



AGM & Conference Voting 2021

Organisational Motions

1. Representing the wider co-operative movement

Submitted by CMS (Co-operative Mutual Solutions)

Conference welcomes the moves by the Co-operative Party to recruit co-operative enterprises from beyond the traditional retail consumer societies as organisational members in recent years, but notes the slow rate of recruitment so far.

Conference believes that having some representation from the wider co-operative sectors on the NEC would help to ensure that these voices are being heard with a view to accelerating the rate of recruitment and ensuring that the Party's policies and activities are relevant to the whole of the Co-operative Movement in the UK.

“Noting the precedent of an observer seat for individual members from Northern Ireland, Conference calls upon the NEC to add an additional observer to its number from Co-operative Enterprises in membership of the Party that are worker, housing, community co-operatives or Credit Unions.”

2. Widening the pool of election candidates

Submitted by Central Midlands Co-operative Party Council

Conference welcomes the breadth and impact of the joint campaign with co-operative retail societies and the union USDAW on violence against shop workers and the positive working relationships between those organisations that it has encouraged and built upon.

Conference notes that many staff in co-op stores and funeral homes live locally, have deep knowledge and understanding of their neighbourhoods and the people who live there, and are often community activists outside of work themselves such as school governors, parents and volunteers.

Therefore, Conference calls upon the NEC and Party staff to instigate a campaign with USDAW and other relevant partners to encourage and mentor more co-operative employees to stand for election to public office.

This could include an awareness campaign about the opportunities that are available, access to training and mentoring activities and ensuring that co-operative employers make appropriate arrangements for flexibility in the workplace to enable colleagues to undertake duties such as those of a local councillor, magistrate or school governor.