

STANDING AS A LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE COUNCILLOR

**Local elections
briefing**



**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 800 Councillors across England, Scotland and Wales, and now make up 14% 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:



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.

They 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. If they are elected they can call themselves Labour & Co-operative Councillors.

Criteria for getting the Co-operative Party nomination

The Co-operative Party nomination process is separate to the one run by your local Labour Party. Application for the Co-op Party nomination is online via the Co-op Party website. Your application will then go forward to your local branch or region for endorsement. There is a basic criteria for being selected:

- 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

Note: Local parties can waive the above criteria on a case-by-case basis, especially to encourage under-represented groups of members to stand as a Labour & Co-operative candidate.

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 party.coop or fill in the online application form at party.coop/local/apply

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

Support the local co-operative economy

This could be supporting your local credit union or looking to rebalance the way the economy works through our ideas on community wealth.

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

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

Co-operative Councillors look at ways to empower their local community and help them find answers to local problems. That includes transfer of assets to the community, devolving of budgets and participatory budgeting; giving power from the town hall to a community level.

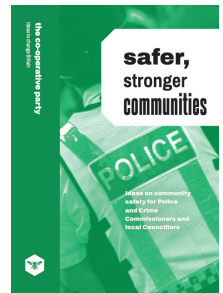
RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

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

Safer, Stronger Communities

Setting out what our co-operative agenda for community safety looks like for Councillors and Police and Crime Commissioners.

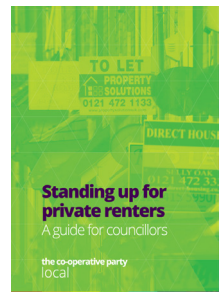
party.coop/publication/safer-stronger-communities/



Standing up for Renters: A Guide for Councillors

This briefing is designed to give Labour & Co-operative councillors the practical tools needed to make campaigning for private renters a reality.

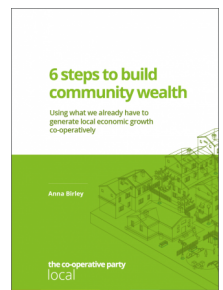
party.coop/publication/private-renters



Six steps to build community wealth

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

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



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.



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.



party.coop/publication/councillor-guide

Unit 13, 83 Crampton Street,
London SE17 3BU

020 7367 4150

local@party.coop

 @CoopParty

www.party.coop

Co-operative Party Limited is a registered
Society under the Co-operative and
Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.
Registered no. 30027R.

Promoted by Joe Fortune on behalf of the
Co-operative Party, both at Unit 13, 83
Crampton Street, London SE17 3BQ. Printed
by Solopress, 9 Stock Road, Southend-on-
Sea SS2 5QF.



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