



MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT

National Members' Council Elections
Yorkshire & the Humber



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Dan Falchikov

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

In the current uncertain times and people continuing to feel the pinch of the cost of living, it is vital the Co-op continues to deliver value for money for all the communities it serves. This is especially important in rural areas where the Co-op is one of the pillars of small towns and villages, alongside the pub and sometimes the Post Office. Providing a range of quality and value for money groceries in people's localities must remain the core of the Co-op's offer. It is the bedrock that drives membership growth and keeps the Co-op at the heart of the community. However, sometimes these stores appear to be at the end of supply chains with stock sometimes unavailable and I would press for a greater robustness in supply for rural Co-ops.

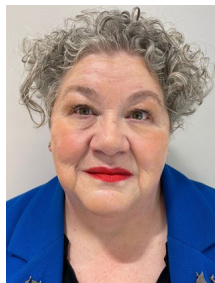
2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

In my professional and personal life, I have strived to strengthen and develop communities. Whether professionally managing campaigns to set up tenant led housing organisations, or train public sector staff on best practice techniques to engage hard to reach groups or personally setting up a community-led campaign group to protect a local nature reserve, I have embraced Co-operative Values and Principles in much of what I do. The Co-operative Movement is multi-faceted, with the Co-op the most visible part. But there's an opportunity to extend the reach - the return of the Co-op Bank to the mutual sector in January is a good example.

3. How will you add value to the Members' Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

I can add value in many ways, the three most important are:

1. I am a professional communications expert with a wide range of experience in public consultation, community and stakeholder engagement. This has meant bringing diverse ranges of people together for common goals and communicating often complex or technical subjects in easy to understand and compelling ways.
2. I understand how decisions are made and how to hold power to account. I have worked in Parliament, local government and run successful campaigns to get badly needed investment into social housing among others. I'm not scared of speaking truth to power and holding decision makers to account.
3. I will be a champion for all Co-op Members and will make myself available to them. I will seek out members' views in advance of the quarterly Members' Council meetings and report back on decisions that affect them. The Co-op is a unique democratic organisation, and I will put the members' voice at the heart of decision making.



Vivienne Mager

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

I think the priority is to continue promoting the 3 Council priorities that demonstrate the advantages of being a member-owner. 1- Member-Ownership, 2- Meaningful Membership and

3- Communicating with, Listening to and Engaging with Member-Owners.

2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

I have served on the National Members' Council (NMC) for 3 years and would love to build and strengthen my connections and networks in the Yorkshire & Humber region. One of the most important aspects of my NMC role is participating in Local Forums and live local events, especially with my area Member Activator. At these get-togethers, I explain who I am, what my role on the NMC involves, and why I am committed to Co-operative Values and Principles.

I listen to member-owner and colleague views, comments, worries and praises of the Co-op. I then feed these back to the NMC in our workshops, committees and as questions to directors. I am passionate about these Local Forums, as they are vital to the democratic process of representing our member-owners. A good deal of my time is spent liaising with local community groups. Meeting these is always rewarding and inspiring. One of the first I met were representatives from Peer Action Collective (P.A.C). They are a group of 10 to 25-year-olds who want to help young people live a life free from violence.

Most recently, I met volunteers from B:friend on Time To Talk Day who are a befriending charity matching volunteer befrienders with isolated older neighbours in the community. Whenever possible, I help at a local Community Fridge at High Green Development Trust and am always stunned by the dedication of the volunteers and what a lifeline it is for that community. I am also involved in fundraisers and other initiatives, like Fairtrade Fortnight. During my three years, I have served on the Sustainable Ethical Leadership and Non-Executive Director Fees committees and on the Member Engagement Working Group. As a disabled person, I champion diversity and inclusion in all areas of the Co-op and am particularly vocal about digital exclusion of some member-owners.

3. How will you add value to the Members' Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

When I first stood in these elections, I didn't have a commercial or business background. I come from a career in education and creative arts, so was apprehensive about my being able to fulfil the demands of the role. Fortunately, I realise that being

one of the NMC is about many things: commitment, understanding, hard work, communication to name just a few. I've learned that my skills and experience are valid and appropriate for this role, and when combined with a lifelong love of the Co-op, make me an ideal candidate.

Finally, as mentioned above, I would like to be able to build on the work I'm doing on the NMC. The networks I've made need to grow, the communities I work with always need support, and the campaigns and initiatives I'm involved with evolve and need continuity. Please re-elect me so I can do these things and continue to be your area co-operator.

Thank you.



Darren Hale

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food, Insurance and Legal Services

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

Supporting Customers and Communities in a Cost-of-Living Crisis

As a life-long co-operator, we need to seek to expand our reach into all communities, recognising that people need to be able to use co-operatives, to become co-operators. We have significant store presence, and a continued focus on offering affordability on many staple food items is essential, as the cost-of-living crisis remains a reality for far too many people in the UK.

Equally, as we are embedded in so many communities, the Co-op Group has unrivalled opportunity to make a genuine difference within our communities. This can be as simple as being the friendly face and trusted ear to our customers, or it can be ensuring that small local charities and groups are aware they can access our community funding. It is this sector, after all, which is also feeling the pinch as charity giving can be the first to go as people tighten belts. Our wide membership means that we are ideally placed to ensure that we all as member-owners can spread the word and in doing so, remind people of the benefits of the way we do business.

For too long, we have sought to compete with other retailers on their terrain, rather than extol our co-operative virtues, and the fact that there is a real difference.

Whether that is campaigning to support shop staff from violence and abuse, or ensuring affordability in the funeral sector, the Co-op has a vital role to play.

Whilst this now can be reflected in Member Prices, the Co-op Difference would be fully rekindled with the return of a member dividend.

2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

As a Co-op Labour Councillor, I have ensured that our city council is a member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network committing to sharing good practice, co-operating between co-operatives. I have recently helped set up Hull's newest co-op, which has issued community shares to buy and re-open the running of a city centre pub. The site was the former Hull Co-op Education Rooms, social club and one of the original stores. So, I am delighted we have saved The New Clarence for future generations. I have observed there is a huge public goodwill amongst the public to our values, and I am convinced that there is huge goodwill for the Co-op Movement on which we can all build.

3. How will you add value to the Members' Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

I have served previously on an area committee, regional board and was on the original Members' Council. I have also been lucky enough to have previously led the city council, so have in-depth knowledge of strategic decision making, financial accounts, and democratic team working, which I would enthusiastically bring to the working of the Members' Council.



John Furbisher

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

In 2025, I see the Co-op continuing to attract many more member-owners through well-targeted offers and communications, while assimilating those new members into the co-operative “family” and helping them embrace its values of fairness, democracy and community engagement. Owned by them, right by them.

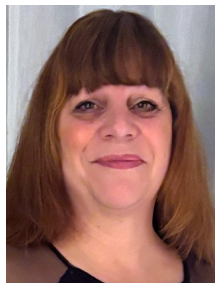
2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

The Co-operative Movement is close to my heart, and I fully embrace its principles of sound service, ethical trading, democracy and social responsibility. The Co-op itself is a vital part of the UK’s retail and financial services landscape: good for competition, convenience and customer choice, and providing a genuine and thriving alternative to global corporate providers and suppliers.

3. How will you add value to the Members’ Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

I was a staff reporter on the Sunday Times and later became Deputy Editor of the Yorkshire, then edited the Halifax Courier and Sheffield Star. I worked in Brussels as Head of Communications for British MEPs, organising messaging on agriculture, economy and finance, environment, international trade and human rights. I sit on the national council of a UK member organisation in the area of countryside and conservation and am a trustee for a wildlife charity. I have worked behind a counter, in an editor’s chair, in a boardroom and in public policy. I am an effective campaigner and expert in external and internal communication.

The opportunity to use this knowledge and experience to benefit the Co-op, and importantly its member-owners, would be an honour as well as a challenge I would relish.



Lyn Hunter

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

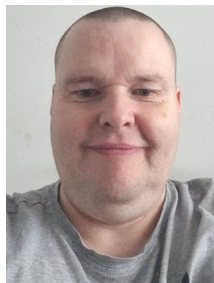
Engaging our members to actively take part in shaping our Co-op.

2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

Respecting everyone is their own individual, treating everyone with respect.

3. How will you add value to the Members' Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

As an experienced store manager for co-operatives, I feel this gives me an insight as to how some of the ideas that come through members will affect the teams in store. I am a good listener, and able to speak up if I feel something is not right.



Robert Fleming

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

The most important priority for 2025 is to get more members signed up to the Co-op membership card and get more stores involved with the community the stores are in.

2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

I demonstrate values by working in store and asking customers if they have a card or not and explaining the offers and by me buying the products, I can tell them I've bought them.

3. How will you add value to the Members' Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

I would add 31 years of working in a Food store. I'm always talking to customers, so the customer service is there. I'm a union rep for USDAW. I've done campaigns to promote things, and I've also organised the campaigns.



Tracey Roberts

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

Continued economic uncertainty plays a part in the everyday lives of Co-op's member-owners and as such, the focus on driving value for members I would see as the most important priority for the Co-op in 2025. This uncertainty manifests itself in all aspects of the products and services offered by the Group, whether in Insurance or Food, so a focus on fair and equitable pricing, maximising the subsidies that can be offered by the "member pricing" approach, by all businesses within the Co-op Group will be key to ensuring that member-owners experience the tangible value of what a growing membership base can offer. This will also reinforce the ethos and values of the Co-op, actively bringing them to life in a way that matters day to day, to my fellow member-owners.

2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

I love my local Co-op store and use it almost every day. It's a key part of my community and I use it as my first choice for retail food shopping. I truly believe in the values and ethos of what the Co-op is delivering within its communities across the UK. In my career, I have purposely chosen to work in the mutual sector so that my expertise can be put to use to benefit our member-owners, so my own personal values and principles are closely aligned with that of the Co-operative Movement, and I demonstrate this every day. Making a conscious decision both in my working and personal lives I feel demonstrates this commitment to ensuring the benefits of member-owners remain at the heart of how I live my life.

3. How will you add value to the Members' Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

Given my commercial and product background, I can assess, analyse and interpret decisions made at a strategic level and translate them into practical terms that can support the Members' Council in holding the Board to account in a collaborative and supportive way.

I currently work in the mutual sector and my every day role aligns back to the purpose and values of our business. Therefore, operating in this collegiate way that is focused on keeping member-owners at the heart of decision making is a strength and one which I hold dear. As I sit on the executive committee of the financial services business I work for, I'm experienced in how boards work and the governance and decision making that comes in operating at this level. In addition, I'm very much a people person and look for opportunities to encourage opinions and views from all stakeholders to drive the best outcomes possible for member-owners. I feel this would

be beneficial and would add significant value to the Members' Council. I am also very well versed in understanding pricing and financial matters, which I feel could help the Members' Council.



Christine Renshaw

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

As the world faces increasing challenges related to climate change, resource scarcity, and social inequality, the Co-op has a unique opportunity to lead by example. Sustainable sourcing and promoting Fairtrade products. Reducing the carbon footprint of operations and encouraging less 'out of area' shopping habits. Supporting local communities and fostering economic resilience. Increasing member engagement in this respect, ensuring their voices guide Co-op policies and decisions.

2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

I am committed to the Co-operative Values and Principles. By promoting democratic decision-making, I will ensure that every member's voice is heard and that decisions reflect our collective interests. I will actively engage with the Co-op and contribute to shared goals. I am dedicated to equality, equity, and solidarity, ensuring fairness and inclusivity for members and staff. I am a qualified coach and mentor and will use these and my training and leadership qualifications and skills to ensure fairness and good team working.

My experience in community work aligns with the Co-op's principle of concern for the community, I will focus on projects that benefit both our Co-op and the wider community. I will work towards educating and empowering members by fostering an environment of engagement, knowledge and support to make informed choices. Additionally, I strongly believe in co-operation among other co-operatives and would seek to understand and foster partnerships with other like-minded organisations to amplify our collective impact as a movement.

By embracing these principles, I aim to support a Co-op that remains sustainable, inclusive, and focused on improving the lives of its members and the community.

3. How will you add value to the Members' Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

With a background in project management and leadership across both corporate and community sectors, I am skilled at identifying long-term goals and developing actionable plans to achieve them. I am passionate about supporting initiatives that align with the Co-op's values and respond to members' needs. My resilience, problem-solving ability, and proactive approach to addressing community concerns will allow me to tackle challenges effectively.

My experience in the public sector, education, and community organisations, including

being a trustee at a large foodbank, has given me a strong understanding of diverse group needs. I am committed to ensuring that Council policies reflect and support these needs. My project management skills have taught me to stay organised, meet deadlines. I would apply these skills to help ensure that Council meetings, events, and initiatives are efficient and impactful.

In summary, I bring a commitment to collaboration, strategic thinking, resilience, and a deep understanding of community needs. I am excited about the opportunity to use my skills to help strengthen the Co-op and create lasting, positive impact for all members.



Paul Hanson

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

To continue to grow the membership and, in so doing, demonstrate to an ever-wider audience that an ethical and transparent business can be successful whilst also providing many benefits to all those who participate, as well as society as a whole. I would like to see the Co-op inspire and support the birth and growth of many other co-operatives until eventually co-operativism becomes the main vehicle for business in our society.

2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

From a young age, I have chosen to work for organisations that hold the same principles as the Co-op, and which are working to create positive change.

In 1993, I volunteered on a state farm in Cuba. Witnessing the inefficiencies in production, I decided to write to Fidel Castro and suggested that co-operatives might be the way forward. Soon afterwards, a major and successful transformation to co-operative farming took place; but I take no credit for it! Since then, my main focus has been on organic, healthy and sustainable small scale food production in collectives with the same principles as the Co-op. I planted and maintain a 13-year-old community orchard in my hometown of Hornsea. I also created and ran a community newspaper for the town, which is still very popular as it helps to create community cohesion.

I am now a trustee of a charity that is restoring a 3-acre walled garden to its former glory, growing organic fruit and vegetables with the participation of members of the local community. I also edit 'Growing Green International'- the magazine of the Vegan Organic Network - which aims to develop and promote the most compassionate and sustainable methods of food production.

3. How will you add value to the Members' Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

Having been involved in many co-operatives, charities and local committees, I have a wealth of experience of councils. I would hope to contribute humility, solidarity, innovation, positivity and constructiveness to the Members' Council. I would particularly hope to use my experience in the organic food sector to help the Co-op improve its performance in terms of healthy and sustainable food production.



Alex Ross-Shaw

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food

1. What do you regard as the most important priority for Co-op in 2025?

2025 is the International Year of Co-ops and with a challenging economic environment, the priority for the Co-op must be to continue growing the business and increase our market share as a

co-operative in a competitive retail sector.

The Government has an ambitious target of doubling the size of the Co-operative and Mutual Sector and the Co-op is well placed to contribute significantly through our rightly ambitious target to increase our membership to eight million people.

By growing our membership, we can reach more people than ever, to share our Co-operative Values and Principles while strengthening the growth of the business. As members, we've influenced how the Co-op uses Member Prices and campaigns against retail crime, and I believe we can continue to make a positive impact on how we achieve growth with co-operative principles at our heart.

2. How do you demonstrate a commitment to Co-op Values and Principles?

As a former Director of Bradford Credit Union, I'm a long-standing co-operator and Co-op Member and more widely, use mutual and co-operatively run services such as banking, savings and mobile phone.

Many of our co-operative values are simple ways to live your life by and extend well beyond a professional setting. A belief in equality, caring for others, solidarity and self and social responsibility should drive everything we do as individuals, as well as a Co-operative Movement. It's why I was pleased to be able to propose a potential motion on the theme of 'Hate Divides Communities, Co-operation Builds Them' at a recent online motions event for our members.

In my day job as a councillor, I've been proud we've maintained our support for a financial development officer at the local credit union, which has overseen a record growth in membership.

3. How will you add value to the Members' Council and what skills and experience would you use to do this?

It's very important to me to add value to any role I have and that's especially the case for an elected role where you represent the voice of Co-op Members.

I've thrown myself into life at the Co-op, attending every training session possible so I can skill up quickly to really maximise my impact as a National Council Member.

I've also played a full role in our meetings and activities, recently introducing a

potential motion to Co-op Members on how co-operation unites people against hatred, and speaking at a local Member Activator event to celebrate the causes supported by the Co-op.

As a senior councillor at a large local authority, I am a former scrutiny chair and current Executive Member for Regeneration. In these roles, I've scrutinised policy and performance of senior council directors and departments and been the political lead for major regeneration and investment programmes.

These skills complement well my role on the Co-op Business Performance Committee, where we receive reports on the performance of the various business arms of the Co-op from Food, Business to Business and Funeralcare and Insurance.

I'm keen to further my work with the Co-op's local teams to engage our members across the region so I can feed their thoughts and concerns back to the Co-op through these meetings and committees.



THANKS FOR MAKING YOUR VOICE COUNT

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