

# the co-operative party

2019 Policy consultation - discussion paper

## Community, place and power

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**Deadline for submissions:** 17 June 2019

**See also:** Background briefing - Community, place and power

### The policy process 2019

The Co-operative Party is member-led, and so we derive our policy platform from the experiences, ideas and principles of our members, our subscribing societies, and the wider co-operative movement.

The Co-operative Party will invite the views of its members through an open consultation with individual members, Party units, co-operative societies, and the wider co-operative movement, asking for their responses to the questions below.

This will run from January to mid-June 2019, and support will be given to local parties to convene their members for policy discussions. Devolution and community cohesion are UK-wide challenges, and there are co-operative councillors representing diverse communities across England, Scotland and Wales, so we will work closely to ensure that members in every part of the UK are encouraged and supported to contribute.

This will include working with Parties in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to ensure the views of their members are well represented. The voice of our wider movement and organisational members are also vital.

Responses will be collated for review by the NEC's policy sub-committee. The points raised will be brought together into a policy platform on community cohesion and rebalancing power, which will be debated at Conference in 2019.

## Questions to consider

1. How much opportunity do you have to influence the decisions that affect the place you live? How can that be improved?
2. Do you believe your local community is strong and cohesive? Why/ why not?
3. The Co-operative Party believes in the principle of subsidiarity – that power should rest at the lowest possible level. What powers currently retained in Westminster should be devolved to Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, English regions and/or local authorities, and what changes would you like to see?
4. What could future devolution within England look like?
5. Many of the devolution deals to date have focused on cities and city regions, while less attention is paid the future of the UK's towns – many of which struggle with challenges from housing and access to services, to investment, growth and an ageing population. How can future devolution ensure that the towns have the voice, investment and support they need?
6. How can co-operative values be embedded in future devolution deals?
7. How can local government collaborate to achieve better outcomes for residents?
8. How can citizens and communities be empowered from the bottom up? Can you share local examples of this in action?
9. Many communities report feeling powerless or excluded from politics and decision-making. How can power be rebalanced in favour of communities beyond town halls to give more people a stake and a say?

## How to respond

Local parties and individuals can respond to these consultation questions by either uploading a document or answering a short online questionnaire.

Submit your response at  
[www.party.coop/policy/new](http://www.party.coop/policy/new)