

Joint Board and Council Motion – Political Donations

To seek approval to incur political expenditure, including donations and/ or subscriptions to political parties, not exceeding £750,000 in total for the year commencing 1 January 2023.

Supporting Information

We follow best practice and any decisions on the principles of political donations is put to a vote at the AGM. We are a founding-member and funder of the Co-operative Party, and have member representation on the Party's National Executive Committee. The Co-operative Party was created in 1917 to defend and further the cause of cooperation in the UK, ensuring that co-operators are elected and the co-operative movement's voice is heard in Parliament and at all levels of government.

As a subscribing member of the Co-operative Party, last year we agreed funding of £598,600 for 2022. If this motion is not passed, we will give notice to the Co-operative Party that we will withdraw as a subscribing member; however, we will honour our existing commitment to give them a minimum of 12 months' notice to terminate our membership and will provide funding until the end of 2023 to allow them time to think about the Party's future. If this motion is passed, we will continue to be a subscribing member paying £598,600 in 2022, and will also be able to make additional small donations to other political parties, campaigns and organisations which support Cooperative values and principles, with total expenditure not exceeding £750,000.