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### **Motion from Council and supported by our Young Co-operative Members' Group – Creating a Fairer World for our Young People**

We ask the Board to ensure that the views and needs of young people are included and built into how we make decisions across all parts of our Co-op.

We also ask the Board to work with the wider Co-operative Movement to make Co-ops relevant and inclusive to all young people and to consider how to lobby for co-operative business models to be included in the curriculum in schools, developing best practice within our Co-op Academies.

Co-operative models of doing business, built on fairness, equality and shared value, can inspire and change our society.

Our Co-op signed up to the Power of Youth Charter last year and through member-funded initiatives like the Peer Action Collective and the #iwill movement we are already enabling young people to lead change in our communities. We want our Co-op to build on this to broaden and deepen how we make sure young voices are considered in all parts of our businesses, plans and strategies and are considered as part of our decision-making process.

We know that many young people who know about Co-operatives and creating and sharing value for our members, our communities and our planet is the right way to do business and offers a solution to tackling the inequalities we see every day. We also know that many young people still don't know about co-operatives and those that do often don't know how they can get involved. The future of our Co-op depends on how we support, educate and empower young people to trade with us and to shape and develop their own co-operative solutions to the challenges and opportunities they face. That means we need to communicate differently and appeal through different channels. Communication and education is a challenge for all co-operatives, so as well as embedding youth voices across our Co-op, we would like the Board to work with the wider Co-operative Movement and young people to create opportunities to inspire and attract the next generation of co-operative members, including lobbying for co-operative ways of doing business being taught in social and economic education in schools.

#### **More information on our Motion:**

##### **Co-op Board Response:**

Our Co-op works to support young people across the UK to realise their potential and have their voices heard, from our Youth Mission and work with the Peer Action Collective, our Social Mobility campaign supported by our Members and our Co-op Academies.

As owners of our Co-op, all of our members including our young members have an important role to play to take part in and influence how we make decisions. This is part of our broader approach to support all members to have their say in what is important to them. We welcome the great work of our Co-operative Young Members Group and look forward to continuing to work with them to find innovative ways to engage and attract them to take part in their Co-op.

The motion highlights the unique opportunity we have to develop children's understanding of co-operation through the 30 Co-op Academies, which together provide schooling to over 18,000 students. All our Academies draw on Co-operative Values and Principles to shape the culture and curriculum within our schools and there are many ways that our vision of Co-operating for a Fairer World is brought to life. It was pleasing to note that the Co-operative Party highlighted the work of our Co-op Academies and other co-operative schools in its recent policy document, recommending that understanding the co-operative business model should feature more prominently in the curriculum in all phases of education. The Board is keen to explore with Co-op Academies Trust and others across the education sector further ways to make progress in this area, working with Trust leaders and subject area specialists to ensure the co-operative model and our feature in children's education.

We agree that co-operative, shared ownership models and fairness is important to our young members. We will continue to work with the wider movement to influence and advocate for them and how we enable and support young people to shape their future.

The Board recommends supporting this motion.