



# MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT

National Members' Council Elections  
South West



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RIGHT BY YOU.

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## Lucy Naylor

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-operatives. This must be our underpinning narrative giving us scope to reinforce what we stand for and the benefits we bring to our members and communities.

Doing so will also give us room to:

- a. Promote the whole Co-operative Sector and highlight what makes us so special.
- b. Educate our members and wider society about the difference co-operatives bring to the economy and our communities.
- c. Highlight our unique and community-based approach to the sectors we work in. This is essential in the food industry where the race to the bottom is damaging food producers and staff conditions and not helping customers either.
- d. Take leadership in the “growth of the Co-operative & Mutual Sector” review and supporting campaigns to rebuild our local high streets.
- e. Celebrate the vision of the Rochdale Pioneers and co-operative leaders around the world.

I would like to see the return of the member dividend for co-operative product purchases, a Co-op Difference since 1844.

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

I don't just say it, I do it. Whether it's through my own purchasing, campaigning or volunteering, I prioritise co-operative businesses and local community shops. In my roles with the Co-operative Party, I have been part of campaigns to bring co-operative models into the heart of policy making across all sectors. This covers housing, community energy, social care, transport and ownership of community assets. I have also been proud to support USDAW in their campaign to prevent violence against shop workers. I have supported the Food Justice campaigns at local levels within our region and to prevent food waste. I support and promote the pioneering work of the Co-op Group in their work with young people and access to food. I am a member of the Devon Fairtrade Group and am working to expand this across Somerset. I am a member of a credit union and promote use of them across our communities. Our local high streets are essential to our communities, and I believe our retail stores are a cornerstone of helping our high streets thrive.

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

I believe that I will add value to the Members' Council in a number of ways because I:

- Am heavily involved in the Co-operative Movement across a variety of sectors as well as being passionate about the food retail arm of Co-operatives UK.
- Have experience of sitting on similar boards in both voluntary, co-operative and elected sectors and have a broad understanding of how these roles work.
- Have experience in scrutiny of finances, development and monitoring of strategic plans and working within committee structures and corporate governance.
- Understand the responsibility that elected representatives have to work with those they represent. I do this in my role on the Co-operative Party representing the South West. If elected, I will work collaboratively with my Member Activators, fellow Council Members and youth representatives to promote the Co-operative Values and Principles.



# Sue Wolstenholme

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food and Funeralcare

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

To provide a successful model nationally for inclusion and responsiveness. Life is becoming too divided, creating elites and groupings, which turn their backs on each other and exclude so many.

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

As an enterprise agency director in Cornwall in the 80s, I helped small businesses to adopt a formal co-operative style with their staff and customers to build positive relationships and reputations.

Also, at that time, I devised and led campaigns to save Amnesty International's British section from bankruptcy and survive internationally to build their membership.

Later, having written and established post graduate qualifications for the public relations industry, the Post Office made me an associate to devise and run campaigns to improve their impact on society.

I have always encouraged clients to maintain values and principles identical to those at the Co-op.

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

I will work energetically to add value to the Members' Council. My working life has given me a range of valuable and challenging experiences, for example: in both Ukraine and Moldova, leading governmental projects on reducing corruption; as a director in the NHS tackling reputation issues; at the Natural History Museum on improving communication internally and externally and I have been elected by hundreds of colleagues to be their president at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and across 30 countries at the European Public Relations Education and Research Association (EuPRERA) where, over two years, I worked with members to develop a much livelier and more interactive organisation.

Now in semi-retirement, I celebrate my whole family whenever I can, whether on the terraces at Home Park or having them for sleepovers.

I volunteer on the board at the Plymouth Arts Cinema and having recently completed several months of assessment, I hope to become a foster mother with Plymouth City Council very soon.

My email address is: [sue@ashley-pr.co.uk](mailto:sue@ashley-pr.co.uk) and my profile is on LinkedIn.



## Geoff Wood

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?

First and foremost, I believe that sustainability should be at the forefront of our efforts. I want to ensure that our products and practices are environmentally friendly, and that we're doing our part to reduce our carbon footprint.

Another key priority is improving our members' experience. We want to make sure that our stores are welcoming, accessible, affordable and offer a wide range of products that meet our members' needs.

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

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. These values are the foundation of co-operatives, and they guide our actions and decisions.

To demonstrate our commitment to these values, we must always prioritise the needs of our members and the communities we serve. We must also strive for transparency, accountability, and open communication. This is what I do every day.

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

Being a Co-op Store Manager colleague, I take my role seriously and as your representative, I can raise your questions with the directors. I can also advise on how you can be more involved with the Co-op. We have member events where you can have your say. My primary role is to uphold the values and principles of our member-owned business, which I have tried to do since joining the Co-op. As part of the Council, I can do this for both members and colleague members. I feel it's vital that colleagues/members have a voice in this fast-changing climate. I have regular meetings with other colleague Council representatives and Senate Members, who then feed our store queries back to the directors. I have helped shape community events and have been keen to speak out in meetings. I believe Co-op is more relevant today than ever, with the retail landscape changing towards environmental impacts such as our carbon footprint, plastic usage, and giving back to local communities. In addition to this, being at the forefront of action to support violence against retail workers is a key driver. I see Co-op having a far greater influence than just being an excellent community retailer.



# Michael Harriott

Co-op Group businesses traded with in last 12 months

Food and Insurance

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

The world is facing numerous challenges, and I believe the 2025 International Year of Co-operatives presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate that co-ops are a powerful force for good. We must strengthen our connections with co-operatives around the globe to share best practices and fortify our movement. By collaborating internationally, we can develop sustainable business models rooted in our core values and principles, ensuring that we thrive together and make a meaningful impact in our communities.

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

I have been an active Co-op Member for the last twenty-five years. I've been an elected member with the Co-op Group at area, regional and national levels. I am also with many different co-operative businesses. For instance, I recently stepped down from the Board of Directors of Clevedon Community Bookshop Co-operative.

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

I will add value to the Members' Council by fostering open communication and collaboration among members, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued. My skills in strategic planning and community engagement will help identify opportunities for growth and improvement within our Co-op. I can effectively advocate for member interests and promote transparency. I will use my skills to enhance member participation and strengthen our co-operative's impact. Together, we can build a thriving community rooted in our shared values.



# Nigel Bruce-Robertson

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?

Primarily to survive. Secondly, as the Co-op trades with the same logo regardless of location in this country, it gives the impression that the Co-op is one and the same. As it is apparently not, I believe it should make every effort to bring together all the constituent trading companies into one organisation so we can all enjoy the shopping benefits of membership, regardless of whether we are at home, or away.

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

By shopping at Co-op stores and giving consideration to other products on offer such as Insurance, Legal Services, Funeralcare and Social Enterprise UK.

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

By soliciting the views of as many members and customers in as many Co-op stores that can be reasonably visited throughout the year and to summarise the responses into some order of common sensibility and priority. I am a good listener and not afraid to put my own point of view in a reasonable manner and prepared to accept compromise where necessary. I have worked in large organisations mostly as a leader throughout my career in managerial positions so find no difficulty working with others as part of a team.



## Tom Winters

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'm really passionate about supporting local food and drink and doing right by our farmers and producers. As Co-op Members and customers, we are becoming much more savvy about what we eat and where our food comes from. With its values and principles, the Co-op has a real opportunity to become more active in this area. Supporting local food and drink isn't just crucial for supporting jobs and the wider economy, locally made products are likely to be healthier, less processed and more sustainable. My vision for the Co-op is also outward looking. I want to explore what more we can do to support projects that deal with the causes of anti-social behaviour in our communities.

Preventive measures can help foster a safer and more cohesive society. It can also help to prevent the sorts of abusive behaviour too many of our staff face on a day-to-day basis. With your support, I'm really looking forward to getting the ball rolling and doing whatever I can to support our Co-op, the wider movement and the communities we serve.

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

My commitment to the Co-operative Movement stems all the way back to my time at university, where I specialised in co-operative business and economics. I've also since self-published a book on this topic, making this one of my key passions. I'm convinced there's more the co-operative sector can do to support our local communities, to bring forward a more inclusive economy and take a lead on climate action and restoring nature. I'm really excited to put this wealth of knowledge into action, to support Co-op staff and other Council Members, and do right by our fellow member-owners.

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

Working as the Economic Development Manager for a local authority has given me a broad set of skills, which will be key for my engagement with the Members' Council. I'm able to digest information quickly, get to grips with a range of complex issues, and take the time to properly engage and communicate constructively with stakeholders. I'm really passionate about sustainable business practices whilst being tuned into the wider challenges many businesses are currently facing.

Working in local government has also given me an understanding and appreciation of democracy at work, with a commitment to the principles of accountability and transparency. This experience will be crucial, not just for my role as a Council Member,

but also to ensure member-owners become more aware and engaged with the work the Co-op does both locally and nationally.



## Russell Young

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?

Giving Co-op Member-Owners a voice, upholding our values and principles, and making the right choices and changes for our future.

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

I believe in our values and principles, equality, equity, democracy, helping others, solidarity, making Co-op stronger, having a voice, and commitment to our community.

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

I feel that I will add great value by using my 21 years' experience as a colleague member of our Co-op. I have good communication skills and good life experiences to help and support our member-owners.



# THANKS FOR MAKING YOUR VOICE COUNT

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