

NEC Update – Summer 2026

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Introduction

The NEC meets regularly throughout the year, with some of meetings in person or hybrid and the remainder online. The most recent meetings of the NEC were in March, May and June.

In March, the NEC received the report of the Party's external auditor and approved the Board Report and Accounts 2025. This was presented to the Party's AGM for approval on 20 June (see below). You can find the Board Report and Accounts, together with the Annual Review 2025, [here](#).

In May, the NEC received reports on the Party's work in the first quarter. These are summarised below.

The June NEC meeting was the AGM. Jim McMahon OBE MP (Westminster Parliamentary Group) was re-elected as Chair of the Party, with Ruth Hall (Scotland) as Vice-Chair.

The next NEC meeting will be in September.

NEC – New members

Following the resignation of Ashley Halstead, a by-election was held for a member of the LGBTQ+ Network to join the NEC and Georgia Meadows was elected in March.

Dame Meg Hillier MP was elected as Chair of the Westminster Parliamentary Group and in April she replaced Preet Kaur Gill MP on the NEC.



You can find a full list of the NEC [here](#).

Co-operative Party Ltd AGM 2026

Delegates representing twenty-seven local parties, subscribing societies and affiliates attended the Party's AGM on 20 June 2026. This was a higher number than previously. In addition to hearing a full report on the Party's work in 2025 and asking questions on the Board Report and Accounts, lead delegates voted to approve the annual accounts and the re-appointment of Crowe Ltd as the auditors.

You can find the minutes of the AGM [here](#).

Strategic Objectives

In November 2024 the NEC agreed the three-year Strategic Plan for 2025-27. This sets out how the Party will achieve its Strategic Objectives (see wheel below).



Each quarter, the General Secretary reports to the NEC on the Party's activity and progress on the Plan. When the NEC met on 12 May they received reports on Party's work for the first quarter of 2026. These are summarised below.

NB. These reports were drafted prior to the Scottish, Welsh and local elections in May.



Strategic Objective: Support the election of co-operators at all levels of government

English Local Elections

Candidate numbers and regional splits

Ahead of the English Local Elections 2026 the Party set itself the goal of seeking to stand and support 1,000 candidates. The Party passed this mark, with 1,096 candidates being supported. With 1,096 council seats out of the 5,014 that will be contested we are standing in 22% of the seats, which is a 4% increase when compared to the last year. Below is the regional split of these candidates. There are regional discrepancies, often because of the number of elections in particular regions.

East Midlands	6
East of England	80
London	499
North East & Cumbria	98
North West	87
South East	82
South West	74
West Midlands	97
Yorkshire & the Humber	85

Election Campaigning and events

The Party produced an online '100 days to go' event, which was addressed by the Party Chair, General Secretary and a range of Council Leaders and candidates.

In addition, the Party has carried out officer-led campaigning sessions in Sheffield, Leicester, Newcastle, Ipswich, Greenwich, Swindon and Coventry with more to come ahead of polling day.

Candidate support

The Party's Candidate Development Programme (CDP), which includes coffee mornings, drop-ins, support sessions and training concluded through the reporting period. In addition to this the Party has provided:

- A comprehensive and efficient certificate distribution operation, which is a large logistical challenge and requires close working with local contacts, regional and national Labour Party colleagues.
- Campaign packs to candidates including stickers, posters, rosettes and policy briefing.
- Local candidate digital training sessions.
- Useable social media templates and material to candidates.
- Boards where requested.



- A tailored week on week suggested policy content.
- Updated Labour Party standard leaflet content.
- Ensured the joint materials were available through Labour Party print services.
- Maintained candidate WhatsApp groups with ideas and materials.
- Template press releases for groups to use highlighting the joint nature of candidates.
- A joint publication for local parties across Co-op and Labour on 'Beating Reform in Your Community' working alongside CampaignLab, Community Union, Cllr Mark Rusling (Lab Co-op), which included a foreword from David Blunkett.

Scottish Elections

The Party supplied strong support for its candidates through the Scottish Labour Party's process for determining regional list positioning.

There has been communication with the Scottish Labour which changed the nature of how the Party was going to support its full range of candidates in the Scottish elections. This was agreed with and through the Scottish Executive. The Scottish Party has sought to provide financial support to its candidates. Candidates receive regular communications from Party Officers with suggested content and online materials. There has also been members signposting to individual campaigning and strong online content. Later in this report there is reporting about campaign events, manifesto work and candidate visits.

Welsh Elections

The restrictions the Party had a material effect on what the Party is able to do in Wales. In addition to the manifesto work the Party has carried out and the members events, there has also been member campaign signposting, and the Party is preparing work for post-election.

Strategic Objective: Be leaders of co-operative solutions, seeking their delivery locally, regionally and nationally

Community Britain policy interventions

Community Britain 5 – 'Yes in Our Backyard'

In the reporting period Party Officers developed and delivered the fifth policy intervention of the Community Britain campaign. This publication sought to make the case for an increase in community owned and led housing. I took case studies from across the country which can be read by downloading the document here: [Community Britain – Co-operative Party](#)

The report was launched at an event in London which was addressed by former MHCLG Secretary of State Angela Rayner MP (who also provided a forward), Party Chair Jim McMahon MP and Assistant General Secretary Caitlin Prowle. The Report received media coverage from both the Mirror and Ipaper with the links available later in the report. There was also an online members' briefing for the publication.

Community Britain 4 – 'Grassroots Growth'

This document, which focussed on inclusive economic growth, was launched just before Christmas. Through the reporting period of this report the Party carried out a Westminster Roundtable event which included contributors, Parliamentarians and economists.



Whitehall delivery

Legislative success on core Party calls

Pre General Election the Party campaigned on the need for a standalone offence of violence and abuse of retail workers and to get rid of the £200 limit for police attendance for instore incidents in England and Wales. This has now been delivered in the Crime and Policing Bill which has passed into Law.

Pre General Election the Party campaigned for the need for a new Community Right to Buy and strengthened localism powers in England. This has now been delivered, with the passing of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act.

Local Power Plan

The Party has long campaigned for a serious and rapid expansion of community owned energy known as the Local Power Plan. In February this was announced by Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. This £1bn package includes development support, capacity building and finance for community owned energy to be delivered by Great British Energy and the Community Energy Sector. It can be viewed here: [Local Power Plan - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-power-plan). The Co-operative Party worked with Ministers to produce the launch event for this programme. The Party conducted the launch in a theatre in London – it was addressed by the Secretary of State, Mayor of London and the Party's General Secretary and attended by Local Election candidates, community ownership sector as well as the community owned energy sector.

Following the launch of the Plan the Party has:

- Conducted a Parliamentary Labour Party drop in event to educate PLP members on the plan and take promotional content.
- Provided strong social media content from the launch and the detail of the plan.
- Delivered an op-ed in the Evening Standard which is listed later in this report.
- Delivered an in depth 'teach in' with PLP members and the Department PPS and Co-op MP Rachel Blake MP.
- Convened a Policy Advisory Group meeting with sectoral organisations on the policy detail of the plan.
- Delivered an online members' briefing event.
- Delivered a Party Council campaigning pack.
- Delivered a members' briefing and campaigning pack.
- The Energy Minister attended and spoke at the Party's Parliamentary Group meeting.
- Held briefing sessions for Local Councillors and provided Council motions on the plan.

Credit Union Expansion

The Party had long articulated the need to better facilitate Credit Union growth, calling for it to be easier for new members to join and reform of the 'common bond', which would better allow larger credit unions. The Westminster Government has now announced that these are changes they are committed to. These changes will happen at the first legislative opportunity. Through the course of this work through this reporting period the Party:

- Delivered an online round table between Parliamentarians and credit union representatives.
- Attended the Ministerial announcement event at London Mutual.
- Delivered strong online content and members communications from the day.



Department for Business and Trade Call for evidence

The Department for Business and Trade's call for evidence on co-operative development support needs closed through this reporting period. Ahead of this the Party had encouraged responses through its membership with tailored suggested responses. The Scotland Office led by Co-operative Ministers also held a roundtable with Scottish Co-ops and encouraged response submission via online content.

Other Whitehall delivery activity in pursuit of this strategic objective

- The Department for Education issued its Schools White Paper, which has made explicit its support for the co-op schools model. It can be read here: [Every child achieving and thriving \(HTML version\) - GOV.UK](#)
- Party Officers often meets with Ministers and Special Advisers to pursue the Party's agenda. This work included meeting with Chancellor of Exchequer through this period.

Parliamentary work

Through mid-Jan to late April there was a wide range of Parliamentary (Westminster, Scotland and Wales) actions taken by Co-operative elected representatives. This work included:

- Gareth Thomas introduced a Ten Min Rule Bill on the need for a UK Community Reinvestment Act.
- The Treasury Select Committee (Chaired by the Co-operative Party Parliamentary Chair Dame Meg Hillier MP) conducted an inquiry on the growth of Mutuals. This included taking evidence from the Bank of England, the mutual sector, regulators and Officials all talking about their work on the double the size of the sector commitment.
- The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero Select Committee undertook an inquiry into community energy, which included taking evidence from the sector and Ministers.
- Following a question from Jim McMahon MP through the Estimates Day debate FCDO Minister Chris Elmore MP confirmed his Department's commitment to co-operatives forming an important aspect of its International Development work.
- Preet Gill MP asked a Treasury oral question on the need for financial support for the new Community Right to Buy and Lab & Co-op Treasury Minister James Murray MP responded.
- Through the course of the Department for Business and Trade Oral Questions both Emma Foody MP and Jayne Kirkham MP asked Topical Questions on the needs of the co-operative and mutual sector to grow.
- Jim McMahon MP asked a Business Question on the need for further debate on the needs of co-operatives within UK agriculture.
- Andrew Pakes MP secured a Westminster Hall Debate that focussed on the importance of community assets such as lidos, including the need for community ownership.
- Jo Platt MP secured a Westminster Hall Debate on the needs of Social Enterprise and Community Ownership, and seven other group members contributed to this debate.
- Sally Jamieson MP asked a DEFRA oral question on the need to grow the co-operative agriculture sector.



- Kirsteen Sullivan MP asked a DCMS oral question on the need for co-operative ownership of local music venues.
- Anneliese Dodds MP secured an adjournment debate on the importance of community ownership of cinemas.
- Miatta Fahnbulleh MP MHCLG repeatedly raised the significance of the co-operative input into the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill's remaining stages.
- Party Chair Jim McMahon MP asked a Business Question on what further support the Government can provide to ensure the success of the new Community Right to Buy.
- In the Scottish Parliament Co-op MSPs sought urgent amendments to the Community Wealth Building Bill to ensure the needs of co-operative development were met.
- In closing debates in the Scottish Parliament Rhoda Grant raised land reform and Sarah Boyak did the same for Community Energy.
- There was also a debate in the Welsh Parliament on Co-operative Housing.

Pre-election manifestos work (Scotland and Wales)

Through the period of reporting there was the conclusion of the members' involvement in both the Scottish and Welsh Co-operative Party manifestos. This included policy consultations, meetings and officer led sectoral meetings.

- The Scottish platform can be read here: [A Co-operative Direction for Scotland – Co-operative Party](#)
- The Welsh Platform can be read here: <https://party.coop/wp-content/blogs.dir/5/files/2025/12/A-Co-operative-Vision-for-Wales-2026.pdf>

At the same time the Party contributed to all stages of the Scottish Labour Party and Welsh Labour Party policy processes. This included meeting attendance, amendments, policy consultation responses, officer led meetings.

The results of this work saw strong Co-operative Party policy being included in both the Scottish and Welsh Labour Manifestos. In Wales the manifesto committed to doubling the size of the co-operative and mutual sector, community energy, a Welsh Community Right to Buy and a significant increase in co-operative housing. In Scotland the Labour Party committed to significant co-operative growth and development support, an improved community right to buy, community energy and land reform.

Other activity

The Party produced a full briefing and council motion for Local Government in England on the issue of VAT being applied to community assets. This was also covered in the Mirror Newspaper and is listed later in the report.



Strategic Objective: Inspire and educate our audience about the achievements and potential of the co-operative movement.

Media

One of the important aspects of the Party's strategic plan revolves around increasing the Party's visibility. The period covered by this report has been a strong period for traditional media coverage – the list below outlines the various pieces of work that have been covered:

- The Mirror covered the Party's work on community ownership of pubs here: [Pubs should be 'community owned to help them thrive and survive' - The Mirror](#)
- The Mirror covered the Party's call for community assets to be spared VAT here: [Treasury urged to scrap VAT for youth clubs and community centres - The Mirror](#)
- The Mirror covered the Co-operative Party's work promoting youth clubs in Real Britain Ros column here: [Real Britain: 'I'm safe at home, safe at school, but not in between,' we need youth clubs - The Mirror](#)
- The Mirror covered the launch of the Community Britain policy intervention on community led housing here: [Angela Rayner calls for alternative to renting and owning in major housing intervention - The Mirror](#)
- Local coverage from Swindon and Wigan here: [Swindon Labour candidates to stand as Labour & Co-operative Party candidates](#) Jo Platt MP: [how community ownership is reviving our towns](#) – the Swindon story came from a template the Party provided all co-op Council groupings.
- The Party's work on Pride In Place was discussed by Caitlin Prowle on LBC here: [Caitlin Prowle on LBC | Pride in Place](#)
- The Guardian covered the Party's work promoting Co-op MP Gareth Thomas' Ten Min Rule Bill here: [Lending to small businesses and low-income areas must expand, say Labour backbenchers | Banking | The Guardian](#)
- Coverage of the General Secretary's interview with Co-operative News here: ['I've been focused on ensuring we become a co-operative country' - Co-operative News](#)
- The Ipaper covered the launch of the Party's work on Community Britain 5 here: [Rayner flexes with plan to ramp up housebuilding](#)

Visits

- The Party arranged to visit Spinners Mill and Leigh Works with Jo Platt MP in Leigh, which resulted in online content.
- The Party arranged a visit with Miatta Fahnbulleh MP and the Mirror to a Peckham youth club and service users. This resulted in online content and coverage.
- The Party arranged to visit London Mutual with Gareth Thomas MP in relation to the work surrounding a new Community Reinvestment Act - it resulted in online content.
- A second visit to London Mutual was also carried out with the Economic Secretary to the Treasury Lucy Rigby MP to coincide with a UK Government announcement in support of Credit Unions.
- The Party arranged a visit with Gareth Snell MP to the Portland Inn Project and Birches Head Growing to highlight community empowerment work through community assets - it resulted in online content.
- The Party Chair and officers attended a visit in Batley and Spen with Kim Leadbeater MP on the topic of community ownership at Cleckheaton Town Hall Community Group.



- The Party arranged a visit with Jeevun Sandher MP to the Anchor Inn and Fearon Hall again on the theme of community empowerment and decision-making.
- The Party arranged and facilitated five separate candidate visits in Scotland these included:
 - Law Boxing Club with Cllr Lynsey Hamilton.
 - Clansman Dynamics (employee owned) with Cllr Joe Fagan.
 - King's Theatre with Claire Baker MSP
 - Edinburgh Solar with Kirsty McNeill MP
 - Bilston Miners Welfare and Social Club with Kirsty McNeill MP.
- The Party organised and delivered a visit with Anas Sawar to the fan owned Pollock Football Club.

Social media coverage of all of these visits has been used within Party channels.

Events

Through the reporting period the Party continued to produce its strong and diverse range of events for members and wider co-operative movement. The list below demonstrates this work and should be taken in conjunction with the members' briefing events outlined later in this report and the campaigning outlined previously:

Elections related events

- The Party held a hybrid launch of the Scottish campaign with a range of candidates and the Scottish Labour leader Anas Sawar MSP in Glasgow. Members were invited to attend and watch online.
- The Party also produced an online Wales Co-operative Party manifesto Launch which was addressed by the First Minister of Wales. This was also circulated to Welsh members.
- Wales members were also invited to a post Welsh Labour manifesto briefing with Deputy First Minister Huw Irranca Davies MS who went through the co-operative aspects of their manifesto.

Labour Party Conferences

- The Party attended the Scottish Labour Party Conference in Glasgow holding a stall and taking content.
- The Party attended the Labour North Conference and held a stall.
- The Party attended the Labour North West conference and held a stall.
- The Party attended the Labour Local Government conference where it held a joint event, had a stall and delivered Pride In Place training within the main training programme.

Other events

- The Party facilitated a day with a senior French co-operative movement delegation in Westminster. This included meetings with DBT and HMT ministers and a reception. The delegation wished to understand the Party's operation and successes.
- A Party Officer attended and spoke at the Warwick University Labour Club.



- The party delivered a session to a group of international co-operators who were all senior level executives of a range of co-ops spanning insurance, legal, energy and wider co-ops, from Philippines, Singapore, Canada and Nigeria, as part of the Co-op College's Global Executive Masterclass Week.

Social Media

The Party works hard to increase its visibility through a range of ways including social media. The Party is now utilizing most main platforms. The list below details some of the statistics the Party regularly tracks, monitors and seeks to improve. This covers this period of reporting:

Facebook: 559,051 views, 18,946 engagements

X: 295,407 impressions, 11,164 engagements

TikTok: 108,710 views, 2,501 engagements

Instagram: 106,325 views, 4,178 engagements

LinkedIn: 14,090 impressions, 1,419 engagements

YouTube: 10,071 views

TOTAL: 1,093,650 views, ~38,200 engagements | ~3.49% blended engagement rate

The above are above sector on all platforms with well-above sector performance on X, using Hootsuite benchmarks.

Strategic Objective: Have an engaged, diverse and growing individual and organisational membership that values the Party and its work

Local Co-op Conversations

In line with the Strategic Plan the Party is seeking to provide more regionalised members' online discussion sessions. Through the reporting period the Party has worked to produce:

- A North East event with Anna Turley MP
- An East Midlands members' zoom centred on Derby which heard from a range of speakers including representatives of Central England and Baggy Shanker MP.
- A South West/South East members zoom on Music Venue community ownership.

Members' Briefings Co-op Conversations

In line with the renovation of the 'Co-op Live' online sessions the Party is also seeking to provide a larger number of direct members' briefing sessions rather than the same number of Q&A style sessions. Therefore, thus far in 2026 the Party has produced:

- A members' briefing on the Party's latest Local Government policy paper (launched at the end of 2025).
- A members' briefing session on the new Community Britain policy intervention on Community led housing
- A members' briefing session on the Community Reinvestment Ten Min Rule Bill work.



Equalities events and activity

All the Equalities Networks began the year with selection of new chairs and secretaries for the year. Some have chosen to step down (our thanks to them for all they've done!) due to time commitments if they are standing as candidates and we have new officers in place there.

All the networks agreed their year plans with events and campaigns that they wish to put on over the course of the year. Most of them are scheduled to take place later in the year as the Networks have focussed upon campaigning to support candidates in their respective areas for the Scottish and local elections. Other activity has included:

- Co-operative Party Women delivered training on Public Speaking - this is intended to be the first in a series of training modules.
- International Women's Day: UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women promoting a motion to be taken forward in local government - more on this to come after the local elections.
- Online Ramadan Event
- The Chair of Co-operative Party Youth will be taking up a seat on the new Labour Youth Exec as our representative there.

In addition, the Chris Herries scheme was taken in house. A new training course was devised and is being delivered by Party Officers. This year's scheme has been launched and sessions are underway.

Other actions in pursuit of this agenda

- The General Secretary attended the Northern Ireland Party's AGM in Belfast.
- The Party conducted its latest Subscribing Societies meeting in Derby.
- The Party had a presence and stall at the latest Co-operative Retail Conference in Glasgow with the General Secretary making a speech.
- The Party has produced promotional content of OurCo-op's community energy generation story engaging regional members and Party structures in the work.
- The Party has produced and distributed two campaign packs for Party Councils – this has included on the Local Power Plan and on the Community Right to Buy (English Party Councils only).
- The Party produced a 'Community Scotland' online resource with case studies from across Scotland. This has been distributed to members.



Strategic Objective: Ensure the Party is organisationally and financially stable

Member survey work

Current members surveying

The Party has launched a new members survey that has been circulated through the membership, NEC and Party Council Officer group. To have rounded data the Party aims to have a 10% of total membership response rate. This is a target that is not far from being achieved. The survey asks about awareness of differing types of Party activity, the value members place on aspects of the work and, whilst the data is not finalized, it is already informing member communications and activity. Full reports of this work will be made available.

Left and at risk of lapsing members surveying

In addition, there is a new surveying work and data capturing happening around members who have left the Party and members at risk of lapsing. This is asking about the experience of membership etc. Again, this work will be made available when sample sizes are significant.

Recruitment and lapsing members

Recruitment

The Party continues to work hard on the recruitment of new members. This work is vital but also more challenging than in previous years. The Party is working to shape supporter communications around successful messaging and message carriers. It is also using Westminster success documents to communicate via its elected representatives to the Labour membership. There is a separate membership report supplied to the NEC.

Retention

The Party has begun new work around its retention pathways. This is making more use of text messaging, more regular data collection, earlier flagging, new surveying, new email journeys and messaging. It is also for the first time using officer telephone calls to at risk of lapsing members. Initial findings show some signs of success, but it will also provide the Party with a more solid foundation of understanding for the work over the next 12 months.

Staff handbook and performance reviews

The Party has updated its staff handbook in the light of new employment rights as well as general up-dating. This has now been circulated to team members.

The Party has also completed its annual performance review processes.

Website upgrades and online security

The Party has worked to update its website and update the type of security that the website is subject to.

In addition, new security settings and 2 factor authentication have been initiated on Party systems.



Keep it co-op and Our Co-op AGMs

The Party has worked to increase its data on members of co-operatives through the reporting period. This has provided new methods of encouraging members to take part in co-operative democracy.

The annual work in relation to subscribing society AGMs is well underway and this has made use of WhatsApp, Facebook advertising, text message and email.

Member and staff training

- Members of the staff team attended BSL online course.
- Members of the staff team have updated First Aid qualifications ahead of Party events.
- Members of the staff team have attended online seminars relevant to their areas of work.
- The Party has provided Anti Semitism training for members.
- The Party has provided New Officer training sessions for Party Officers
- The Party has undertaken a programme to ensure that team members have updated their iHasco training modules. These modules relate to protected characteristics and fraud.

Recruitment & Membership

Summary

On 31 December 2025 our total individual membership stood at 13,121. Our affiliate membership stood at 14. Together, our total membership stood at 13,135.

Total new recruitment (both new joiners and those who re-joined after being lapsed) for Q1 2026 was 314.

London region had the highest number of new members followed by the South West, the South East and North East & Cumbria.

March was the highest month for recruitment, with 141 new members.

We continued to look at ways to increase both local recruitment & retention, and expand our national email supporter list, which is by far the biggest source of new member recruitment. This included involving the co-operation of local parties and branches in pro-actively recruiting, using text messages to remind members that they are in arrears and localising the new member journey so that new members received immediate information from their region. We have also begun to schedule reminders for annual payers through credit cards and cheques that their payment is due.

Our total number of supporters who receive our national emails (both members and non-members) to the end of March 2026 was just over 92,000 out of 105,000 contacts.

In February we had 101 new members, and in March 141 new members, which were good recruitment months.

Our biggest source of new members continues to be the targeted Join Asks.

We continue to devote considerable attention and time to retention and to improving the member experience and journey. The upcoming 2026 local elections across England and the Scottish Parliament & Senedd national elections across Scotland & Wales will provide

further recruitment opportunities in conjunction with member mobilisation (campaigning, member events etc.).

Nation / Region	Total Members	% of all Members	2026 New Members	% of all new Members
East Midlands	1037	7.9	7	2.2
East of England	1054	8	9	2.9
London	2640	20.1	95	30.2
North East & North Cumbria	673	5.1	35	11.2
Northern Ireland	44	0.3	0	0
North West	1669	12.7	18	5.7
Scotland	772	5.9	16	5.1
South East England	1530	11.7	39	12.4
South West England	1032	7.9	46	14.7
Wales	623	4.8	5	1.6
West Midlands	912	7	16	5.1
Yorkshire & the Humber	1088	8.3	28	8.9
Central Register & International	44	0.3	0	0
Affiliates	14			
Total Co-operative Party	13,121	100%	314	100%



Membership Demographics

Equality questions are now part of our core forms, including the ones for new members, member updates and council candidate applications, giving us accurate data on new members, and building data on existing members.

Our recruitment has improved significantly across all equalities groups since we first reported in 2020, building a more representative Party membership - see figures overleaf.

Proportions of all the demographics have increased since the last quarter as we gain more data from new members and existing members.

The percentage of women joining as new members so far in 2026 – almost 40.4% - has increased compared to all of the membership percentages, as it does for members in the Youth, (dis)Ability, BAME & LGBTQ+ categories.

Making meetings accessible: For members applying to the local government candidate development programme, we introduced a 'caring responsibilities for young children' tab to the questionnaire so we can help with accessibility issues for potential candidates and meetings in terms of Zoom times, etc. So far in 2026 we had around 3.5% of all members declare this, again above the average of 2.5%.

Contacting the NEC

[See here for members of the NEC and contact details](#). You can contact your NEC representative via the link on that page or by emailing Karen Wilkie, Board Secretary at board@party.coop.

Inviting NEC members to meetings

Following the change to structure of the NEC from 2023, each local party and branch has **two** regional NEC representatives, in addition to those elected to represent BAME, (dis)Able, LGBTQ+, Youth and elected representatives (i.e. councillors, MSP, MS, AM, directly elected mayors and PCC).

In England, both regional NEC members represent the whole of your section, so you can invite either to your Party Council or branch meetings, particularly if the meeting is to take place on line. For in-person meetings, please bear in mind the travel time and costs - the party council or branch should meet the travel expenses of any NEC member they invite.

For regional parties, both NEC members should always receive notice of meetings.