



MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT

National Members' Council Elections
East Midlands



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Sam Webster

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?

Supporting our members, colleagues and local community groups through the current cost of living challenges has to continue to be a top priority for the Co-op. Our members tell me

they want good value for their money at the same time as maintaining high quality in our products, supporting British farming and Fairtrade.

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

I'm a long-time member of Co-op and served as a Co-operative Party Councillor on Nottingham City Council for 10 years. I bank with the Co-operative Bank, and I use Co-op Insurance and Co-op Food stores. I took part in a 'sleep out' at Meadow Lane Football Stadium in Nottingham to raise funds for people who are homeless. I also served as a volunteer Police Constable for Nottinghamshire Police for 2 years. If I'm lucky enough to have your support and be elected to the Co-op Council again, I'll be working hard on behalf of our members to keep co-operative values at the heart of the business.

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

If elected, I'll continue to work hard for Co-op Members and colleagues across the East Midlands. My experience as Vice-President of the Co-op Members' Council and my outside experience as a company director will help me to hold the Co-op Group Board to account on your behalf. I'll stand up for the issues our Co-op Members care about, including sustainability, support for local community groups and the safety of our Co-op Colleagues in our stores. I'd be grateful for your support to continue to represent you.



Joshua Ludlam

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 the Co-op in 2025 is supporting our members through the cost-of-living crisis. Inflation is having a significant impact on the financial health and wellbeing of our membership, colleagues and neighbourhoods. We need to support our members, whilst maintaining the financial health of the business. We can achieve this by ensuring we maintain low prices in our stores, particularly through our 'Honest Value' range and I believe this should see an expansion. I believe in the continuum of investment into the Local Community Fund to provide financial support to good causes helping communities, plus the continuation of food share partnerships providing surplus food to those in need. Furthermore, Member Activators play a pivotal and instrumental role in supporting communities, mobilising and uniting membership in addressing social causes.

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

I am a caring, open, and transparent person. I believe in friendship, solidarity and cohesion. I am committed to co-operative values and showcase these in my personal, voluntary and professional life. I work as a college teacher and my area of specialism and focus is engaging and empowering disengaged and anxious young people. Committed and determined to help any young person to achieve and succeed, I demonstrate determination and inclusivity. I practice open, honest and transparent communication in my work and demonstrated this as a Co-op Member Pioneer; hosting third sector forums, meeting colleague networks to share updates, and meeting with members in our stores. Politically, I embrace and advocate co-operative values, as a member of Chesterfield, Bolsover and North Derbyshire Co-operative Party. I am a trustworthy, reliable and kind person. I am an advocate and cheerleader for my friends, family, neighbours and co-workers; passionate about empowering others – forever upholding the mantra; “we rise by lifting others.”

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

I have a plethora of experience as a connector with the Co-op as a former Member Pioneer, and presently as a Council Member for Central Co-op. I have an ability to grow and cultivate healthy, vibrant and proactive relationships with people, and I feel this will be beneficial in the role as National Council Member. With a strong work ethic, good communication skills and a stream of co-operative values, I believe I would be well-suited to the role. I am an attentive listener and feel my strong communication skills would allow me to broadcast the perspectives, values, attitudes and opinions of

members and colleagues to the Board in a sensitive and professional manner. I have exceptional team player skills and treat my co-workers with respect and appreciation. I believe this ability will be beneficial when engaging and connecting with our members and colleague members, getting to know them, and learning about their experiences, values, and opinions. Empowering, involving, and including members is high on my agenda. I would bring this inclusive and conscientious approach to the National Members' Council.



Stephen West

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 these times of inflation with household budgets being stretched to the limit with a record number of hard-working families depending on food banks just to exist, I believe that our top priority must be to continue to strive to deliver the best possible value for our members and everyone who shops at the Co-op while using our vast resources to support our members in every way possible during these economically difficult times.

Where there is poverty, desperation and lack of public funding for essential services, it allows crime to prevail. Like many retail organisations, the Co-op continues to suffer losses through theft while colleagues increasingly fear for their safety due to the aggressive behaviour of a minority. I want to see the Council focus on taking further steps to prevent retail crime but more importantly, seek ways to protect our colleagues on the frontline by developing further policies and practical measures to deter those who seek to intimidate colleagues and members within our stores. One positive tactic would be to provide training for our colleagues on how to stay safe when facing aggressive and potentially violent behaviour.

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

I believe in the concept of a big society being served by a small state and by small corporations. The power to change our society for the good lies with the people. I have demonstrated this in practical ways as an NHS Responder through the Royal Voluntary Service and as a team member of a local social enterprise providing communication, information friendship, support and entertainment through the medium of community broadcasting.

I understand, based on active experience, that when people come together with energy and ambition and in a spirit of collaboration, anything can be achieved.

I don't just believe in co-operative values – I live them.

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 by bringing in my experience as a former special (volunteer) police officer, what I have learnt about society, communication, teamwork and co-operation during my time as an elected borough councillor and my experience as a director of a successful telecoms company. This will enable me to listen to ideas, collaborate with colleagues and offer opinions and different viewpoints to the subjects that we will be discussing with the shared objective of producing policies that are equitable as well as

being based on sound judgement, fairness and co-operative principles.

In my profession as a journalist, I am naturally a good communicator and someone who instinctively listens to the views of others and has the ability to distil information from multiple sources and be able to present that information in clear, simple and understandable terms.

As a former elected councillor, I have demonstrated my ability to listen, be empathetic with those in need of support and to represent the issues and needs of those to whom I served. As an experienced borough councillor, I am used to the cycle of agendas, meetings, briefings, documents and the communication and network that is essential to be successful in a co-operative and collaborative role.



Andrew Worrall

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?

Despite current economic uncertainty in the UK, maintaining sound values and food quality for our increasing numbers of members is key, alongside strong financial Co-op performance.

This emphasis on product value and quality, underpinned with sound economics, will translate to a highly supportive and strong membership. The nutritional aspect and education concerning food for our members is vital in this modern era of increased health issues like obesity, diabetes, heart conditions, Alzheimer's and cancer.

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

Embracing Co-op Values and Principles are constant personal objectives. These I strive to do by several means. As a volunteer in my community, I give time by providing practical help to a local charity supporting adults with learning difficulties. In addition, I help with conservation work on a nature trail for families, walkers and cyclists. Also, I am involved with a community charity, which represents community interests in a locally operated leisure centre. Volunteering underlines my belief in Co-op Values and Principles, including caring, responsibility, community, democracy, honesty, equality, and solidarity. In addition to voluntary work, my professional life in accountancy and finance gives me a valuable skillset to help support Co-op Values and Principles in the form of openness, honesty, equity, independence and co-operation.

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

Having a background that incorporates a broad experience including a large and strong family unit, wide interests in sporting activities and music, plus a senior board level professional life in finance and staff management, allows me to contribute to the Co-operative Movement. With a clear thinking and rational approach, I will both listen to and represent members whilst understanding, supporting and encouraging the Board in fulfilling its aims in the interests of Co-op Members. Additionally, I would be keen to work on Council Committees in which my skills could be used to best effect.



Chris Pilkington

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 most important priority for the Co-op in 2025 is to be a successful consumer co-operative, both in terms of financial results and member control and engagement. In practical terms, that means encouraging members to spend more at the Co-op through member pricing, increasing rather than decreasing the range of Co-op own-brand products available, the return of a proper dividend scheme, and encouraging them to invest in the Co-op (as other co-operatives do) through depositing share capital and member investment bonds. In relation to democracy and member engagement, the National Members' Council needs to continue to constructively challenge and hold the Board to account within the powers available to it and members should be encouraged to participate in the democracy at the Co-op. Members also need to be better engaged at the local level. For example, by holding local meetings and store forums in liaison with Member Activators.

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

I demonstrate a commitment by trading as much as possible with the Co-op and other co-operatives, buying products produced by other co-operatives (e.g. Fairtrade) and by my current and past involvement in the Co-operative Movement. For example, I am a former member of both a Co-op Area Committee and a Co-op Regional Values & Principles Committee, a former governor at a co-operative school and I am the Treasurer of the Co-operative Press. In addition, I am a member of a number of co-operatives and other organisations that form part of the sector (e.g. the UK Society of Co-operative Studies).

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

Based in Lincolnshire, I would add value to the Members' Council by bringing my knowledge of the co-operative sector and relevant professional experience and skills from my career within local government. For example, of representing the views and concerns of my organisation and members of the public to others, of managing the delivery of services and reacting to customer feedback, receiving financial and other information from other organisations and constructively challenging where necessary, and of ensuring good governance through making sure my organisation operates properly by meeting legal and other requirements and ethical standards. Please vote for me and I will do my best to listen to and represent you.



Tracey Lloyd

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?

We are at a tipping point for the global environment at the same time as world events are stressing our economy and food security. For the Co-op to live up to its values and principles, it must prioritise protecting its ethical and sustainable practices as it copes with these many problems. It would be easy to cut corners and rely on greenwashing, but the Co-op's strength is its reputation as the shop on the high street that will do right by member-owners, the wider public and the wider world. That has to be there to underpin everything else that the business does, especially when the International Year of Co-operatives provides a welcome chance to highlight the many benefits of co-operation around the world and how the Co-op has been such a key part of this. With co-operation between co-operatives, we have an additional means of support that will help us through these difficult times, as long as we nurture it.

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

The Co-operative Values and Principles align closely with my world view. I have spent my career working for not-for-profit and charity organisations, and also volunteering for community groups outside of my work as I particularly believe that social responsibility, self-help and solidarity are the key to healthy and happy communities.

I currently run a community garden in Nottingham, which I helped to become the first Garden of Sanctuary in the city, supporting refugees. It also works to support those with physical and mental health issues and to provide a friendly community for the socially isolated.

In my home village, I helped found a community organisation based on self-help, that picks and redistributes surplus fruit in the local area and has grown to also run mending workshops, community meals, skill-shares and up-cycling.

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

Having been on the Members' Council since 2018, I've gained valuable insights into the workings of the Co-op and the complexities of the business. During that time, I feel my main value to the Council has come from serving on the Sustainable Ethical Leadership Committee. I have a good underpinning of knowledge in this area - beginning with an eco-geography degree and an MSc in Resource Planning, I have worked for nearly 4 decades in various environmentally related roles, both professionally and voluntarily. My main work has been in environmental education in schools and the community, and

I've served on the boards of a number of environmental organisations at a national and local level.

And as a frequent shopper in my local Co-op, I am able to reflect the concerns of other environmentally minded Co-op Members. I'm also able to pass on relevant ideas, research and critiques from a range of environmental groups that I have links to, which have provided a lot of useful insights.

I would welcome the chance to continue to support the Co-op in ensuring its values are at the heart of all it does.



THANKS FOR MAKING YOUR VOICE COUNT

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