

## The Rule Book – Section S

### The Wales Co-operative Party

#### 1. Name

The organisation shall be called The Wales Co-operative Party.

#### 2. Functions of the Wales Co-operative Party

The functions of the Wales Co-operative Party shall be:

- To develop, promote and campaign in support of Co-operative Party policy on devolved matters
- To contribute to, promote and campaign in support of UK Co-operative Party policy
- To work in partnership with affiliated Co-operative Societies and organisations and the co-operative movement in Wales
- To secure co-operative representation in Westminster, the National Assembly, local government and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in Wales
- To support and co-ordinate the activities of Co-operative Party branches in Wales
- To work alongside the Labour Party and Labour movement to promote co-operation in Wales.
- To work in partnership with the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party and to support the decisions of the Annual Conference of the Co-operative Party

#### 3. Boundary

The Party shall operate within Wales and shall consist of all Co-operative Party members resident in Wales.

#### 4. The Wales Council

1. There shall be a Co-operative Party Wales Council. The Council shall consist of the following voting members:
  - The Wales representative on the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party
  - Two Labour and Co-operative MPs in Wales
  - Two Labour and Co-operative AMs in Wales
  - One Labour and Co-operative PCC in Wales
  - Two Labour and Co-operative Councillors, elected annually by a process agreed by the Wales Council
  - Up to four representatives from affiliated societies and organisations in Wales
  - The Wales representative on the Co-operative Party Youth Committee
  - Three representatives from each Party Branch. At least one representative from each branch must be a woman.

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- Permanent staff based in Wales (who shall be non-voting members of the Council).
2. The Wales Council shall ensure a gender balance when electing delegates, as far as it is practical to do so.
  3. If a representative ceases to be a member of the electing/nominating body, that body shall be asked to elect/nominate another member.
  4. Meetings of the Wales Council for the year shall be arranged at the first meeting each year, subject to special and/or additional meetings agreed by the Officers if deemed necessary.
  5. The Council shall be constituted annually, and appointments and elections arranged so that representatives can attend the first meeting of the Wales Council held in the calendar year.
  6. The Annual Meeting shall elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, at least two of whom shall be women. No person shall serve more than four years as Chair without there being an intervening period of at least two years.
  7. Officers shall have been individual members of the Co-operative Party for not less than six months at the date of election. This rule shall also apply in respect of nominees for public bodies and representatives of the Co-operative Party on other bodies to which this Party is affiliated.
  8. Where finances allow, reasonable expenses may be reimbursed.
  9. In exceptional circumstances, Honoria may be paid to officers, subject to approval of the NEC.
  10. Any officer or delegate shall be deemed to have vacated their position if they fail to attend three consecutive meetings of the Party Council or the body they have been delegated to. This shall not preclude them from standing for re-election to the position.
  11. The Wales Council shall establish committees or working groups as required.

### 5. Conditions of Membership

Membership of the Wales Council shall be confined to persons who are members of the Co-operative Party.

### 6. The Executive Committee

1. The Annual Meeting shall elect an Executive Committee, to consist of:
  - The Chair of the Wales Council, who shall chair the Executive Committee
  - The Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Wales Council
  - One member for each branch not otherwise represented above.
  - The Wales representative on the National Executive Committee
2. The Executive shall meet as and when required, including by phone, skype or email, to deal with urgent business.

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### 7. Finance

1. The Wales Co-operative Party shall be funded by a portion of annual members' subscriptions and annual grant from the Co-operative Group and other subscribing societies if appropriate.
2. Co-operative Party Branches in Wales shall be funded by a grant from the Wales Council and applications to the National Activity Fund.

### 8. Audit

At least once every year, the Wales Council Executive Committee shall submit its accounts for audit to an Auditor appointed by the Wales Council and forwarded to the National Executive Committee.

### 9. Policy

1. The Wales Co-operative Party shall be responsible for formulating policy on matters wholly relating to Wales.
2. All policy is subject to approval by the Wales Council.

### 10. Branch Parties

1. Branch Parties may be established comprising individual members and organised to carry on the political work of the Wales Party in accordance with model constitutions for Branches approved by the NEC.
2. Branch Parties shall operate and be financed under regulations laid down by the Wales Party.
3. The Wales Council may delegate some of its functions to Branch Parties. However, in all respects Branch Parties shall be subordinate to the Wales Council, especially in matters of affiliations, finance and candidatures.

### 11. Delegations

The Wales Council may itself appoint delegates to Constituency Labour Parties, with or without seeking advice from the relevant Branches. The Wales Council may also delegate this function, in whole or part, to Branches. Where such delegation is made, the Party Council shall determine which members may vote in the appointment of delegations.

### 12. Affiliated bodies

Auxiliary bodies (as defined by the NEC) may affiliate to the Society Party and shall pay an affiliation fee.

### 13. Individual Membership

1. Individual members shall be members of a Retail Co-operative Society or a recognised co-operative as determined by the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party and shall pay the annual subscription as approved by the National Annual Conference of the Party. Individual members shall sign the declaration as follows:

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***I declare myself a Co-operator and agree to accept the programme, policy and constitution of the Co-operative Party, national and local. I will do all in my power to promote the policy of the Co-operative Party as declared from time to time. I am not a member of any political Party other than the Labour Party or the Social Democratic and Labour Party. I am a member of a recognised co-operative as determined by the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party.***

2. Where in the opinion of the Wales Council, the above declaration is not being honoured by the person concerned then the Wales Council may take such disciplinary action as outlined in the National Rules of the Co-operative Party.
3. There shall be consultation between the Secretary of the Wales Council and a National Official representing the NEC to determine whether the Wales Council should take further action or whether the matter should be dealt with by the NEC under its disciplinary powers in the National Co-operative Party Rules.
4. Where in the opinion of the NEC the above declaration is not being honoured by the person concerned then the NEC may take such disciplinary action as outlined in the National Co-operative Party Rules.
5. A member who stands against the official Labour candidate or gives any form of support shall be deemed to be in breach of the declaration and may be expelled subject to the disciplinary rules outlined in the National Rules. Furthermore, no member may become a member of any group in opposition to the official Labour Group in Parliament, the European Parliament, Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales or other administrative body where such a group exists. Any member who stands for election either as a Labour and Co-operative Candidate or Labour Candidate shall accept and retain the Labour Whip of the body to which he/she is seeking election. Failure to do so may render him/her liable to disciplinary action subject to the disciplinary procedures as outlined in the National Rules.
6. Full membership rights shall commence three months from the date the application is received by the National Party, providing all conditions of membership have been met and there are no objections to the application. Prior to full membership, the applicant can attend branch meetings as a visitor.
7. The application shall be considered by the Wales Council at the next appropriate meeting after application. Notification of any acceptance or rejection of the application shall be given to the applicant within three calendar months of receipt of the application.
8. Applicants for membership must furnish proof of membership of a Retail Co-operative Society or a recognised co-operative as determined by the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party, within three calendar months of their application to join the Party.
9. The Wales Party and the NEC shall also have the power to suspend membership. Membership may be suspended for a period of up to six months whilst the procedure described in the National Rules is being undertaken.

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### 14. Wales Co-operative Party Conference

The Wales Co-operative Party shall convene an Annual Conference, open to all members in Wales to promote the policy and campaign activities of the Party in Wales.

### 15. Amendments to the Rules

1. Amendments or alterations to the Rules can only be made by the Wales Council and only when such amendment or alteration has been received by the Secretary 28 days before the date of Wales Council meeting.
2. No alteration or amendment to the Rules shall take effect unless it is supported by two-thirds of the Wales Council and is approved by the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party.

### 16. National Organisation

The Wales Co-operative Party shall register with the National Co-operative Party and accept the policy as agreed upon and as amended from time to time by the Annual Co-operative Party Conference, and shall operate such regulations as may be approved or issued by the National Executive Committee of the Party, provided that any regulations issued as a general instruction shall be subject to confirmation by the Annual Conference of the Party.

### 17. National Rules

1. It is hereby declared that the National Rules of the Co-operative Party are deemed to be incorporated into the Wales Rules. It is also made clear that if the National Rules are altered or amended in the future then such altered or amended National Rules shall be deemed to be incorporated into the Wales Rules as at the date of the alteration or amendment to the National Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, it is made clear that such incorporation of the present National Rules and any future alteration or amendment to the same shall be deemed to be automatic and will not require any meeting or vote by members of this Wales Co-operative Party as at the time of such amendment or alteration.
2. These Rules do not replace the registered Rules of Co-operative Party Ltd and shall at all times be consistent with the registered Rules. In the event of any inconsistency, the registered Rules of the Co-operative Party Ltd shall apply.