



## **Gareth Nash**

### **Region**

North West

### **Co-operative Party Experience**

Regular attendee at Co-op Party Conference, Regional CP Conferences, the Local Government CP Conference. Led workshops at Co-op Party Conference, have spoken at Regional Party Conferences on co-op development. A member of a worker co-op: Co-operative and Mutual Solutions which is an organisational member of the Co-op Party.

### **Co-operative Movement Experience**

Member of a worker co-operative (Co-operative and Mutual Solutions) since 2002. Working as part of a team with start-up and trading co-ops: community renewables, pubs and shops, worker buyouts, asset transfers. Board member of Co-ops UK representing first worker co-ops and then Co-operative Development Bodies. Member and then Chair of the Co-operative Care Forum (CUK) and New Ventures Panel. Recently (2021) a member of the worker co-op negotiating team to form the new Federation. Society Secretary/Director of Preston Co-operative Development Network. An active member of The Later Life Audio and Radio Co-operative. Recently have become a Trustee of Co-operative and Community Finance.

### **Governance Experience**

Have good knowledge and expertise in legal forms both company and society. Experienced in co-operative governance, co-operative working and ensuring that members (whether worker, community consumer/other) are finally in control. I have been a Board member of Co-operatives UK first representing worker co-operatives and then Co-operative Development Bodies. I was a founder member of Preston Co-operative Development Network and am currently Society Secretary/Director. I have been a trustee (and treasurer) of Migrants Support (Manchester). I was a committee member of Climate Action Preston and currently an active member of the Later Life Audio and Radio Co-operative (LLARC).

### **Election Statement**

I am seeking election to the NEC to represent England North. I have been involved in the co-operative movement one way or another for most of my adult life. The values of co-operation are more relevant now than at any time, an antidote to private capital and ownership. And yet co-operation is a best kept secret. Private business, social enterprises and charities appear to be the default whereas co-ops have a significant role to play in housing, transport, community services, energy, food production, social and health care and other areas. The movement has a huge opportunity to stimulate, encourage and develop co-operation in the next few years (and indeed longer) but particularly as the Labour government is committed to doubling the size of the co-op sector. Many communities in the North are not well served by public services and co-ops can enable local people to create self help solutions. Co-operation is a flexible approach which enables people to create their own jobs, communities to save/create services and/or to take over assets and small/micro businesses to collaborate. I am keen to work with Co-op party colleagues to promote co-operation.