



**Kate
Allum**

Having been on the Board as an MND for three years and CEO of a successful dairy co-op for 6 years, I understand the members are the lifeblood of any co-operative. Their opinions matter and must be heard and considered by the Board.

My interest in the co-operative movement was first triggered by my godparents – Roger Sawtell founded ICOM (which merged into Co-operatives UK), ICOF (which is now Co-operative Finance), Daily Bread Co-op and Trylon. It was a proud moment when he received The Lifetime Achievement Award at Co-operatives UK Congress in 2019.

I learnt from him and through my own experience the value of the democratic nature of co-operatives, which allows a range of expertise to be utilised for the greater good of the organisation, adding strength and depth to the power of the Movement. I have enjoyed working with the National Members' Council and recognise that they are critical to accessing this diverse input, which is important as commercial success and ethical growth only develop if collaboration between members, the community and the business is strong.

As well as member engagement, I am passionate about environmental and social sustainability, particularly food security, waste, and animal welfare.

My interest in the environment makes me proud to be a part of our Co-op with its focus on quality products and balanced pricing, whilst maintaining a focus on ethical sourcing and sustainable practices. I have undertaken various projects to improve the sustainability of supply chains and am proud of our position on this. To me, the range of Fairtrade products and our support for British Farmers both tell a story about our ethics and integrity.

Throughout my career, I have been an advocate for diversity, recognising the benefit of a breadth of thought and perspective and have actively worked to bring diversity, equality, and inclusion to all the businesses I have worked with.

Living in a village in the North East of Scotland, our Co-op store is in the heart of the community. I am a Director of our community charity and through work we do to support families, businesses and our beautiful environment, I have learnt to appreciate the power of living within a strong, caring and resilient community.

Having been a CEO, I am acutely aware that colleagues are critical stakeholders of any organisation, and their engagement is invaluable. Our colleagues are the front line in all the sectors of our business, and it is important that they are treated fairly and with respect. Colleague safety has been a big part of the agenda in recent times, and it should remain a priority for us as an organisation.

To serve again on the Board would be a privilege and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to engage with our members, colleagues, and communities to continue to promote our Values and Principles in everything we do.
