dedication for Credit Union contributions. Extend this to all orgnisations delivering services to a public sector organisation, or paid for by public money, provided they employ more than 50 people and offer a grant of £250 to each smaller employer to do the same.

4. Missing policy documents

It always struck me that we were missing a trick in terms of international, foreign and defence policy in not encouraging a conversation about what a genuinely cooperative foreign policy would look like. The Co-op Movement has a proud history of internationalism, the ICA was the one part of international civil society hat held together during the Cold War and ICA General Assemblies have passed more resolutions on peace than nay other topic. We know co-ops can play an important role in maintaining services in areas of conflict where the private sector withdraw, and in peace-building post-conflict. This potentially offers he basis of an alternative narrative towards international affairs than one dominated by pro or anti-military strategies and on peace-keeping based upon military models of operation.

If I ever get round to it, I might wrote pamphlet about this topic!

Further thoughts:

- On missing policy documents, I think we need to spend next year completely reviewing our policies around food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry in light of pulling out of the EU and in liaison with the co-ops in those sectors. Specifically addressing food security and sustainability;
- Also following the referendum result, I think we need to re-double our efforts to recruit much more diverse pool of election candidates at all levels. This could be a national local campaign working with USDAW and NACO to target more co-operators from the retail sector, backed up by stalls at evens

and adverts in Co-op News. Similarly, offering seminars at Co-ops UK events targeting people from worker co-op, credit union and other sectors.



Submission Islington Branch

V Topic: All three summary documents

General

Need to consider the consequences of Brexit throughout, and where uncertainty add in the appropriate clauses. Language should be tightened – 'we propose' etc needs hardening.

Society

Ombudsman

There is a need for a single gateway for the public, simplifying the process of reporting. The ombudsman should be given stronger powers to address consumer complaints.

BBC

Would like the policy to suggest that any future board arrangement is balanced to reflect regional and national variation across the UK.

Sport

Queried the current ability of Football Clubs to change the shirts, branding or name of the club freely, as is implied by the policy recommendation. This should be checked.

Health

The Society section would benefit from language of health inequalities (particularly relevant for London, given the disparity of life expectancy).

Driverless cars

This seems to be an inevitable technological advance on the horizon, and it will have serious repercussions for public transport. The Cooperative Party and movement, working with local authorities, should offer co-operative solutions that use the technology available.

Fair trade

Brexit should be considered, as there will be ongoing and lengthy process of renegotiating trade deals between the UK and the rest of the world. The principles and objectives of Fair trade have a role to play in these negotiations.

Universities

Could the current governance of universities be reformed along cooperative lines so they are less elitist? The Party should have some policy on higher education. Student Unions could consider becoming co-operatives, in line with the union-co-ops model emerging in the United States.

Economy

Stock market

to democratize the stock exchange a co-operative could be established that pools members money and invests in the stock market. Members could invest as much as they like, and receive dividends proportional to their investment, but would have one vote.

Duty to involve

Is it hypocritical to make this policy recommendation given that the Coop Group do not have employees on their board? In principle support.

Financial Exclusion

Political refugees are the most financially excluded group: can credit unions step into this gap if they can operate more flexibly?

Fin Tech

As with other areas of technological advance, fintech is both a risk and an opportunity for the co-operative movement. As a party we should be seeking policy that encourages co-operative and mutual forms of fintech as an alternative to the private sectors use of the technology, which risks normalizing debt and exploiting the vulnerable.

Local currency

As a method of retaining wealth locally, is this something the co-operative party should be supporting?

Business Improvement Districts

The process of establishing BIDs and their operation once established should account for the special features, values and contributions made by local co-operatives.

Communities

National lottery

The party should recognize that establishing co-operatives is difficult and time consuming, and that there is often little support. One solution would be to distribute funding proportionally to the local/regional contribution.

Protecting publics services

The party should recognize that local public services are less vulnerable to cuts and closure when they are fully embedded in their local community. Co-operative and mutual ownership and governance are a way of achieving this. Sure Start is an example - if Sure Starts had been owned and governed co-operatively there might have been more resistance to their closure, or indeed their closure may have been off the agenda.

Diversity

Can we insert some language on diversity throughout where appropriate, and specifically some ideas on safe spaces, community safety and the needed flexibility of social care.

Pharmaceutical buyers club - It was felt that co-operative buyers clubs might be a means of accessing drugs that are not currently made available on the NHS.

Housing

All public subsidy should be channeled to co-operative housing.

Housing Associations

The party should seek the democratization of housing associations, which are often now large and unwielding organisations. Membership should be open to all residents (not only tenants), One third of the board should be made of members, and HA residents should have the right to manage/transfer to co-operatives.

Submission Cathy Trevaldwyn

♀ Topic: Secure and Confident Communities: Foundation Trust Hospitals

I am a member of the Exec. of Chelmsford Star Co-op party. As I am a public governor of the local mental health Trust (NEP), I was asked to read the FoundationTrust Hospitals section and make a comment.

I have to say I was taken aback at the lack of understanding of the Foundation Trust principles and application. It is factually incorrect.

1. If you refer to hospital Foundation Trusts you are only referring to physical health care and excluding mental health care - which is delivered by Health Trusts, but not exclusively in hospitals. The document needs to have the word 'hospital' removed and just say 'Foundation Trusts', with perhaps a heading of 'Medical Foundation Trusts,' for people who don't know the term

(Foundation Trusts are a form of co-operative run by a Council of Governors who represent the community) Governors are elected like MPs (but STV!) and the main difference is we are not allowed to do any case work or actually get involved in individual medical care questions

2. The document states that the number Foundation Trusts are expanding. This is not true, and this is a few years out of date when the legislation was coming it force - Trusts had to apply to be a foundation trust. The number of Trusts are decreasing because of the economic climate, problems in the NHS etc. Trusts have to be financially viable - this over-seen by MONITOR on behalf of the Government. An example what is happening is that NEP has a poor financial level, so merger talks are taking place with our neighbouring Trust SEPT.

All the North Essex Hospital Trusts are in some difficulty and Essex services are very like to put under full supervision - We have Basildon and Colchester Hospital Trusts which have hit national headlines because of the quality of care, Broomfield Chelmsford, was a new build on an extortionate PFI loan.

PAH Harlow also has it's problems!

The document refers to 'engagement', which is a 2-way process and there has to be a climate in which members of the public will take an active interest in how their health care is delivered, what it right and what is wrong. This includes primary care The term is not mentioned in the document.

Basically the local doctors' group, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) makes contracts as to what care they think the community needs. The Trusts bid for these.

Members of the community can have positive engagement with any of the above bodies and have some influence as to how they work by becoming members with voting rights etc..

Members of the public can join of their surgery patient group, Healthwatch (which is the public representatives of the NHS), All of these hold meetings and actually do try quite hard to 'engage'

My understanding is that when we join the Co-Op party we sign a pledge about supporting the growth of the Commonwealth (Common wealth) through co-operation. How many of the Co-Op party are members of their local mental health trust, hospital trust, practice group, Healthwatch etc etc? I go to public Board meetings and can be the only member of the public, Or belong to the local branches any of the national charities e.g. Alzheimers' Disease- who can also be commissioned to provide local services.

Aren't these activities helping to support the growth of the commonwealth. It is all of playing our part in the community and taking ownership of services?

The way the paragraphs are written is not about the members of the community being proactive, but organisations should go out to engage. One is more achievable than the other. If there was a campaign for everybody to have a greater understanding of their local health provision, and to take an active part in influencing it this is much more achievable because it is personal action and goes back to the roots of the party pledge.

My particular interest in mental health care has come about because I have bipolar affective disorder as a disability and this has necessitated many hospital admissions, including 3 in 1 year, each on a section of the Mental Health Act. The result - a passionate desire to try and make care better in what ever way I can, but usually it's be very small ways. I have been a governor from 6 years, and have 1 1/2 years before I have to stand down.

I don't have the background knowledge to comment on the other sections, but in order to be accepted as being credible and influential, and not just pious statements, it has to be correct, and not rather amateur in it's understanding. (Is there not a case of having 'interest groups' to participate in the preparation in documents.

Submission Carl Packman

♀ Topic: Building a Shared Economy: Fintech

- How can FinTech begin to work for low income households and the unbanked? By virtue of being lightweight (reusing technology and using open banking tools) and branchless, these firms can start to pass on those savings by not charging low income households a fee to use the services. Also, the services need to be designed in full knowledge of what low income households appreciate: control (no money leaves their account without their say so) and transparency (any charges

are openly discussed and itemised). Also, financial capability apps and savings apps (one savings app allows people to pay-up, so when you make a purchase you round it up and put the remainder in a savings account e.g. a £3.20 purchase turns into £4.00: £3.20 for the purchase and £0.80 into a savings app).

- How do we broker cooperation within community financial organisations (such as alternative Rent-to-Own companies) and FinTech organisations? Conferences and more shared hacks - to mix and intertwine the cultures of both types of organisation with a view to tackling financial exclusion.
- How can we make sure credit unions and other community finance organisations engage in sustainable competition with high cost credit lenders? Have a policy for merging and keeping a close track on non-performing loans - which is the key reason why some credit unions that are trying to outcompete payday lenders are struggling.

Other contributors

Mathew Lawrence is a research fellow at IPPR.

Clare McNeil is a senior research fellow at IPPR.

http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/Fair-shares May2014.pdf?noredirect=1

David Smith

* Weighing Up the Co-operative Difference

7 May – 'Now the Group is in its rebuild phase, David reviews - http:// www.thenews.coop/105295/news/co-operatives/weighing-co-operativedifference/ - '... and raises questions about localism and social justice.'

** Caring for others - Can the Co-op do more to help cure a lonely world?

In depth article by David Smith, Secretary of Co-operatives and Mutuals Wales: 29 June – 'The two-year investment in actions to address member concerns about loneliness and social isolation - http://www.thenews. coop/106654/news/business/adding-value-co-operative-campaigning/

Dear All

I have been a member of the co-operative party for several years and attend meetings in Stroud, despite the fact that boundary changes mean I am now in Cotswold Constituency. I later joined the Labour Party to vote for Ed Miliband and was gutted when David Drew failed to be elected, and the Conservatives formed the new government which is clearly coming apart at the seams!

I have been doing research for a book, which is relevant to achieving a more equal society. I attach a short paper which summarizes a very radical approach to taxation which describes a new approach to taxation and the potential it would have to achieve a more equal society. It necessarily uses some mathematics to describe it in detail, but if you have the patience to read through to the end, you may be surprised at how much it could benefit everyone. Not only does it provide a workable Citizens Income, but also provides some answers to the current issues of tax avoidance and the continuing long recession, not just in the UK. I would very much hope the Co-op party would adopt it.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Chandler

Appendices

Appendix 1

Summary of policy areas within the three Summary Documents

Economy		Society		Communities
1 Employee ownership	1	Sustainable Development	1	Ambition for Co-operative Housing
2 Employee duty to serve	2	Community Energy	2	Co-operative Housing Tenure
3 Profit Sharing	3	Community Energy/Direct supply	3	Community-led Housing
4 Infrastructure/Utility Companies	4	Community Energy/defined by motivation	4	Land use
5 Financial Transaction Taz	5	Community Energy/Tax incentives	5	Finance for Co-operative Housing
6 Land Value Taxation	6	Rail	6	Co-operative housing expansion
7 Banks: 'Duty to serve'	7	Bus	7	Best value consideration for land
8 Payday lenders levy	8	Bus as community assets	8	Tenant Management Organisations
9 Supporting co-operative and mutual enterprise	9	Ports	9	Stock transfer
10 Minister for Mutuals	10	Car share schemes	10	Landlord co-operative
11 Business support	11	BBC	11	Student Housing co-operatives
12 Business impact test	12	Sport	12	Health and social care provision/ co-operative values
13 Mutual reform	13	Consumer information	13	Health and social care provision/profit motive
14 Enterprise Investment Scheme	14	Consumer right to access their own data	14	Social Care 'market'
15 Corporation tax, business and non-domestic rates exemption	15	Statutory duty on consumer advice	15	Personal Assistants within social care
16 Banking governance	16	Consumer Ombudsman services	16	Social Care procurement
17 Local Enterprise Partnerships	17	Competition and Markets Authorities (CMA)	17	Support for mutuals within social care procurement
18 Local economic development	18	Fairtrade	18	Right to request
19 Raising capital	19	Fairtrade/tariff regimes	19	Foundation Trusts
20 Mutual Guarantee Societies	20	Fossil Fuels	20	Foundation Trusts and community engagement
21 Finance diversity	21	International co-operative development	21	New Foundation Trusts
22 Financial Inclusion	22	Human rights	22	Foundation Trust governance
23 Access to finance	23	Co-operative schools	23	Co-operative Councils
24 Reform of UK Payments system	24	Co-operative education	24	Social value
25 Fair Tax	25	Mixed stakeholder models in education	25	Local tender evaluations
26 Banking Levy			26	Local co-operative procurement
27 Corporation tax			27	Local asset transfer
28 A British Investment Bank			28	Local asset transfer/asset lock
29 Credit Union accounts for Children			29	Localism Act 2011 powers
30 Credit Union payroll deduction			30	Community assets/ 'Right to try'
			31	Youth Offending Teams
			32	Participatory budgeting within Police Forces
		_	33	Crime and Disorder Act 1998
		_	34	Neighbourhood policing
			35	Co-production of crime prevention strategies
		·	36	StreetWatch
		-	37	Community Pubs

Appendix 2

List of 12 in-depth policy papers

- Communities and Local Government 4.
- Consumer Affairs and Co-operative Development 5.
- Culture, Media and Sport 6.
- Economy **7**.
- Education 8.
- Energy and Environment 9.
- Health and Social Care 10.
- Housing 11.
- International Development 12.
- Transport 13.
- Women and Equalities 14.
- Young People **15**.

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