



## **Sean Laws**

### **Region**

North East & Cumbria

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

I have championed the Co-operative Party's values throughout my political and community work. In Sunderland, I have organised fundraising dinners and conferences, strengthening our resources and visibility. I know first-hand how the Party empowers Labour candidates, providing excellent campaign materials that have helped us win locally. As a councillor, I have worked to embed co-operative principles into decision-making, using the Localism Act to give communities a stronger voice. I want to take that experience to the NEC, ensuring members shape our movement nationally

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

I am a long-standing Co-op Group member with international and UK experience of the movement. Through study visits with the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network, I have seen how Mondragón in Spain and Emilia-Romagna in Italy embed co-operative values, and I plan to visit Cleveland, USA, home of the Evergreen Co-operatives. I have also visited the Scottish Parliament, spending time with Scottish Labour and Co-operative MSPs to see their work in action. On the NEC, I would use this experience to champion community wealth building and ensure the Co-operative Party delivers practical co-operative solutions.

### **Governance Experience**

I bring extensive governance experience, including as a councillor on scrutiny and regulatory committees, ensuring accountability and shaping policy. I currently chair the Trustee Board of the North East Child Poverty Trust and serve as a non-executive director for a CIC, providing strategic oversight, risk management, and financial stewardship. My experience spans public, private, and voluntary sectors, always with a focus on transparency, strong decision-making, and delivering impact. I am committed to using this experience to strengthen governance, build trust, and uphold the values of our movement at a national level.

### **Election Statement**

As a Labour and Cooperative councillor, I have spent my career putting co-operative values into action, campaigning locally to deliver for residents and ensure policies serve people, not just profit. I have organised fundraising events and conferences for the Cooperative Party, supporting candidates with practical guidance and high-quality resources to run effective campaigns.

Visiting Mondragon in Spain and Emilia-Romagna in Italy showed me how co-operative principles can transform communities and create sustainable local economies. A visit to the Scottish Parliament reinforced how co-operative approaches can influence policy and strengthen local decision-making. These experiences have shaped my belief that co-operation can deliver real, lasting benefits for people and communities.

If elected to the NEC, I will use this experience to support candidates, strengthen



grassroots structures, and champion co-operative principles in every aspect of Party life. I am passionate about community wealth-building, empowering local people, and ensuring our movement remains vibrant, inclusive, and effective. I want to help the Co-operative Party continue to make a tangible difference in people's lives, shaping a fairer, stronger society rooted in co-operative values.