



## **Mhairi Beken**

### **Region**

North East & Cumbria

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

I currently represent North Cumbria and the North-East on the Co-operative Party National Youth Council, working alongside other members of the committee to improve the network and create a space for young party members, and give them a bigger voice within our party. Having been a member of the Co-op Party since September 2024, I've attended numerous Co-op events such as the Summer School and the 2025 AGM, and campaigned for multiple Co-op elected members including Anneliese Dodds MP.

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

Aside from being a member of the Co-op Group, my main involvement with the co-op movement has been striving to put co-operative values into practice by building networks, leading campaigns, and strengthening member participation. From co-chairing Oxford University Labour Club to helping launch cross-university initiatives in the form of the European Publishing Scheme, I've shown how people collaborating, sharing responsibility, and taking part in grassroots organising can deliver positive impacts, both personally and professionally.

### **Governance Experience**

As Co-Chair of Oxford University Labour Club, I co-led an 18-person committee, and of a society with several hundred members. I worked to reform our alumni engagement, planned and oversaw more than 35 events, and assisted in the writing of a balanced budget. I learned invaluable lessons in team working, co-governance and effective representation. I also have governance experience presenting strategic recommendations to charity leadership through Oxford's "Making a Difference" programme, and developed strong operations skills as Admin Officer at LabourList.

### **Election Statement**

I am standing because I believe young members – especially young Northern members - deserve a strong voice at the heart of the Co-operative Party. As a newer member myself, I will bring fresh energy, new perspectives, and a determination to represent the Party's values.

My time as North Cumbria and North-East Representative on the Co-op Party National Youth Council has shown me the potential of young members in our party. With many newer members, and more young members than ever, it is vital for the co-op movement that their energy be harnessed. Getting young people interested in co-ops has been a key part of our campaigns, particularly the work being done to get co-ops on the curriculum. On the NEC I would aim to reflect those new and young members ideas and perspectives.

But I would crucially be the North Cumbria and North-East representative, and would ensure our region has a voice around the table. Cumbria has been my home for the last decade, and I am committed to being a proud voice for it. I already do this for Cumbria and the North-East on the Youth Committee; I would make sure the same was done on the NEC.

I have been a campaigner, a leader, and a team member; all experiences that make



me well suited to a committee role. So if you want to see the North well represented, youth voices heard, and a fresh perspective introduced, please consider voting for me.

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