



It's what we do

National Members' Council newsletter: August 2022

Our Members' Council is made up of 100 passionate Co-op Members, colleagues, people from other co-op societies, and members chosen by Council to help diversify voices and thinking. When you join a co-op, you become a shared owner of a business that exists to meet your needs, so Council Members act as local representatives who champion your views with directors and leaders from around Co-op.

May and July meeting highlights

Our Council meets six times a year, here's what's been on the agenda recently...

In May, Council concluded its 2022 Co-op AGM weekend with a half-day hybrid meeting. It was joined by Rose Marley, CEO of Co-ops UK, for an update on its new strategy and branding as the umbrella body for all UK co-operatives. In 2021, Co-op Members approved a motion on support for the co-operative movement, which Co-op has been working on and strengthening alongside Co-ops UK and other co-op societies. To build on and encompass this, Rose shared that Co-ops UK was aiming to inspire everyone to be a member of a co-op, and every co-op to be one of its members, so that we can create a fairer society together.

During the afternoon, Council also discussed and approved its next Three-Year Plan, which was developed by Senate and Council's Leadership team in consultation with Co-op's Executive leaders. The plan guides Council in fulfilling its roles and responsibilities and sets out its ambitions and priorities for supporting the business with achieving its vision of Co-operating for a Fairer World. To finish the day, members from each Council committee and Council's Diversity & Inclusion Working Group updated Council Members on key pieces of work and areas of focus over the last 12 months.

In July, Council met with leaders from Co-op's Food business to hear the latest updates and ask questions. In smaller groups, Council Members also took part in discussions and shared ideas to guide strategic priorities in our Food business. During the afternoon, Council Members raised questions with directors on various key topics and split into smaller groups again to meet with Senate Members and talk through Council priorities for the coming year.



Discussions with directors

To hold our Co-op Board to account on important issues for our businesses and members, Council Members ask questions as part of Directors' Forums...

16 questions were put to Member Nominated Directors in July. Key topics included:

- ✓ Co-op's commitment to Fairtrade
- ✓ Improving democratic participation
- ✓ The use of member data
- ✓ The Better Chicken Commitment
- ✓ Reducing debt levels and SAP implementation



Catch up with our Council committees

Council Members also meet in smaller groups throughout the year to input into plans and ask questions on areas of our co-op difference. Here's what they've worked on recently...



Member Value:

Our Member Value & Business Performance Committee has met with Finance leaders to discuss post-investment appraisals for stores and funeral homes and financials for each business period.

Member Voice:

Our Member Voice Committee has reviewed the initial evaluation of Co-op's 2022 AGM & Elections and received an update on plans to implement Co-op's member participation strategy.

Co-operative Leadership:

Senate helps to co-ordinate Council activities and connects Council to Co-op's Board and Executive. Recently, it's focused on planning Council's annual hustings for its Vice-President and Senate Elections. Our Governance Committee looks at the effectiveness of Council and our ways of working. In the last few months, it's approved Council's 2022 Co-options process, reviewed its training programme and started to think about an upcoming review of Co-op's governance arrangements.

Ethical & Sustainable Leadership:

Our Ethical & Sustainable Leadership Committee has received a 'year on from launch' update on Co-op's Ten-Point Climate Plan. It's also drafted and shared a letter with Co-op's Agriculture team on animal welfare policies.

Want to share your views?

Visit our Council [website](#) to find your constituency and get in touch with local representatives.

Join in Live events

Our Council hosts events online and in person every autumn, giving members the chance to put their questions to directors and help shape exciting plans. Keep an eye on www.co-operative.coop/events for the latest information.

How to play your full part...

'Join In' with regular online opportunities to shape products and plans and learn more about the Co-op you own.

You can also visit [Co-operate](#) to find things to do in your community and help make good things happen.

How we're doing things differently...



Take care,

Denise Scott-McDonald

President of Co-op's National Members' Council



Keep up to date with us using
#CoopNMC on Twitter



It's what we do