



**John
Clarke**

Hello, my name is John Clarke, and I would like your support in voting for me as a Member Nominated Director on to the Co-op Group Board.

So, who is John Clarke? I live in the Southeast with my family Donna, who is teacher, and my two daughters. Donna and I are strong believers in helping communities through education and, amongst my other roles, I have been a school governor as well as a board member on a successful company helping primarily students with Autism. I have been a loyal Co-operative customer for almost all my life. I was born close to the Co-op headquarters, in the world's first industrial park, a place called 'Trafford Park'.

A culturally diverse community of hard-working families. Fortunately, my hard-working parents, took out a life policy with the Co-op, and when it matured when I was 20 it provided me with the capital to co-fund a place for myself at university. At 16 years of age, I began a formal apprenticeship, just around the corner from the Co-ops head office, with British Telecom.

Following university and business school, I entered the business world, and was fortunate to be the first Chief Technology Officer for Tesco, overseeing all stores and distribution systems in the UK and Internationally. I then moved onto Nokia, living in Finland for 6 years and overseeing all areas including supply chain, retail, and customer support, supporting all retail operations globally and some 30 thousand stores and franchise businesses. I have also been the CIO at Morrisons, Dunnes Stores and Primark.

I moved into providing business advice to retail and consumer businesses as a Partner with EY. I was fortunate to work with a wide variety of retailer and high street businesses, helping them create effective strategies, implement new technologies, support staff development and care for customers. Dealing with a range of issues, from business improvements, restructuring, acquisitions, and divestments, and developing new operating models. Helping me develop a greater insight into the opportunities and challenges of diversified business, and an amazing opportunity to work with staff and help them deliver exceptional customer services.

In the last few years, I have focussed on non-executive director and advisory roles. These roles present challenges and let me play my part in helping public services, but the opportunity to help create harmony between the goals of shareholders and members with the business objectives of a company.

I am accountable with other non-executives on ensuring that the strategy and plans for a company can be executed and deliver the stated objectives. I am also there to ensure that the views of the shareholders and members are also met.

So, in summary I believe my industry background and experience will be of value to the Co-op Board. As an experienced non-executive director, I am passionate in balancing the demands of business growth, with the wishes of the members. Finally, what makes the Co-op special is its members. Having the opportunity to represent the members on the Board is of significant personal value to me. I am a strong believer in the co-operative model and would like to do my bit to strengthen and show the value of this model.
