



Co-operative Party AGM 2022

Rule Changes

Explanatory Notes

Rule Change 1 – NEC Composition

In 2021 we started a review of the membership of the NEC ahead of the next elections in 2023, and initial views were sought from members in an online consultation over the summer.

Following that first consultation, subscribing societies, local parties, branches, networks and individual members were invited to comment on a series of options for changes to the membership of the NEC.

At its meeting in March the NEC discussed the consultation responses and options for changes to the NEC and, and agreed the following amendments to the Rules of Co-operative Party Ltd.

These will come into effect at the next NEC election in Spring 2023, if agreed at the at the AGM and approved by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Individual members

Currently, the NEC has one member elected by and from members in Scotland and Northern Ireland, one from Wales, nine from England and one by and from Youth members (12 in total).

This will be amended to:- one member elected by and from members in Scotland, one from Wales, one from Northern Ireland, eight from England and one from each of the BAME, (dis)Ability, LGBTQ+ and Youth Networks (15 in total).

The NEC members for each network will be elected by one member one vote, by and from all eligible members of that network.

The NEC members for England will be elected from four regions, two members (gender balanced) per region. The electoral regions, along with the other detailed procedures for the next election, will be agreed by the NEC and published before the end of this year.

Elected representatives

In addition to two members of the Westminster Parliamentary Group as at present, there will be two NEC members elected by all other Labour and Co-operative elected representatives e.g. Members of the Scottish Parliament, Members of the Senedd/Welsh Parliament, Police and Crime Commissioners, elected mayors, London Assembly Members and councillors.



Societies and affiliates

The NEC currently has two members appointed by the Co-operative Group and two elected by and from all other subscribing societies and affiliates, plus a seat for Co-operatives UK that is not taken up.

The new NEC structure will keep the two seats for the Co-operative Group, plus the other two seats, which will be now restricted to subscribing retail societies only. A fifth NEC seat will be for all other subscribing non-retail societies, co-ops and affiliates, including Co-ops UK.

Rolling elections and continuity

The NEC discussed rolling elections as a measure to guard against excessive NEC turnover in a single election. This would have meant increasing the NEC term from 3 years to 4, and electing around half of the NEC places every two years.

However, the NEC didn't think it would be appropriate to introduce this in 2023 at the same time as a significant change to structure of the NEC, as it would have meant electing some new seats at that first election for a two-year term only.

This will be kept under review.

Rule Change 1:

Delete:

11. National Executive Committee

Composition

- 11.1. National Executive Committee Members shall comprise the following:
 - 11.1.1. eleven National Executive Committee Members elected by and from individual members on the basis of one member one vote. The National Executive Committee will approve the election procedures to be used. One Member shall be elected by and from Scotland; one by and from Wales; and one each by and from the nine Government Regions of England. The National Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on the geographical allocation of Local Parties and society members;
 - 11.1.2. one National Executive Committee Member being a person under the age of twenty-seven at the date of nomination, elected by and from individual youth members on the basis of one member one vote. The National Executive Committee will approve the election procedures to be used.
 - 11.1.3. one National Executive Committee Member appointed by the Board of Co-operatives UK Limited;
 - 11.1.4. two National Executive Committee Members appointed by the Board of the Co-operative Group Limited;



- 11.1.5. two National Executive Committee Members elected by and from affiliated Societies other than the Co-operative Group Ltd.
- 11.1.6. two National Executive Committee Members elected by and from the Westminster Parliamentary Group.

Insert:

11. National Executive Committee

Composition

- 11.1. National Executive Committee Members shall comprise the following:
 - 11.1.1. eleven National Executive Committee Members elected by and from individual members on the basis of one member one vote. One Member shall be elected by and from Scotland; one by and from Wales; one by and from Northern Ireland and eight by and from England;
 - 11.1.2. one National Executive Committee Member being a person under the age of twenty-seven at the date of nomination, elected by and from individual youth members on the basis of one member one vote;
 - 11.1.3. one National Executive Committee Member elected by and from individual members of the BAME network on the basis of one member one vote;
 - 11.1.4. one National Executive Committee Member elected by and from individual members of the (dis)Ability Network on the basis of one member one vote;
 - 11.1.5. one National Executive Committee Member elected by and from individual members of the LGBTQ+ Network on the basis of one member one vote;
 - 11.1.6. two National Executive Committee Members appointed by the Board of the Co-operative Group Limited;
 - 11.1.7. two National Executive Committee Members elected by and from affiliated retail Societies other than the Co-operative Group Ltd.;
 - 11.1.8. one National Executive Committee elected by and from affiliated non-retail Societies and other affiliates;
 - 11.1.9. two National Executive Committee Members elected by and from the Westminster Parliamentary Group;



- 11.1.10. two National Executive Committee Members elected by and from Labour and Co-operative elected representatives other than the Westminster Group.
- 11.2. The National Executive Committee will approve the election procedures to be used and shall have the power to decide on the geographical allocation of Local Parties.

Subsequent numbers to be amended accordingly.

Rule Change 2 – NEC Quorum

Subject to Rule Change 1 being approved, a consequential amendment has been included to amend the quorum from 9 to 12 i.e. retaining it at 50%, rounded down.

Rule Change 2:

Delete:

- 11.11. At least nine Members of the National Executive Committee will form a quorum.

Insert:

- 11.11. At least twelve Members of the National Executive Committee will form a quorum.

Rule Change 3 (technical amendment)

This is a technical amendment to make the language in 10.1 consistent with 1.1. (*The name of the society is Co-operative Party Limited and it is called "the Party" in the rest of these rules*).

Delete:

General Meetings

- 10.1. The Party is to hold a general meeting (called the annual general meeting) each year. Any meeting of the Society, including the annual general meeting, may be held in a venue or on-line or hybrid, as determined by the National Executive Committee. The annual general meeting is to be convened by the Board Secretary by order of the National Executive Committee.

Insert:

General Meetings

- 10.1. The Party is to hold a general meeting (called the annual general meeting) each year. Any meeting of the Party, including the annual general meeting, may be held in a venue or on-line or hybrid, as determined by the National Executive Committee. The annual general meeting is to be convened by the Board Secretary by order of the National Executive Committee.



Rule Change 4 –Co-operative Party Rules: Co-operative Party Disciplinary Committee

If Rule Change 1 is approved, a minor amendment is required to the Co-operative Party's Rules – Election of the Co-operative Party Disciplinary Committee (CPDC) so that the election rules for the CPDC are not affected by the new NEC regions for England.

The CPDC will then remain at 22 members: 2 each for Scotland & Northern Ireland, Wales and the English regions (with North Cumbria linked to the NE Region as before).

Rule Change 4

Delete:

2. For the purpose of nomination and election the CPDC shall be based upon the same regions as for the election of the NEC.