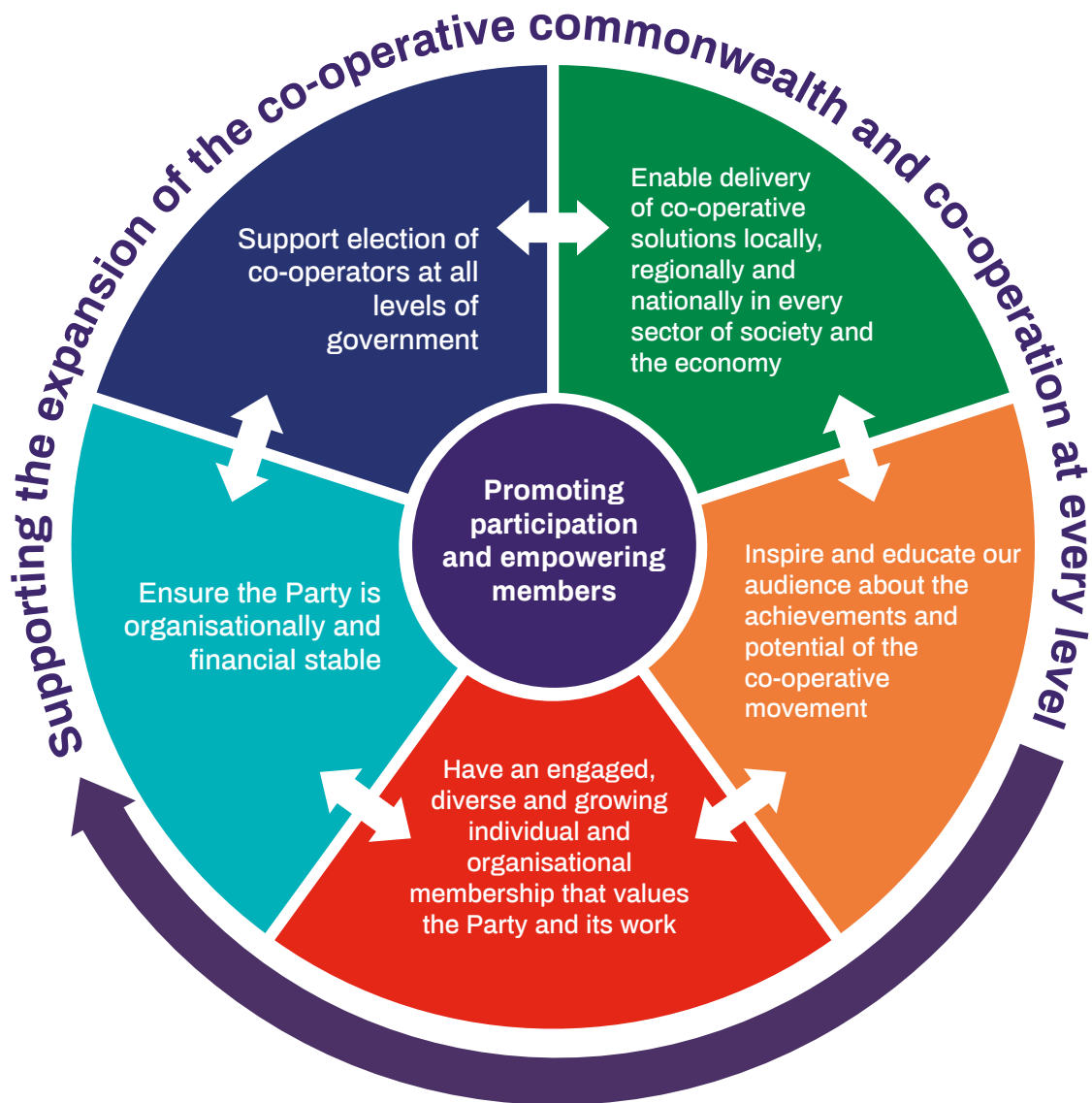


**2022 ANNUAL
REVIEW**

CONTENTS

Strategic objectives	3
Chair's report	4
Meet our representatives	6
Support election of co-operators at all levels of government	8
Deliver co-operative solutions locally, regionally and nationally	10
Inspire, educate and inform about co-operation	15
To be valued by an engaged, diverse and growing membership	24
Ensure the Party is organisationally and financially stable	27
Operations and Governance	29

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



The purpose of the Party is to promote co-operative and mutual forms of economic, social and voluntary organisation, which are based on the principles of mutual ownership and democratic control, and to support political action in pursuance of the Values and Principles of the Co-operative Movement in the UK and internationally.

This Annual Review is a summary of the strategic objectives the Party worked to achieve this in 2022. Through this Annual Review, each objective will be taken in turn and looked at in detail.

CHAIR'S REPORT



Coming through the aftermath of the pandemic, 2022 was a year in which our Party went from strength to strength. We continued to grow, as we ended the year with the largest individual membership that we have had in the Party's history, backed by tens of thousands of supporters, and buoyed by fantastic results from our largest ever number of candidates for local elections in May. For the first time ever, we now have over 1,000 elected representatives, and we welcomed another MP to our Parliamentary Group.

This growing membership and representation meant we were able to take co-operative values, principles and campaigns into communities, town halls and parliaments throughout the UK.

On food security, household bills, community power, co-operative and community energy, fair tax, the growth of our sector and so much more, we have led from the front in providing co-operative solutions to the most pressing

challenges we face, and the Party provided our members and supporters with the tools, resources and campaigns to accomplish this.

We saw the saving of LV= from demutualisation, over 20 councils sign the Fair Tax Declaration led by Labour & Co-operative Councillors, and over 80,000 people take digital actions in support of our campaigns.

We've developed co-operative thinking in different policy areas and ran a successful member-led policy process covering health and international development, which saw a much larger number of groups and individuals take part.

In the Scottish, Welsh and Westminster Parliaments, and through our Mayors, we've continued to be vocal champions of our movement and ensured a strong co-operative voice at decision-making tables.

Co-operative parliamentarians have brought forward legislation to increase the size of the

“2022 was a year in which our party went from strength to strength.”

co-operative sector, for instance; worked to ensure Bills reflect the needs and interests of our movement; secured debates to raise matters of importance to us; pressed Ministers to do more for our movement; and provided leadership during turbulent times throughout. And as more people struggle to put food on the table and heat their homes, this has never been more important.

As our sister party develops its offer to the country ahead of a General Election it is vital we secure a co-operative thread. We know a co-operative economy grounded in the community it serves and driven by values delivers for the country and every community within it.

Finally we saw the return to events in person after the pandemic, and after a hiatus of three years, it was great to see our Annual Conference return with a busy weekend in Leeds, supported by senior Labour frontbench politicians.

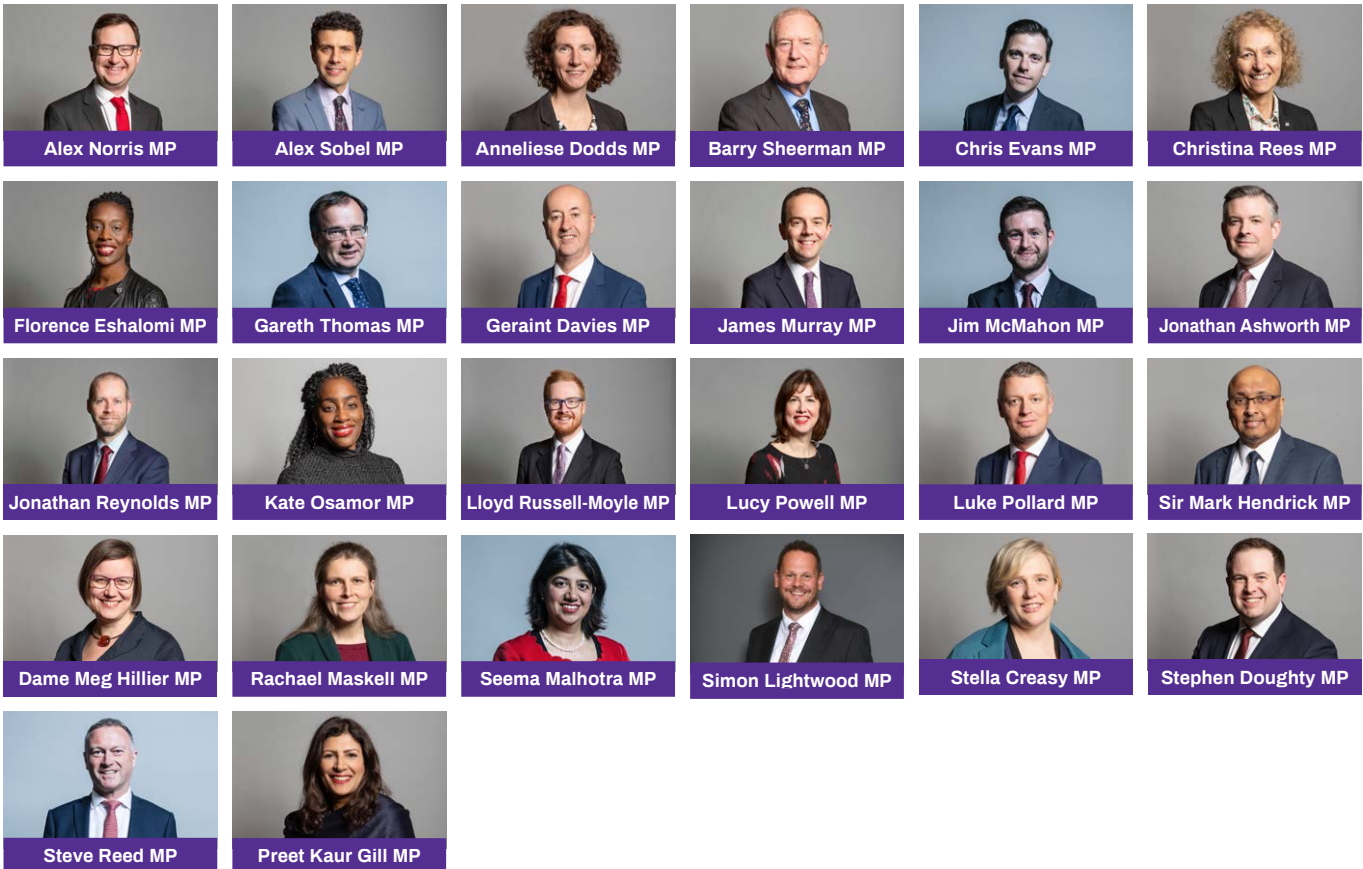
I'm thankful for all the hard work of everyone who played their part in another successful year for the Co-operative Party, and I look forward to a productive 2023.

Jim McMahon MP

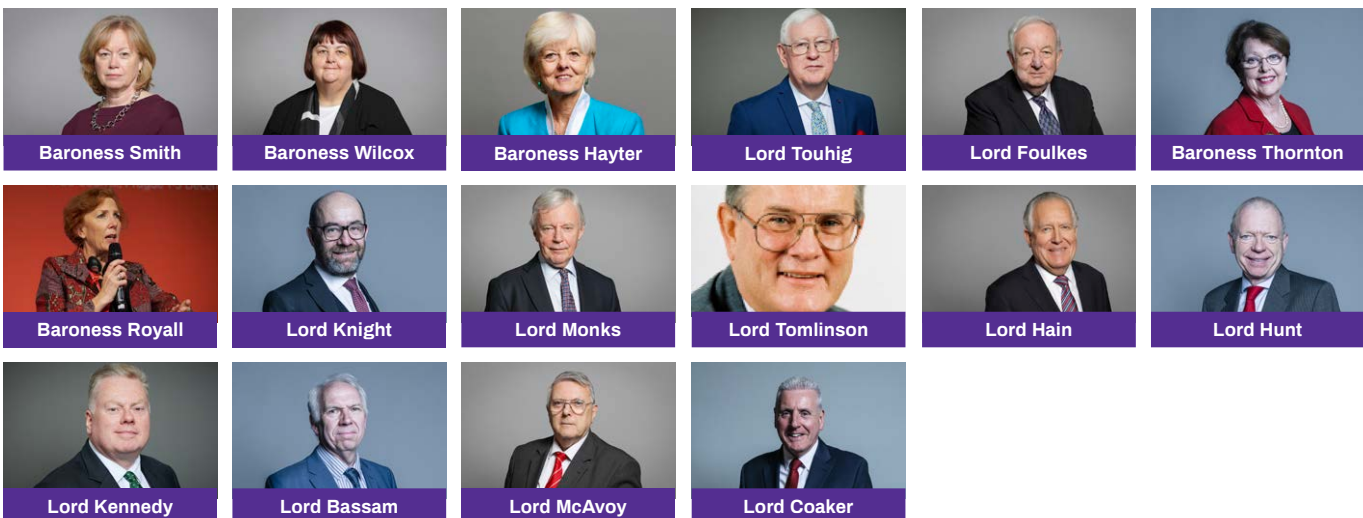
Chair of the Co-operative Party NEC and
Labour & Co-operative MP for Oldham West
and Royton

MEET OUR REPRESENTATIVES

House of Commons



House of Lords



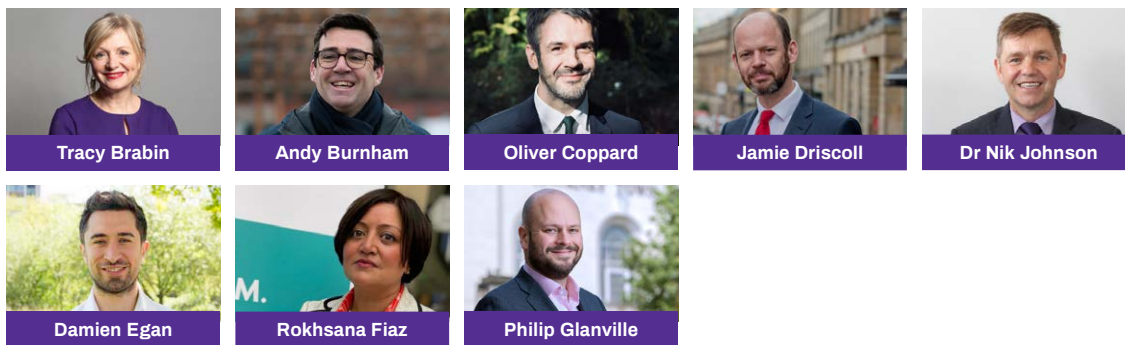
Senedd Cmyru



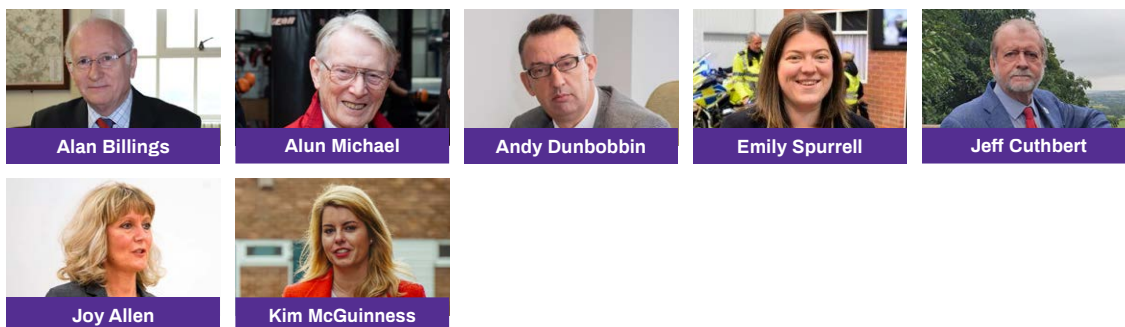
Scottish Parliament



Metro Mayors and Directly-Elected Mayors



Police & Crime Commissioners



SUPPORT ELECTION OF CO-OPERATORS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT



The Local Elections in 2022 saw every council seat up for election in Scotland and Wales, and many more seats up for election in England. We dramatically increased the number of Councillors elected, as the Co-operative Party fielded a record number of candidates: 1,014 candidates fighting 1,030 contests across every region and nation in Great Britain. We had a Labour & Co-operative candidate in all seven mayoral contests and 91% coverage of councils across the UK.

In Scotland we went from 30 councillors to 71 Co-operative Party councillors and now have Scottish Co-operative Party councillors holding senior positions in power across the country.

As well as successfully managing the big task of issuing all the relevant candidate certificates with very few issues, we were able to provide more support around our candidates through the Co-operative Party Candidate Development

Programme. We provided communication support to candidates, delivered a number of training sessions for candidates using Labour Dialogue, delivered an updated candidate hub, and delivered and sold-out joint Labour and Co-operative postal vote campaign letters available from the national Labour Party print services.

The Party worked with Labour Groups and individual councillors to ensure strong representation of co-op ideas in local government manifestos across the country, with strong co-op manifestos in places like Hackney, North Ayrshire and in the South Yorkshire Mayoral manifesto.

In Westminster, we took important steps towards ensuring the continued growth of the Westminster Co-operative Party Parliamentary Group, both in the short term and ahead of the next General Election.

In June, the Labour and Co-operative candidate in the Wakefield by-election, Simon Lightwood, was successfully elected taking our overall representation to 26 MPs and increasing it specifically in Yorkshire and Humber following the previously reduction in this area as a result of the West Yorkshire Mayoral election.

On a similar note, we also continued to develop our Co-operative Party Parliamentary Panel which provided tailored support and training to potential co-operative candidates ahead of Westminster selections for the General Election.

Following this support and the opening of Labour's selection processes across the country, we engaged with local members and parties to undertake both official and unofficial nominations. By the end of the year, we had successfully supported 13 official Labour and Co-operative candidates and undertaken nearly 40 unofficial nominations, giving us an excellent opportunity to support the election of the next generation of co-operators and increase the size and influence of the Co-operative Party in Westminster at the next election.



DELIVER CO-OPERATIVE SOLUTIONS LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY



BBC

As part of our ongoing campaign, the Party worked with BECTU, Prospect and others during the year with online activity including a Co-op Live in February, in response to the Government's plans to abolish the licence fee. Ultimately the Government abandoned their idea of replacing the fee with a subscription service, settling on a freeze to the licence fee.

Channel 4

In April 2022, the Government announced its plans to sell publicly-owned broadcaster Channel 4. We rallied our members to respond to the Government consultation, launched a successful petition and worked with our trade union partners to protect the future on Channel 4. The Government's proposal was later shelved.



Food Justice

The Co-operative Party has been on the front foot encouraging Healthy Start take up locally as well as nationally. The transition from a paper-based payment system for Healthy Start to a digital one was widely called for, eliminating the prejudice and embarrassment caused by a voucher system.

However, the digitalisation has led to a backlog of around 50,000 families excluded from claiming the support that they are entitled to. Our Labour & Co-operative representatives, notably our parliamentary candidate in Ipswich Jack Abbott have been at the forefront of highlighting the shambles and demanding swift remediation.

Right to Food in Scots Law

In the Scottish Parliament we have continued our campaign to promote the Right to Food in Scottish Law. As many families struggle with the cost-of-living crisis it is clear to see that the proposals by Scottish Co-operative Party MSP (Member of the Scottish Parliament) Rhoda Grant are now needed more than ever.

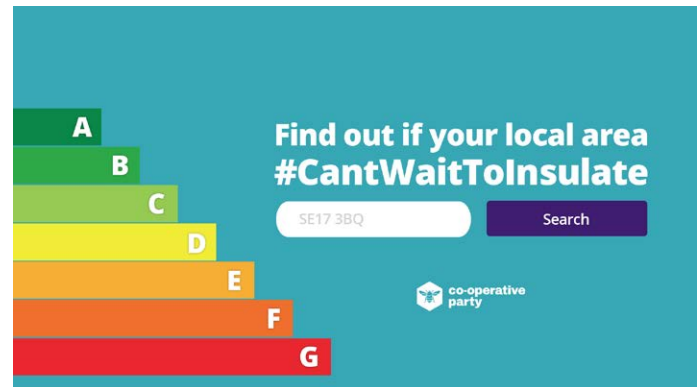


Several of our MSPs spoke in the debate about Scottish Government's Good Food Nation Bill. The Scottish Government's plans do not go far enough and it remains a national disgrace that people are going hungry in Scotland in 2022.

In the face of the ongoing cost of living crisis we have continued to support Rhoda Grant MSP and her plans to bring forward a Bill that would enshrine the Right to Food in Scottish Law. We are continuing to work with a variety of organisations promoting the Right to Food.

Insulation

We have made Energy Performance Certificate data in England and Wales available by council area easily accessible for the first time, allowing members and supporters to see how much needs to be done to bring our housing stock up to scratch.



Bolstered by this new data, Labour and Co-operative Groups in Derby and Derbyshire have passed motions demanding a step change in the Government's approach to insulating homes.

Fair Tax Councils

As the only political party which has received the Fair Tax Mark we have continued to campaign for Fair Tax and particularly to support the Councils for Fair Tax declaration. The many councils which have signed the Fair Tax Declaration include: Oxford City Council, Oldham, Greenwich, Lincoln, Sunderland, Bradford, South Tyneside, Lambeth, Midlothian, Newcastle, Preston, Hammersmith and Fulham, Doncaster, North Yorkshire and Derbyshire Dales.

Sunderland notably has gone further than most by insisting that fraudulent evasion and offences in connection with taxation is a mandatory ground for exclusion embedded within Tender Documentation for procurement opportunities, insisting that partners notify the Council in writing of any occasions of tax non-compliance or any litigation that it is involved in throughout the term of a contract, and applying IR35 robustly. They conducted an audit exercise to establish which contractors would be inside or outside IR35 to raise awareness of compliance requirements. This resulted in the cessation

of contracts with some individuals, to ensure contractors were transparent in meeting their tax obligations.

During Fair Tax week it was good to see that the newly elected Scottish Labour and Co-operative Administration on South Lanarkshire Council became the 21st council to sign up to the declaration. Co-operative Councillors in Midlothian have since led the way in getting their council to sign up to the declaration, and other councils are working towards it. In the Scottish Parliament Rhoda Grant MSP continues to champion this important topic and once again raised the issue during Fair Tax Week. We were also delighted to see that Scotmid Co-operative has been accredited with the Fair Tax Mark for the seventh year.

Economic crime



Six years after it was first promised by the Government, an Economic Crime Act was finally passed in April 2022 to increase transparency over who owns and controls property in Britain following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and increased scrutiny of the role of Russian money in the UK economy. Given a Register of Overseas Owners has been a long-held policy aim of the Party, we rallied our members to support the inclusion of a Register in the Economic Crime Bill, and then led successful calls to close a loophole which would have allowed overseas owners over 18 months to comply with the new register.

In line with this work and our work on fair tax, we have also led on ensuring that fair tax principles can be taken into consideration in procurement contracts with both local and national government.

Co-operative Care

Josh MacAlister's independent review into children's social care highlighted a system at breaking point. How we find, match, build and run foster homes and residential care for the 80,000 in the care of English councils needs to change. The MacAlister report recommended that regional care co-operatives sit at the centre of such a new approach.

This was raised in Parliament, and with the Government dragging its feet on responding to the Report, we encouraged councillors from across England to lobby Government to speed things up. In February, the Government finally responded, pledging to test a best practice regional model that can then be delivered more widely.

High Streets



We continued raising the plight of our high streets and town centres. At the beginning of the year Huddersfield and Colne Valley Co-op Party branch highlighting the post-epidemic decline of high streets and working with the Council to deliver an ever more collaborative approach to regeneration. Backed by solid research from Power to Change we promoted community-led regeneration schemes in contrast to the Government's proposed vacant property rental auctions, and encouraged the members to lobby to deliver a much-promised internet sales tax where the receipts would be used to provide a level playing field between traditional bricks and mortar businesses and internet-only businesses.

Claire Baker MSP chairs the Scottish Parliament's Economy and Fair Work Committee, and they recently conducted an inquiry into the future of Town Centres and Retail in Scotland. The report states that vibrant, thriving town centres must be prioritised, and highlights that putting ownership into co-operative hands as has happened at Mid Steeple Quarter in Dumfries can act as a catalyst for regeneration.

Supporting the co-operative sector

Working with Sir Mark Hendrick MP and Mutuo, the Party has worked towards Mark Hendrick MP submitting a Private Members Bill titled 'Co-operatives, Mutuals and Friendly Societies Bill'.

This Bill contains a range of measures to update legislation and better support co-operatives and friendly societies including new capital instruments and protections around demutualisation. The Party has provided online support for the Bill highlighting it with members and supporters. Mark Hendrick has also provided video content related to the Bill which the Party issued on International Day of Co-operatives.

In Wales we promoted the work of CLES (a think tank) who produced a report on the expansion of employee ownership in Wales. We used Employee Ownership Day to hold a Welsh event with the Welsh Co-operative Centre, Huw Irranca-Davies MS and CLES. Anas Sarwar MSP also used the day to visit an employee-owned business and produce online communications about the visit.

Our Members of the Scottish Parliament are continuing to promote greater employee-ownership in the Scottish economy. Both Claire Baker MSP and Paul Sweeney MSP have raised this issue in Parliament. We have continued to work with Richard Leonard MSP to see if there are ways to bring forward more support for employee ownership through legislation.

The Scottish Government has a target of delivering 500 employee-owned businesses in Scotland by 2030, but there are currently only 200. If this target is remotely achievable then there needs to be a major change in policy. We are helping to explore the possibility of a Members' Bill in the Scottish Parliament to promote employee ownership.



Local Government

We completed our co-operative commission in Tower Hamlets which brought together elected representatives and the movement to set out an ambitious manifesto for the area. Unfortunately, the election results did not allow this to progress.



The Party conducted a short campaign to press for changes to the delivery of the Household Support Fund and the doubling of its size. Over 1,000 Labour and Labour & Co-operative Councillors (including 90 Labour leaders) from across the country signed a joint letter calling for this action to be taken. This letter was backed with member communications. The letter was handed to Number Ten by Jim McMahon MP, Cllr Antoinette Bramble (Vice Chair Lab LGA) and Cllr Shaun Davies (Chair Lab LGA). The letter attracted national media coverage from the Daily Mirror.

Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

One of our MSPs, Sarah Boyack, is bringing forward a Members' Bill in the Scottish Parliament entitled the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill.



This Bill is about promoting sustainable development here in Scotland and ensuring that future generations continue to have the resources and society they need to flourish. We are encouraging members to take part in the consultation on this important piece of legislation.

INSPIRE, EDUCATE AND INFORM ABOUT CO-OPERATION



Online Events

Co-operation Live

Throughout 2022, the Party presented 33 high quality online Co-operation Live and Summer School events. Held on Zoom, these highlight co-operative politics, values and principles with members and speakers coming together.

They continue to be popular with online audiences ranging from 50 to 120 and have become an important way we educate and inform our members and supporters about our campaigns and the nature of our Party's work.

These online events are live-captioned to enable greater accessibility, recorded and available to view on the Party's YouTube channel for anyone not able to join in 'live'.

List of Co-operation Live events

1. Wed 19 January: Right to Food in legislation
2. Wed 2 February: Why being a mutual matters
3. Wed 16 February: A people's BBC
4. Wed 23 February: Building Community Power pamphlet launch
5. Wed 2 March: Highlighting our commitment to Fairtrade
6. Wed 9 March: International Women's Day: imagining a gender equal world
7. Wed 23 March: Economic Crime Bill & Register of Overseas Entities
8. Wed 06 April: Local Government elections: campaign launch
9. Tue 26 April: Virtual Iftar
10. Wed 27 April: Community Energy - Strategy & security

11. Wed 11 May: Combating loneliness
12. Thu 19 May: Co-operative Councillors Fair Tax Briefing
13. Wed 25 May: International development: policy development
14. Wed 1 June: Health: policy development
15. Tues 14 June: Power to Change zoom seminar: community-led approaches to high street regeneration
16. Wed 15 June: 50 years of Pride
17. Thur 16 June: A National Food Strategy
18. Wed 22 June: World refugee day: in support of refugees
19. Wed 29 June: Highlighting Co-ops Fortnight: #proudtobeacoop
20. Wed 20 July : Co-operative Childcare
21. Wed 7 September: Empowering community ownership
22. Wed 21 September: Climate change
23. Mon 3 Oct : Westminster Parliamentary report
24. Tue 5 October: Senedd Cymru report
25. Wed 6 October: Holyrood Parliamentary report
26. Thurs 27 October: Black History Month
27. Wed 9 November: Great Homes Upgrade
28. Wed 23 November: Credit Unions
29. Wed 14 December: Education policy launch

Regional & Nation Conferences

Throughout Spring 2023 online regional and national conferences for the Wales and Scottish Co-operative Party's were held on Zoom. These identified how Party members could 'Build Community Power' with examples of best practice. Guest speakers represented the breadth and diversity of community projects across each region/nation as they shared their learning and identified common principles that can be implemented on a wider basis. They also included policy discussions on the topics of health and international development. Between 50 to 120 people joined each event online.

South Regional Conference (South East, London and East of England), Sat 29 January

- Keynote address from Dame Meg Hillier MP and Preet Kaur Gill MP
- Contributions from The Bevy co-op; Greenwich Co-op Development Agency; Phil Glanville - Mayor of Hackney and Miatta Fahnbullah, New Economics Foundation (NEF)
- Health policy discussion with Andrew Gwynne MP; Lambeth GP Food growing co-op and Professor Mo Girach co-author of 'Power to the People - the mutual future of our National Health Service'
- International development policy discussion with Labour Campaign for International Development (LCID)

Scottish Co-operative Party Conference, Sat 29 January

- Keynote addresses from Scottish Labour Leader Anas Sarwar MSP and Shadow Scotland Secretary Ian Murray MP
- Highlighting the impact of the Scottish Co-op Party campaigning to change the law change in protect shopping workers with Daniel Johnson MSP and Tracy Gilbert, Scottish Secretary USDAW
- Contributions from Rhoda Grant MSP; Lindsay Chalmers, Community Land Scotland; Cllr Joe Fagan, South Lanarkshire Council and Cllr Lezley Cameron, Director Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative and Edinburgh Council
- Health policy development with Jackie Baillie MSP
- International development consultation with Fairtrade Foundation and Foysool Choudhury MSP

Wales Co-operative Party Conference, Sat 29 January

- Keynote addresses from Joe Fortune, General Secretary and Mark Drakeford MS, First Minister of Wales
- Contributions from Wrexham Music Co-operative; Splo-down food co-op; Awel Aman Tawe/Egni Swansea; Food Cardiff; Derek Walker, Wales Co-op Centre and Board member Banc Cambria & Cllr Joanne Gauden, Torfaen Council; Sarah Murphy MS; Baroness (Debbie) Wilcox of Newport, Co-chair of Co-op Party's Diverse Councils project.
- Campaigning for a Worker Buyouts Law with Christina Rees MP
- Health policy development with Mike Hedges MS
- International development policy development with LCID

West Midlands Regional Conference, Sat 26 February

- Keynote address from Shadow Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds MP
- Contributions from Redditch Co-op Homes; the Active Wellbeing Society & Places in Common; Community Energy Birmingham & Co-ops West Mids; Newcastle-under-Lyme Cllr Sue Beeston; Sheree People of Tamworth Co-op Society; and Cllr Sharon Thompson JP, Birmingham City Council
- Health policy discussion: West Mids HealthWatch and Cllr Lucy Caldicot, Cabinet Member for Health, Lambeth Council
- International development policy discussion with LCID

South West Regional Conference, Sat 26 March

- Keynote addresses from Luke Pollard MP; Cllr Doina Cornell, Leader of Stroud District Council and Pete Westall, CVO MidCounties Co-op
- Contributions from Go-op; Co-op Action Network; Cllr Yvonne Atkinson, Devon County Council and Cllr Chris Pemberthy, Plymouth City Council
- Health policy discussion with Chris Bain, Chair of NEC policy sub-committee
- International development policy discussion with Bees for Development and LCID

North Regional Conference (North West, North East, Yorks & Humber regions), Sat 26 March

- Keynote address from Dan Jarvis MP
- Contributions from Co-op Member Pioneers; the Larder Lancashire; Chapel Street Studio and Bread and Roses café, Bradford; Co-op Mutual Solutions;
- Health policy discussion with Link Psychology Co-operative and EqualCare Co-op
- International development policy discussion with Aid Alliance and LCID

Northern Ireland Co-operative Party, Sat 14 May

- Keynote address from Alex Norris MP, Shadow Minister for Levelling Up
- Action on Food & Fuel Poverty with Cllr Kemi Akinola; Leader Wandsworth Council; Cllr Brian Heading and Pat Austin, National Energy Action (NI)
- A practical guide to Co-op Party Campaigning with James Butler
- Trade Unions – Are they relevant today or are they finished? With Kate Dearden, Community; Owen Reidy, Irish Congress of Trade Unions and Nicola Scarborough, USDAW Belfast Office

BUILDING EQUALITIES FOR ALL

Online
Saturday 1st October 10:00

Join us for our online inaugural Conference dedicated to the work of our member-led Equalities Networks, addressing intersectional themes.



co-operative party youth



co-operative party women



co-operative party (dis)Ability



BAME co-operators



LGBTQ+ co-operators



Building Equalities for All

On Saturday 10th September the Party held its first equalities conference, starting off with a keynote address from Anneliese Dodds MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Women & Equalities & Chair of the Labour Party.

The morning sessions debated and discussed key cross-cutting intersectional issues:

- Cost of Living Crisis & Impact on Minority Groups –addressing intersectional challenges faced by people from diverse communities during the cost of living crisis with emphasis on the impact this has had on minorities.
- Pushing Back Barriers – Standing for Election – highlighting the barriers faced by those in under-represented groups as we seek to achieve equity in government and ensure diverse voices are heard.
- Making Safer Communities – Tackling Hate Crime – recognising the challenges faced by minority groups both individually and intersectionally whilst addressing positive actions to bring about change.

The afternoon gave updates on the ongoing work of the individual networks by their steering committees. With sessions held by LGBTQ+ Co-operators; BAME Co-operators; Co-operative Party Youth; Co-operative Party Women; and the Co-operative Party (dis)Ability Network.

In-person events

From June onwards, the Party held a number of successful in-person events and took part in Conferences for the first time following the 2-year pandemic-related hiatus, establishing that members, supporters and elected officials continue to be keen to share and collaborate.

Local Government Conference

Sponsored by the London Co-operative Party and held in tandem with their regional conference, the Party's 'Building Co-operative Communities' Local Government Conference, took place at Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre in London on Saturday 11th June and examined the challenges facing our communities across the UK.



Attended by approximately 100 Co-op Councillors and potential candidates, the conference highlighted our key ongoing campaigns and co-operative action being delivered now, spotlighting the work of some of our 1200 Co-operative councillors working in local government across the UK. Keynote addresses were given by Party Chair Jim McMahon MP, Alex Norris MP, Minister for Levelling up, Communities and Local Government and Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Co-leader Local Government Association and Deputy Leader of Hackney.

Labour Party Conference

The Party re-established its positive presence at Labour Conference in Liverpool following the pandemic. The General Secretary addressed the main Conference, delivering the Party's fraternal greetings and calling for the Labour Party to support our efforts to grow the co-operative sector. We held fringes on:

- **Co-op growth** (in partnership with Co-operatives UK), with Miatta Fahnbulleh (NEF), Jonathan Reynolds MP (Shadow BEIS), Joe Fortune and Rose Marley (Co-operatives UK).
- **Food Justice**, with Paul Gerrard (Co-op Group), Jim McMahon MP (Shadow EFRA Secretary) and campaigners.
- **'Dirty money'** and the need for tax transparency. With Robert Palmer (CEO of Tax Justice UK), James Murray MP (Co-op MP and Shadow Treasury Minister) and Fairtax Foundation's Mary Patel.

In addition, the Party partnered with other organisations to put on other events including:

- **Football governance** (in partnership with Fair Game), with Alison McGovern MP, John Scales (former Liverpool player) and Mark Palios (former FA Chief Exec and Tranmere FC Executive Chairman).
- **Community Safety** (in partnership with the Labour Party), with Anneliese Dodds MP (Co-op MP and Labour Party Chair), Steve Reed MP (Co-op MP and Shadow Justice Secretary), Yvette Cooper MP (Shadow Home Secretary), Kim McGuinness (Co-op PCC) and Emma Foody.

The Party staff team also represented the Party at a range of further fringes and events on topics such as housing retrofit, levelling up and crime. The General Secretary spoke at the main Stronger Together rally alongside Rachel Reeves MP (Shadow Chancellor), Mick Whelan (General Secretary of ASLEF, Chair of TULO) and Cllr Shaun Davies (Leader of LGA Labour).

The Party had a well-appointed and visible exhibition stand with recruitment, merchandise purchasing and campaign picture facilities.

The Party also ran a dedicated WhatsApp group to Co-operative Party members at the Labour Party conference and produced video and online content throughout the conference which received strong engagement.

FROM CRISIS

TO CO-OPERATION

Co-operative Party Conference 2022

Annual Conference

Our first in-person Annual Conference since the Covid-19 Pandemic took place at the Queens Hotel, Leeds from Saturday 8th to Sunday 9th October. It discussed how co-operation can provide a much-needed solution to the crises our country faces, from the cost-of-living crisis to the climate crisis, as well as providing practical campaign sessions to inspire action locally. Conference saw 350 members, delegates and supporters gather together.

Annual Conference kicked off in the week immediately preceding the in-person event with four online-only events held on Zoom reporting on the ongoing work of our Westminster, Holyrood and Welsh Parliamentary Groups with Co-operative elected representatives from each Parliament taking part. The Party also conducted a joint online fringe event examining 'Does local government reflect our communities? A conversation about diversity' held in association with Labour Women's Network we heard from Baroness Wilcox of Newport; Claire Reynolds, LWN; Cllr Shaista Aziz, Oxford City Councillor and Cllr Emma Hoddinott, Asst Gen Secretary Co-op Party. These pre-Conference online events combined saw over 250 members take part.

Conference Saturday

Conference kicked off with keynote speaker Rachel Reeves MP, Shadow Chancellor stating: *'The Labour Party and Co-operative Party have agreed an important ambition in Government. Our aim is to double the size of the co-operative sector in the UK.'*

This was followed by an address by Lisa Nandy MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, reiterating her and the Labour Party's commitment to a co-operative vision of community power.

The morning concluded with a panel discussion identifying actions to enable Doubling the size of the co-operative sector with Rose Marley, Co-operatives UK; Derek Walker, Cwmpas; Carl Taylor, Redditch Co-op Homes and Dorothy Francis, Co-operative Development Agency CASE

Post lunch highlights included a live keynote address via videolink by the Rt Hon. Mark Drakeford MS, First Minister of Wales and recorded messages from Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester and Sir Keir Starmer MP, Leader of the Labour Party.

This was followed by two further discussions on the themes of Co-operators in Power - what elected representatives can achieve with Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire; Cllr Joe Fagan, Leader South Lanarkshire Council and Cllr Kemi Akinola, Dept. Leader Wandsworth Council and From Crisis to Co-operation – co-operative solutions to the cost of living crisis with Nick Crofts, Co-op Foundation; Ed Powell, the Co-op; Alex Norris MP and contributions via videolink from Éva Goudouneix, Repowering London and Sarah Longlands, CLES.

There were lunchtime fringe events with the Fair Tax Foundation, Social Enterprise UK, Cwmpas and Fair Game, and the afternoon continued with campaign session on Food Justice, Local Manifestos, the Great Home Upgrade, and Reviving High Streets and Empowering Communities.

Networking

A change of format this year with a single stand-alone networking drinks reception and fundraiser held on the evening of Saturday 8th October, sponsored by Social Enterprise UK. This was badged as a 'Get to know your friends at the Co-op Party' networking event compared by Jonathan Reynolds MP with tables where co-operators gathered to network and discuss our ongoing themes with like-minded people.

A well-regarded raffle took place with monies raised donated to charities in memory of co-operator and regular Conference attendee Robin Cherney (£732 to Oxfam and £600 to the Alzheimer's Society).

Marketplace

The Conference exhibition was particularly successful with the maximum number of stands highlighting partners and local organisations. Stall holders were: Social Enterprise UK, Incredible Edible, Wortley Hall, Fair Tax Foundation, Co-op News, Principle 5, Seagulls, The Sewing Room, Midcounties Co-op, Cwmpas, Labour Womens' Network, Labour Animal Welfare Society, Co-ops UK, European Movement UK, Lambeth GP Co-op, Colne Valley Care.

Conference Sunday

Sunday commenced with a keynote address from Wes Streeting MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health who addressed Labour's approach to health and social care and outlined how the next Labour government could expand the number of care co-ops here in the UK.

The plenary examined the Party's policy platform with contributions from Party Councils, branches, members and National Executive Committee members who had taken part in the consultation's carried out in 2022. Conference endorsed the two policy papers on 'Health' and 'International Development' with Preet Kaur Gill MP, Chair of the Co-operative Party Parliamentary Group and Shadow Minister for International Development highlighting *'The co-operative movement has always been a proud champion for internationalist values'*.

The Party's commitment to diversity and inclusion was highlighted with a summary report from the recent Building Equalities for All conference by Youth Steering Committee member Cllr Tina Bhartwas. This followed a discussion between Alex Sobel MP and Azeem Rafiq (former cricketer and equalities campaigner), who shared the story of his journey into activism caused by discrimination and racism he encountered at Yorkshire County Cricket Club with Conference.

Sir Mark Hendrick MP addressed Conference and explained more about his Co-operatives, Mutuels and Friendly Societies Bill currently going through Parliament at the moment and the business of Conference (Organisational Motions, Votes on Policy and Membership Subs and the CAC election) concluded the weekend.

Media

The keynote speakers were live streamed, communications made use of social media platforms, email and WhatsApp through the conference – the #CoopConf22 hashtag had a 2.9million reach over the conference weekend.

Cameras from ITV and Sky were present at the conference, with lines from keynote speakers being picked up in the Evening Standard, Yorkshire Post and other outlets. The General Secretary was interviewed by Matt Chorley on Times Radio about the conference and the Party placed content on LabourList.



Member Events

Throughout 2022 we've held a range of events to equip members with the knowledge and skills to get more involved with the Party. Our Summer and Winter training schools included online training sessions for newer members covering the different routes to activism which are available, how to play active roles in local branches and how to potentially stand for election.

We've also held briefing sessions for Constituency Labour Party (CLP) delegates, to ensure they are able to take forward our campaigns and maximise our influence at a local level in our sister Party. At our in person Annual Conference in Leeds we also held a meeting for Party Council Officers to support them in the important role they play in our Party.

Summer School

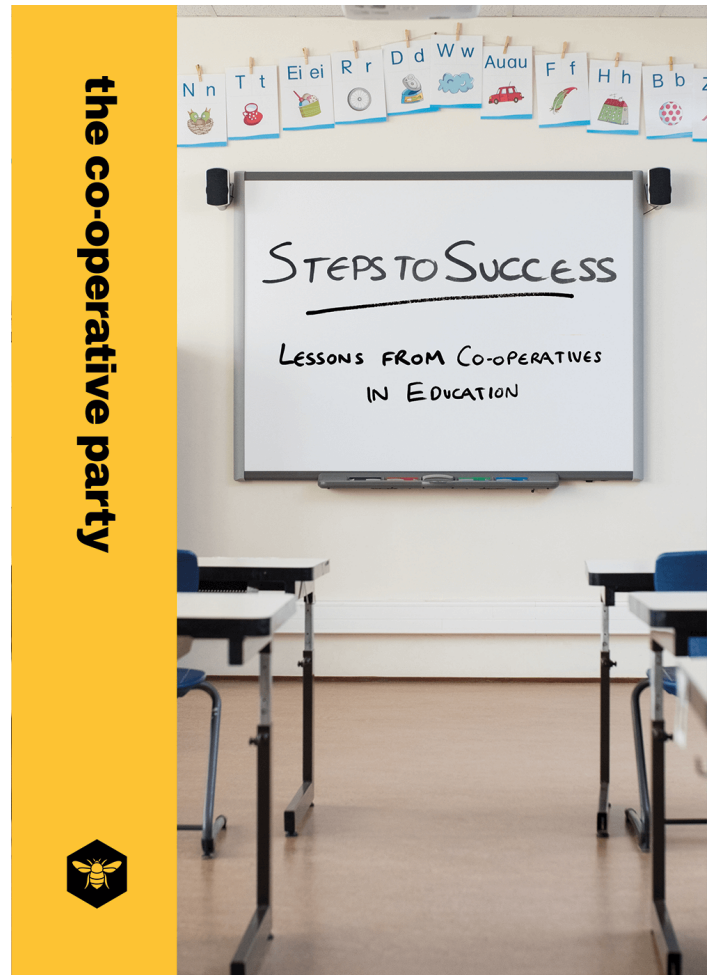
1. Thu 7 July: Co-operative Party 101/Make the most of your membership
2. Wed 13 July: Branch Officer session
3. Thu 21 July: Local Government session
4. Thu 28 July: Fair tax briefing for CLP Delegates

Publications and Policy

In 2022, we successfully delivered several policy publications which made important interventions in a number of key areas, refreshing our policy offering.

Through our member-led Policy Process, we received a record number of submissions – both from individual members and party branches. Covering two topics – health and international development - we received over 159 individual submissions and 58 group responses for both consultations combined – indicating strong engagement with members and activity amongst local parties.

The outcome of the consultation was two well received policy papers, which had expert input from a variety of stakeholders. Both policy papers were passed unanimously at Annual Conference by Party members.



In addition to the Policy Process 2022, we updated our education policy – with a focused paper on co-operative success in the education sector. The paper, entitled Steps to Success: Lessons from Co-operatives in Education, analysed co-operative provision in childcare and early-years, primary and secondary education and further education and apprenticeships. The paper showcased industry leading examples from the Co-op Academies Trust, Little Pioneers Childcare and The Co-op Group's Apprenticeship Levy Share Scheme. The policy recommendations provided an agenda to grow best practice and the co-operative sector overall.

We revamped our local government policy proposals contained within our 12 Ideas for your local government manifesto document. The new, expanded version – entitled Build your own manifesto – provides a larger range of local government policy recommendations which can be tailored to the needs of individual councils across the country. An interactive online version

further simplifies the process for local Labour & Co-operative councillors.

The Co-operative Party also took part in the Labour Party's policy process known as the National Policy Forum. The annual report Stronger Together featured many of the Co-op Party's ideas and submissions to that process.



Press, social media and communications

Over the course of 2022 we continued our successful programme of email communications both with our members and our wider supporters list. Over the course of 2022 we sent over 5.1 million emails, increased our overall list size to over 82,000 email subscribers, increased our open rate by 7 percentage points to 37% and reduced our unsubscribe rate by 18% to just 0.13%. Our email list helped to generate nearly 100,000 campaign actions (such as signing a petition or sending an email to an MP), as well as contributing to our growing membership by enabling regular email requests to join the Co-operative Party to non-members of the list. Our email list continues to be a vital way of driving engagement on our campaigns and delivering crucial campaigning wins on key policy issues, as well as supporting our aims to grow our reach and membership.

We also continue to trial new direct communication methods via WhatsApp: building on the previous year's success, we have used our WhatsApp Broadcast list – The Hive – to

urgently alert members and supporters about breaking news and urgent campaign updates. This in turn helps to boost our organic social media content, providing our most engaged members and supporters with a quick way to boost the salience of a particular new item, policy or campaign action on social media. This year we innovated by creating a separate broadcast list for attendees of Labour Party Conference, helping to remind attendees of start times of our fringe events, boosting attendance and providing a key communication channel for follow-up actions.

On social media, we continued to grow our presence across multiple platforms including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. On Twitter, we topped over 30,000 followers and grew our overall engagement by 4% despite changes to the service and algorithm. With note to the constant changing landscape of social media and especially that of Twitter, we also took action to diversify our social media offering. In 2022, the Co-operative Party joined TikTok, trialled new content types on Instagram and continued innovating both our organic and paid campaigns on Facebook.

In terms of more traditional press, the Co-operative Party featured regularly in movement adjacent press publications such as Co-operative News and LabourList throughout the year as well as features related to certain events and campaigns. In particular, Sir Mark Hendrick's Co-ops Bill achieved positive coverage in The Guardian and the Daily Mail, our work on food justice and Healthy Start received continued coverage in The Mirror. The Co-operative Party's Annual Conference was carried by several national broadcasters include Sky News and PA, and received press mentions in national outlets such as The Guardian and Politico, alongside regional titles such as the ITV Yorkshire, Yorkshire Evening Post and the Evening Standard.

TO BE VALUED BY AN ENGAGED, DIVERSE AND GROWING MEMBERSHIP



The last few years have seen significant change for the Party and indeed the country for how we engage, organise and communicate effectively. As a consequence the Party has invested significantly in this area with the introduction of Regional Organisers – initially to assist with the transition of activity online and more recently to ensure that local Parties are able to develop and deliver an interesting and engaging offer for members to get involved in.

Organisers have supported and worked with local officers to get members active in campaigns, attract interesting and engaging speakers and recruit local government candidates. This remains an important piece of work and the feedback from local parties at the increase in support has been that this has become invaluable.

Examples of local Party activity include:

Northamptonshire branch has had Arooj Shah speak on High Street renewal, held a Christmas event where they discussed the co-operative economy, and canvassed as a Co-operative Party branch for Labour's campaign in South Northamptonshire. These events have resulted in a higher profile for the branch in the local Labour parties, and new members joining.

High Peak continues to be one of the most active branches in the country. Their meetings always have an outside speaker and have included Jon Pearce the Co-op Party nominated Prospective Labour Candidate for the constituency, a representative from FC United on how the Club was set up and is now run as a co-operative, and a speaker from the Carbon Co-op. They held a stall at the May Day weekend at Glossop Labour Club, donated

£100 towards a Blue Plaque for a woman from Glossop called Florence French who died in 1913 active in the ILP, suffrage and labour movement and mill worker, and have donated £100 towards a local Warm Spaces project.

Dorset Branch held a stall at the Tolpuddle Martyr's festival alongside trade union and other social justice movements. This was a fantastic opportunity to promote the work and the profile of the Party locally and nationally, signing up new members to our campaigns.

The newly reformed Normanton and Wakefield branch organised a campaign weekend during the Wakefield Parliamentary election to support Simon Lightwood. They encouraged members to attend campaign sessions and used the opportunity to speak to Labour Party members about the Co-operative Party resulting in new members joining.

After Stretford and Urmston members gathered for their parliamentary nomination meeting, this sparked members present to 're-launch' their Trafford branch after some quiet years during the pandemic. Although members still had access to national activities online and Greater Manchester-wide events, the branch want to get going again, and are already meeting regularly. They have received a presentation on the Great Homes Upgrade, and again, this sparked some lively and enthusiastic conversation with views to pursuing the retrofitting agenda and involving local co-operatives.

The Party was revitalised in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes last year, following a meeting of members from both dormant branches. Volunteers took office as acting chair and secretary for each branch. New Co-operative candidates were elected in local elections in Milton Keynes in May, while the newly reformed Buckinghamshire Branch took a stall at the Bucks County Show. Shadow Farming Minister and nearby MP, Daniel Zeichner and Bucks Co-op Party Branch Secretary, Mark Brown, had an hour-long session with the National Farmers Union, followed by a roundtable event with the Country Landowners Association.

Following the re-launch of the Fylde and Lancaster Branch, meetings have returned

regularly. In addition to pursuing the retrofitting agenda on the back of a Great Homes Upgrade presentation, the branch are supporting a local initiative 'Co-operation Street'. Working with the Co-operative Heritage Trust and Morecambe Heritage Centre the Co-operation St project aims to capture as much history about the Co-op Centenary Building, the Co-operative Society and the West End as possible - from the time when it was better known as the 'best end'. Co-operation Street is a project by the Good Things Collective.

Central Midlands Party held an in-person summer social in August. With most business meetings conducted online an in person meeting over summer was a great opportunity for members to get together. The event was held in a Co-operatively owned local café and included speakers from the movement and a raffle to raise some funds for the local Party.

The Tyneside branch organised a stall at UK Pride which was held in Newcastle, members also marched in the parade through the city with branded banners and feather flags. The branch used it as an opportunity to update members equality information and to recruit new members.

Building a growing and active membership

In 2022 membership remained strong right across the country despite a challenging environment, on several occasions monthly recruitment figures were the highest on modern record. At the end of 2022 we had the largest individual membership that we have had in the Party's history. In addition to our individual members, we have sixteen societies and affiliates. We continue to work to develop our relationships with other societies to encourage them into membership. Individual recruitment continues to be delivered through our membership journey; we use our campaigns, policy work and our elected representatives to recruit new supporters that we can then convert to new members. We continue to send regular and diverse join asks to our supporters which continue to be successful.

We also enhanced our membership retention and resources to better keep individual members in the Party. Our new Membership Support Assistant delivers this enhanced process working with local Party Officers to utilise their local knowledge in the process. In addition to our retention work we have refined our new member journey with further enhancements set to be delivered in 2023.

The Party is continuing to collect data on how our members identify. This is actively helping us monitor our progress in recruiting a diverse membership and has also been used to facilitate membership and voting for the networks. Working with local branches to develop activity for our branches and members is central to the work of the Co-operative Party, and our goal of building a society where power and wealth are shared. Party staff work hard to support and equip members to deliver activity both online and in person, producing branch officer guides, resources in the Buzz newsletter, regular training opportunities, and speakers at events.

Campaigns have included a range of local actions and activities for branches and members to undertake, such as the Great Homes Upgrade with toolkits to support building local teams, model letters to politicians, template flyers and council motions.

Societies and Affiliates

Central England	Chelmsford Star
Community Union	Co-operative & Mutual Solutions
Co-op Forum (NI)	Co-operatives UK
Co-op Press	East of England
Enables Works	Glenhall Housing
Grafton Housing Co-operative	Midcounties Co-operative
Revolver	Scotmid
The Co-operative Group	USDAW

Networks

Our member-led equality networks are vital to supporting the Party to continue being a welcoming environment for members from diverse backgrounds. It gives them the chance to contribute, as a group to policy discussions and to share their own ideas going forward. The Networks are able to organise their own events with the assistance of staff.

As well as the success of our inaugural Equalities Conference, we also saw events to celebrate International Women’s Day with Kim McGuinness and Cllr Abigail Marshall Katung, our Virtual Iftar with Tulip Siddiq MP, a celebration of 50 years of Pride with Ben Proctor, Luke Pollard MP and Hannah Blythyn MS, and a very engaging event for Black History Month inviting members to share their stories with Paulette Hamilton MP, and events to raise awareness of what it means to be Asexual.

In addition to our online events, members of our Equality Networks have stepped forward to shine a light on issues that matter to them in print – either as part of the Pioneer or in blogs. Topics have included Youth on the trail, traditions during South Asian Heritage Month, Pride and Policy as a goal for LGBTQ+ Co-operators, our first Co-op Rep amongst Labour Students, Black History Month reflections, and the ongoing battle to end violence against women and girls.

The Chris Herries Mentoring Scheme came to a close in August 2022. We gathered feedback from the participants that acted as mentors and mentees to further develop this programme going ahead. The decision was taken to revamp it into a Development Programme rather than Mentoring Scheme. This will be going forward into 2023, and we are excited to see how it progresses.

Late in 2022, the Equality Networks all held elections for steering committees to serve for the next two years. All the new committees aside from the Youth Committee elected officers to lead them and were beginning to plan priorities going forward as 2022 closed.

ENSURE THE PARTY IS ORGANISATIONALLY AND FINANCIALLY STABLE



Membership income

As a result of growing membership, membership income in 2022 was £444,200, up from £408,800 in 2021. This sustained income growth has enabled the Party to invest additional resources in our members' priorities including additional campaigning capacity, allowed us to build on our existing work in local government and organise more events and conferences both online and in person for members to participate in, including training sessions for local government representatives.

Fundraising

We are very grateful for the continued generosity of our members. The Party has been successful in increasing the number of individuals who are making additional

donations. Work through 2022 has helped to deliver more members paying at the Higher/Solidarity Rate, and our 100 and 1917 Clubs.

We thank all our members for their continued support, without which the Party could not operate.

Subscribing societies

Our subscribing societies continue to be a vitally important source of support for the Party's activities – locally and nationally. We take every opportunity to engage with members of our subscribing societies to ensure they understand the work the Party is doing and the value that we bring to the whole co-operative movement.

The Party held six-monthly meetings of the Subscribing Societies, one of which was attended by Jim McMahon MP.

In line with our strategic aims we continue to run events for non-member co-ops to find out more about the Party and hopefully take steps to join.

We continue to ensure that we platform the work of our Subscribing Societies through our events and conference programme as well as our campaigning work.

Co-operatives Fortnight

Co-operatives Fortnight was celebrated in the Scottish Parliament through a motion which was tabled by Paul Sweeney MSP. Paul Sweeney's motion highlighted the important work that co-operatives do in the Scottish economy and also highlighted the International Day of Co-operatives. Monica Lennon MSP also tabled a motion praising Scotmid Co-operative for hosting their first Menopause Café during Co-operatives Fortnight.

Protecting Retail Workers

Through the campaigning work from USDAW, the Co-operative Party and Subscribing Societies increased protections for shop worker became law in Westminster. This built upon earlier campaign successes in the Scottish Parliament. The campaign brought about new legislative amendments which saw sentencing guidelines for offences against shopworkers move to mandatory aggravating factors. We will continue to press for these changes to be further bolstered by it becoming a stand-alone offence as happened through the Daniel Johnson MSP Members' Bill in the Scottish Parliament.

Campaigning and policy work

Members of the Party engaged with Fairtrade Fortnight, with a range of online events across the UK, informing and promoting the co-operatives who produce and sell Fairtrade.

Reflecting priority areas of campaigning from our Societies, the Party has produced events, summits and roundtables to support their work. Examples of this can be seen within the work we have carried out around community energy and the co-operative movements response to the energy crisis. It has also included roundtables and campaigning work around

warm spaces and campaigning work around the need to remove VAT from sun screen.

We have also worked with our Societies to inform our policy platform, specifically learning from their expertise through the development of the 'Steps to Success' education and early years pamphlet, high street support including changes to business rates and apprenticeship levy reform.

The Party has attended and spoke at Society meetings and events as well as presenting at significant co-operative movement events such as Congress and National Retail Conference.

OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

National Executive Committee (NEC)

Elections to the Co-operative Party NEC take place every three years. The current NEC was elected in October 2020 with a one member one vote ballot for eleven regional and national places. They will serve until June 2023.

Two seats are appointed by the Co-operative Group and two are elected from the remaining societies and affiliates. There is one Youth representative and two representatives from the Co-operative Parliamentary Group. There are a further three observers – one from the Lords, one from Northern Ireland and one from our BAME members. At the July AGM of the NEC Jim McMahon was re-elected as Chair and Ruth Hall as Vice Chair.

The NEC held full meetings in both an online and hybrid format throughout the year.

The NEC agreed a new structure ahead of the next set of elections, these began in December 2022 and will conclude in 2023.

Operations and Governance NEC 2020-2023

- Co-operative Societies and Affiliates: Maria Lee, Eddie Thorn (from April 2021)
- Co-operatives UK: Not filled
- East: Chris Vince
- East Midlands: Jamie McMahon
- London: Stella Creasy MP
- North East & Cumbria: Michael Bell
- North West: Gary Booth

- Scotland & Northern Ireland: Ruth Hall, Tony McMullan (Observer)
- South East: Rosa Bolger
- South West: Pat Juby
- The Co-operative Group: John Hughes, Vacancy
- Wales: Mary Wimbury
- Westminster Parliamentary Group: Jim McMahon MP (NEC Chair), Preet Kaur Gill MP, Lord Roy Kennedy (Observer)
- West Midlands: Chris Bain
- Yorkshire & Humber: Abigail Marshall Katung
- Youth: Nathan Burns
- BAME: Faisal Rana (Observer)

Party Staff

The Party now employs 19 staff – nine full time and ten part time.

Seven of the Party's staff work in Head Office (in London). The remaining staff work from Scotland, Wales, the Midlands and the North.

Early in the year we said goodbye to Anna Birley, Oliver Goulden and Chantal Lee who all left for new opportunities elsewhere and we wish all the best.

Our new starters included Jennifer Hemingway (Equalities Officer), Daniel Monaghan (Policy Officer) and Moya O'Rourke (Digital Officer). All of whom have joined with a wealth of experience and hit the ground running.

At the end of 2022 we were also delighted to make permanent our Regional Organisers (Stephen Barry-Stanners, John Cook and Gareth Dowling) who are invaluable in the work they do supporting local parties.

- General Secretary: Joe Fortune
- Assistant General Secretary (Membership and Organisation): Emma Foody
- Assistant General Secretary (Politics and Representation): Emma Hoddinott [Part time]
- Finance and Office Manager: Dorota Kseba
- Digital and Communications Manager: Georgia O'Brien
- Parliamentary and Political Officer: Rob Bates
- Political and Membership Officer (Wales): Huw Lewis [Part time]
Political Officer (Scotland): Richard McCready [Part time]
- Party Support and Principle Six Officer: John Boyle [Part time]
- Policy Officer: Daniel Monaghan (from March 2022)
- Campaigns Officer: James Butler
- Digital Officer: Moya O'Rourke (from May 2022) [Part time]
- Membership Officer: Joel Northcott
- Equalities Officer: Jennifer Hemingway [Part time]
- Events Co-ordinator: Issy Oozeerally [Part time]
- Regional Organiser: John Cook [Part Time]
- Regional Organiser and Local Government: Gareth Dowling [Part Time]
- Regional Organiser and Membership Assistant: Stephen Barry-Stanners [Part Time]
- Communications Assistant: Georgia Horsfall
- Board Secretary: Karen Wilkie [Part Time]

Fair Tax Mark

In 2022, the Party was again awarded the Fair Tax Mark and continued to be the only political party in the country to do so. The majority of organisations accredited with the Fair Tax Mark are co-operatives and mutuals.

Living Wage

The Party also maintained its accreditation as a Living Wage Employer in 2022.

Rules

The NEC continued to review the Party's rules in 2022 to ensure that they are clear and consistent. Compliance with the rules and policies of the Party by members is good. Disciplinary issues are investigated as swiftly as possible and appeals are to the Disciplinary Committee (CPDC), which is an independent committee elected by and from the membership every three years. There were no cases necessitating a meeting of the CPDC in 2022.

Compliance

As both a Political Party and a registered Co-operative Society, the Party must comply with the Political Parties, Registration and Referendums Act 2000 and the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, reporting to both the Electoral Commission and the Financial Conduct Authority. Detailed information on the Party's compliance can be found separately in the Board Report and Accounts 2022, which will be available at the AGM in June 2023.

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