

# National Executive Committee Elections

## By-Election 2025 (England North) - Guidance for Candidates

### Contents

Introduction .....	1
Eligibility .....	2
By-election Key Dates .....	2
NEC Meeting Dates 2025/26 .....	3
Membership of the NEC .....	3
For more information: .....	3

### Introduction

Elections to the Co-operative Party National Executive Committee take place every three years.

Michael Bell, who was elected alongside Abigail Marshall Katung as one of the two members elected to represent England North (NE & Cumbria, North West and Yorkshire Regions) for 2023-26 has stepped down from the NEC and there is now a vacancy. This member will serve from their election until the end of this current NEC term in June 2026 and will then be eligible to seek re-election for the full 2026-29 term.

Candidates for this by-election must live in the England North section and, as the two members elected must be from different regions, candidates from the Yorkshire and Humber region are not eligible.

If you are considering seeking election to the NEC, please read these guidelines carefully, together with the NEC Handbook and Code of Conduct, to ensure that you meet the criteria and know what is expected of a member of the NEC. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Karen Wilkie, Board Secretary at [board@party.coop](mailto:board@party.coop).

See below for the full membership of the NEC.

## Eligibility

All NEC candidates must:

- Have been a full member of the Co-operative Party for six months by Friday 19 September 2025 (close of nominations). This means have made a valid application to join by 19 December 2024 and not be in arrears.
- Meet the legal requirements for a Board member of a registered Society. For example, they must be over the age of 16.
- Complete the online nomination form and declaration.

Additionally, no-one can be an NEC member who:

- Is not a member of a local Party, which is itself a member of the Party
- Refuses to sign a statement accepting the code of conduct for members of the National Executive Committee
- Has been declared bankrupt or compounded with their creditors and not been discharged
- Is subject to a disqualification order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act
- Has been convicted of an offence where the conviction is not treated as spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Fails to abide by any rules for the conduct of elections made by the National Executive Committee

## By-election Key Dates

19 December 2024	Deadline for candidates to have applied to join the Party
1 September 2025	Nominations open
19 September 2025, 5pm	Closing date for Nominations
23 September 2025	Ballot opens
3 October 2025, 5pm	Ballot closes
14 November 2025	NEC meeting & Annual Conference

## NEC Meeting Dates 2025/26

Friday 14 November 2025	2-5pm	TBC – London (Westminster)
Saturday 15-Sunday 16 November 2025	Co-operative Party Annual Conference	London
Tuesday 3 February 2026	6-7pm	Zoom
Tuesday 3 March 2026	1-2pm	Zoom
Tuesday 12 May 2026	6-7pm	Zoom
Saturday 6 June -Sunday 7 June 2026	(new) NEC AGM & induction weekend	In person

## Membership of the NEC

The NEC has 24 voting members. These are set out below:

- Fifteen individual members:
  - One each from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales
  - Eight from England
  - One member from each of the BAME, (dis)Ability and LGBTQ+ networks
  - One youth representative
- Two members appointed by the Co-operative Group
- Two members elected by retail Societies other than the Co-operative Group
- One member elected by other non-retail Societies and affiliates.
- Two members of the Westminster Parliamentary Group
- Two members elected by and from official Co-operative Party elected representatives other than the Westminster Parliamentary Group

## For more information:

Contact Karen Wilkie, Board Secretary & Returning Officer, [board@party.coop](mailto:board@party.coop).