

The background of the entire page is an aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, showing rows of houses with dark roofs and some trees. A semi-transparent green filter is applied over the entire image. A pattern of thin, light-green lines forms a series of overlapping triangles and hexagons across the background, creating a geometric texture.

co-operative councillor local elections briefing

the co-operative party
local

Becoming a co-operative councillor

As the political party of the co-operative movement, we believe that things work best when ordinary people have a voice, and when services are accountable to the people who use them. We have had an electoral agreement for over 90 years with the Labour Party that allows us to stand joint Labour & Co-operative Candidates.

Why a Labour & Co-operative Councillor?

The Co-operative Party has a growing network of over 700 councillors in 167 councils across England, Scotland and Wales, and now make up 13% of Labour Councillors in England.

Councillors choose to seek the Co-operative Party nomination for a number of reasons:

- Public recognition of co-operative values
- Support from your local Co-operative Party
- Part of growing national network of Co-operative Councillors
- Access to national campaigns and resources





Becoming a Labour & Co-operative Candidate

You can stand as a Labour & Co-operative Councillor if you have been nominated by both the Labour Party and Co-operative Party to stand in a particular ward.

If successfully nominated you will appear on the ballot paper as:

ALEXANDER Albert Victor Labour and Co-operative Party		
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Standing in a multi-member ward

The only exception is if there is more than one Labour candidate standing in your ward, all candidates must stand as 'Labour' or 'Labour & Co-operative'. Candidates who have been endorsed as a Co-operative candidate but can't have it on the ballot paper as their colleagues aren't Co-operative Party candidates are called 'supported' candidates.

Supported candidates can still receive support, and publicly state they are supported by the Co-operative Party, but can't have the description on the ballot paper. However, they can still refer to themselves as 'Labour & Co-operative' if elected.



Criteria for being selected

The Co-operative Party nomination process is separate to the one run by your local Labour Party. Selection is normally by online application though some branches may have additional requirements such as an interview.

There are basic criteria for being selected, but your local Co-op Party may waive these requirements on a case-by-case basis :

- Normally been a member of the Co-operative Party for 9 months
- Member of a recognised co-operative
- Being involved with your local branch and campaigns helps



What do Co-operative Councillors do?

Co-operative Councillors work and campaign on a wide range of issues.

That can be as part of a whole council approach or as simple as how a Councillor works with their community.

A Co-operative councillor will carry out all or some of the following

Support co-operative solutions

The Co-operative Party believes in public ownership first, however co-operative models provide an alternative to privatisation. Whether that be local transport, adult social care or childcare, local councils are supporting co-operative solutions that put people before profit.

For example, in West Oxfordshire local Councillors supported the creation of a community transport company.



What next?

Find out more at www.party.coop/local or apply online at www.party.coop/local/apply

Contact our Local Government Officer Emma Hoddinott
local@party.coop

Support the local co-operative economy

The Labour and Co-operative Parties have a commitment to double the size of the co-operative economy. Locally you can support local co-operatives such as your local credit union or look to rebalance the way the economy works through our ideas on community wealth.

Many councils including Preston have led the way in working with anchor institutions. To find out more read our six steps to community wealth guide :
<https://party.coop/publication/6-steps-to-build-community-wealth/>

Work in a co-operative way – work with and share power with communities.

Look at ways to empower their local community and help them find answers to local problems. That includes things such as transfer of assets to the community, devolving of budgets and participatory budgeting.

For example, in Lambeth, Councillors created a Young Lambeth Co-op to give young people a voice in commissioning youth services.

Resources and information

The Co-operative Party produces a range of policy documents and practical guides to support the work colleagues in local government, which are free to download:

Standing up for private renters: a guide for councillors

Designed for councillors, local members and renters themselves, this guide provides you with the practical tools needed to improve the private rented sector in your area.

www.party.coop/publication/standing-up-for-private-renters-a-guide-for-councillors/



Credit Unions and Local Government: Working in Partnership

Produced in partnership with ABCUL, our guide includes examples of credit unions and local authorities working together to encourage financial resilience and vibrant local economies.

www.party.coop/publication/creditunions



Becoming a co-operative councillor

This guide sets out what it means to be a Co-operative councillor, the selection and election process, and practical ways councillors can champion co-operation in the communities they serve.

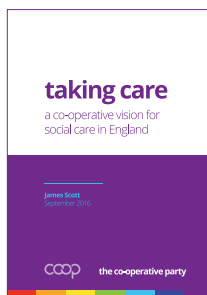
www.party.coop/publication/councillor-guide



Taking care: a co-operative vision for social care in England

Setting out a model for co-operatively-owned care driven by carers, recipients of care and the community, not profit.

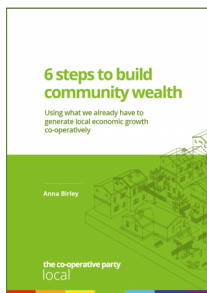
www.party.coop/publication/takingcare



Six steps to build community wealth

Using what we already have to generate local economic growth co-operatively

www.party.coop/publication//6-steps-to-build-community-wealth



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Published and printed October 2017

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