
**Motion from Independent Society
Members - Support for Wider
Co-operative Movement**

11

As the largest co-operative in the UK, this meeting welcomes the positive role that the Co-operative Group has played in the wider co-operative movement over many years and calls upon the Board and the National Members' Council to confirm their ongoing support for the organisational infrastructure necessary for a growing and thriving co-operative economy. This includes the provision of independent news and comment, co-operative education and training, heritage and international development work, as well as policy, finance, legal and governance advice.

More information on our motion:

**Motion 11 - Support for Wider
Co-operative Movement**

The Co-operative Group is proud to play a leading role in the co-operative movement, locally, nationally and internationally. Throughout our history, we have been at the forefront in bringing co-operatives and co-operators together - being part of a movement remains central to our vision for the future. We remain committed to work in tandem

with many other co-operative bodies who share this ambition through movement-wide initiatives such as Co-operative Fortnight and we are proud to be a founder member of the Co-operative Heritage Trust, which is underpinned by the £3m donation made by the Society to secure our movement's historical assets. Our financial commitment is substantial - over the past 5 years, we have provided over £9m in support for co-operative organisations through our subscriptions and donations.

We also want to make sure that the movement remains relevant for new generations of co-operators, given the pace of change and emerging opportunities for co-operatives in the future, and work in an efficient and effective way, as we also need to do to remain competitive and relevant in the markets in which we operate. This will continue to draw on the support of longstanding co-operative partners, such as Co-operatives UK and the Co-operative Party, especially where they have an appetite to adapt to changing needs.

We are also developing new partnerships with the social enterprise sector on campaigns such as Buy Social and community benefit societies who enjoy the support of the Co-op Foundation, as well as driving our own initiatives, such as the rapidly developing Co-operate platform and encouraging our Member Pioneers to engage with co-operatives in their local community.

Our ambition is to work with others to energise the co-operative movement, in a way which builds on the successes of previous generations of co-operators who

established such firm foundations, whilst also learning from other more recent movements whose impact and relevance, especially amongst the young, provides lessons for us all.
