

## **Wales Policy Process – 2024-25** **Senedd Election**

### **Introduction**

The Welsh Co-operative Party Policy Process aims to develop a new platform in advance of the Senedd Election in 2026. This is an opportunity for members to provide their contributions to Welsh Co-operative Party policy. Members can respond individually to the consultation and can also take part in group responses – via in person or online meetings.

The Welsh Labour & Co-operative Government has achieved notable successes in recent years in co-operative and employee ownership growth – growing faster than any nation in the UK. Despite these achievements, more can be done to deliver a more co-operative economy, putting mutual and co-op models at the heart of economic development.

The consultation questions below focus on several key areas of Welsh Co-operative Party policy but we wish to hear from members on other co-operative issues which are important to them. Please do add any further thoughts you have at the end of the consultation.

### **Economy & co-op development**

Building a more co-operative economy will be important to restoring growth and raising living standards across Wales. While Wales has succeeded in growing its co-op and social economy in recent years – more can be done to deliver growth. Below are questions focusing on unlocking co-operative development.

- How can we make the most of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and commissioner?
- Wales has experienced strong growth in the employee-owned sector in recent years. What more is needed to ensure this growth continues?
- How could a community bank network help facilitate growth in different Welsh regions?
- Which sectors should the Welsh Government be looking to expand the co-operative and mutual sector?
- What can be done to support agricultural co-ops in Wales and encourage the wider adoption of the co-op model in rural communities?

### **Energy**

Community energy provides the opportunity to empower residents across the country to generate, store and reduce usage of energy. Community owned renewables could

help to reduce emissions and lower energy bills. The questions below focus on how the Welsh Government can deliver this change and empower community groups.

- What actions can the Welsh Government take to support the development of community energy projects and the delivery of the Local Power Plan?
- How can we ensure new community energy projects reach the most disadvantaged communities?
- How can the Welsh Government support the development of local retrofit co-ops to help boost household energy efficiency?

### **Community Ownership**

Community ownership of assets – incl. pubs, shops, music venues, and more – has helped save, revive and reimagine local services people rely on. The questions aim to provide solutions on how Wales can expand community ownership and create a new generation of community owned assets.

- How can we support new community ownership of assets and businesses across Wales?
- Should a new Community Right to Buy be established in Wales?
- How can the Welsh Government facilitate community ownership without significant new funding? (greater community asset transfer, awareness of community share offers, etc.)

### **Housing**

Wales experiences challenges with housing provision similar to other parts of the UK – in private rental, social housing and home ownership. Co-operative and community-led housing can provide alternative models which deliver low-cost affordable housing to residents. The questions will generate concepts for how the Welsh Government can facilitate new affordable housing delivery.

- How can the Welsh Government support the development of new co-operative and community-led housing?
- What can be done to improve the standards in the private and social rental sector?

### **Care & Health**

Co-operative models could provide a solution to challenges in both primary and social care – enabling inclusive governance models which put care recipients, their families and workers at their heart. The questions look at how the Welsh Government could support their development and delivery of essential services.

- How can the Welsh Government facilitate new social care co-operatives?
- How could co-operative models help the Welsh Government to achieve its ambition of removing profit from the care sector?
- What more can be done to improve the quality and speed of NHS Wales services?
- How could co-op models ensure the availability of GP, dental and physiotherapy services?

### **Transport & Utilities**

Many communities in Wales are isolated due to a lack of transport options. Co-op, mutual and community-led models could create a more inclusive and better connected transport system. The questions below aim to provide solutions for how to grow these alternative transport systems.

- How can the Welsh Government support the development of new community transport services in bus services, ride sharing, etc.?
- How can the Welsh Government take action to promote effective mutual models in transport and utilities?

### **Community Power & Devolution**

Empowering people and communities will mean pushing powers and rights beyond town halls and into communities themselves. These questions look at how Wales can achieve this objective.

- How can the Welsh Government empower communities beyond local authorities and current regional structures?

### **Other key policy issues**

- Please tell us about other key co-operative-related policy issues for the Senedd Election 2026