

the co-operative party and the co-operative movement are working together to

# unleash co-operation



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co-operative party



The Co-operative Party has had another successful year working with our partners across the co-operative movement to make the case for our co-operative values.

For more than a century the Co-operative Party and co-operative retail societies have worked together to build a society where wealth and power are shared.

That work continues and develops as our Party's size, impact and profile continues to grow.

We are particularly proud of our work over the last year to campaign for food justice, working with co-operative societies to support the vital work of food banks and work towards a Right to Food in UK law.

We have also worked together to tackle modern day slavery. Nearly 100 Local Authorities across Britain have signed up to our Charter which helps councils ensure that there is no place for slavery within their supply chains. We have also successfully encouraged government to improve the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act.

We were also proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with co-op retailers and the trade union USDAW to make the case for better protections for shop workers and it was heartening that Government has subsequently agreed to take further practical action. This will continue to be a priority campaign for us over the year ahead.

At today's event you will have the chance to vote to continue to the vital partnership between the Co-operative Party and your co-operative society.

Voting in favour means that the Party can continue its work promoting co-operation as a better way of doing business and that Co-operative MPs, peers, MSPs, AMs and councillors can keep making the case for our values in the rooms where decisions are made.

To find out more about our work please visit [www.party.coop](http://www.party.coop).

Yours in co-operation

Joe Fortune  
General Secretary



2019 in numbers

40,000

registered supporters

815

Labour & Co-operative councillors across Britain

41%

of Co-op councillors are women, compared to 36% as a whole

# highlights of our recent work

## Westminster

Labour & Co-op MPs and peers questioned Ministers, laid amendments to legislation and instigated debates on a wide range of topics including:

- Community transport
- Democratic public ownership
- Co-operative development and capital
- Childcare
- Modern Slavery
- Protection for retail workers



## Local government

• Jamie Driscoll, the North of Tyne Mayor, joined our 2 other metro mayors and over 800 councillors in representing the Co-op Party in local government

• Our Co-op metro mayors put co-operative ideas into practice by supporting the creation of the Greater Manchester Co-op Commission and South Yorkshire Co-operative Advisory Board

• Our local leaders put co-ops at the heart of local economies through the promotion of community wealth building



## Regional work

The Party worked with:

- Co-operatives West and East Midlands, and Co-operatives East, supporting the promotion of co-operatives
- Central England Co-operative on the unveiling of the portrait of Kettering MP Alfred Waterson (the first Co-op Party MP) in parliament – highlighting our historic relationship with the Society



## A co-operative future for Britain

• We commissioned the NEF report, 'Co-ops Unleashed', as a route map to doubling the size of the co-op sector

• We ensured that the Labour Party recommitted to their 2017 manifesto pledge to double the size of the co-op sector



## Food justice

• Central England Co-operative and the Co-op Party joined forces to campaign for a Right to Food.

• Co-operative colleagues and Board members gave talks at Greenbelt Festival on ethical business and social investment, alongside an audience with CEC CEO Debbie Robinson.

• The Labour Party then followed our lead and pledged to introduce a Right to Food embedded in UK law via a Fair Food Act



## Not part of the job

Built support for new protections for shop workers by:

- Introducing legislation to increase penalties
- Commissioning new polling to demonstrate public support
- Mobilising Co-op MPs during Retail Workers Week



## Modern slavery

• Nearly 100 Councils have signed our Local Government charter against modern slavery

• Joined a cross-party effort to improve support for survivors of modern slavery from 90 days to 12 months

• Won new action from government to improve enforcement of the Modern Slavery Act



## Brexit

• Consulting the co-operative sector on its priorities for the post-Brexit era

• Supported a Peoples Vote on the final Brexit deal following a decision at our Conference

