

# IMPACT REPORT 2019

CO-OPERATIVES UK





*"We had excellent support converting to a worker co-op... in fact we really couldn't have done it without Co-operatives UK. Very good support and advice, thank you."*

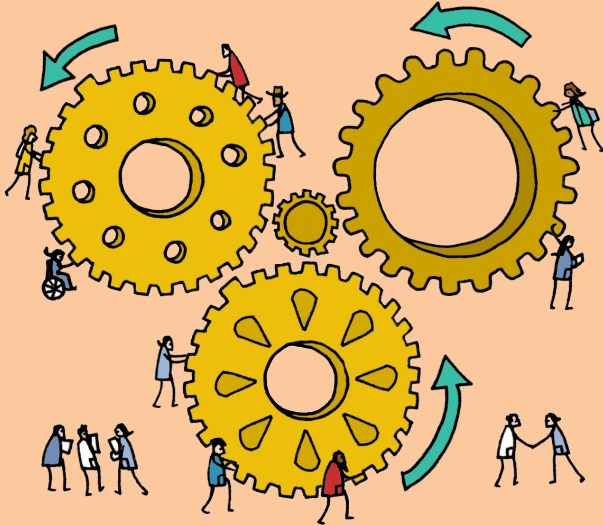
**Wood Fuel Co-op**



# IMPACT

Co-operatives UK is the network for the UK's thousands of independent co-ops. Working alongside our members, our mission is to grow the co-op economy through action to promote, develop and unite co-operative businesses.

**Here's a snapshot of what we achieved together in 2019.**



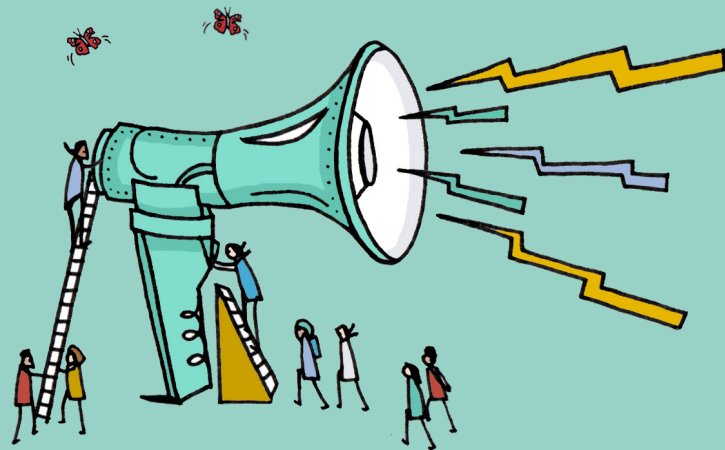
# PROMOTE

We brought co-ops to the BBC newsroom in 2019, as well as to readers of The Times, The Guardian and The Independent. Working together with members our campaigns gained traction with the major political parties – and captured the attention of millions on social media.

Our #1MillionOwners campaign for funding to develop more worker co-ops received over 400 pledges of support, national media coverage and interest from the Business Minister.

Co-op Fortnight, the sector's flagship awareness campaign, involved 213 co-ops across the UK. It was covered by 147 radio stations – touching the lives of an estimated 38 million people.

Your support for the 2019 Co-op of the Year Awards helped break all records, with more than 33,500 votes cast online. The awards were also a big hit on social media, contributing to overall reach figures of 8.4 million.



**£1 million saved**  
in FCA fees



**400**

pledges of  
support  
for

**#1MillionOwners**

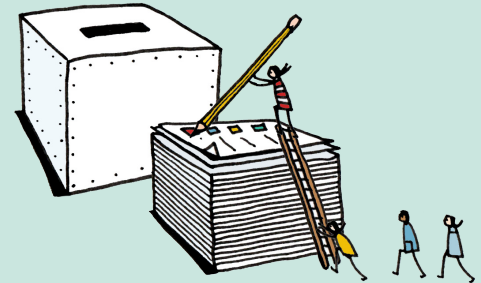


**227**

pieces of  
media  
coverage



**33,500**



**votes cast in  
Co-op of the  
Year Awards**

Our collective lobbying, on behalf of co-operative and community benefit societies, resulted in significant improvements to the mutuals register and the scrapping of high and disproportionate annual fees, saving an estimated £1 million annually.

Working with MSPs in the Scottish Parliament we pushed housing co-ops up the policy agenda, while our evidence informed commitments to support co-ops in the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy.

We took UnFound on the road, hosting 12 events at tech hubs across the UK to promote platform co-ops among the tech start-up community – attracting more than 170 attendees.

Alongside members and a coalition of like-minded organisations, we campaigned for communities to own a share of the post-Brexit Shared Prosperity Fund. Our vision made national headlines, including a lead article in The Independent.



43,000  
views for  
Co-op  
Fortnight film



*"The work of Co-operatives UK at a national level to promote platform co-ops in practice is the most advanced of any across the world."*

**Professor Trebor Scholz**

12 UnFound  
roadshow  
events



#8.4m



social  
media  
reach

# DEVELOP

We distributed over £500,000 in grants, helped create scores of new co-ops, delivered training to hundreds of member co-ops and created valuable new governance resources.

253 co-ops directly benefited from our professional advice services, while the number of members taking advantage of enhanced support through our HR and Contact packages increased to 162.

We helped bring 87 new businesses into existence, from a brewery in Devon to a platform co-op for sign language interpreters. We also supported Student Co-op Homes, a pioneering force for student co-op housing, to launch their community share offer which featured on the BBC.

The Hive, our co-op support programme funded by the Co-operative Bank, supported over 150 organisations in 2019 and more than 4,000 resources have been downloaded from [www.thehive.coop](http://www.thehive.coop).







Enhanced support  
for **162** members

**£85K**



invested in  
Student  
Co-op  
Homes  
share offer



**4,387**  
resource  
downloads



**97%**



rate our advice as  
good or excellent



**87**

new co-ops  
registered

We continue to champion local ownership and local wealth-building. In 2019 we invested match funding of £693,000 in new community shares offers and issued 23 Community Shares Standard Marks.



Through the Empowering Places programme we helped establish 40 new community businesses, from a community-led regeneration business in Plymouth to a football club in Leicester.

Our development work through Empowering Places will continue after we secured the contract to be lead programme partner – valued at £1.5 million – for the next three years.

As experts in co-operative advice we produce resources which directly benefit our members and the wider movement. We recently revised the Co-operative Corporate Governance Code and published guidance on co-operative key performance indicators (KPIs).



**£693,000**

investment  
in local ownership

**23**

Community  
Shares  
Standard  
Marks



**253**

member  
co-ops  
benefited  
from  
professional  
advice and  
support



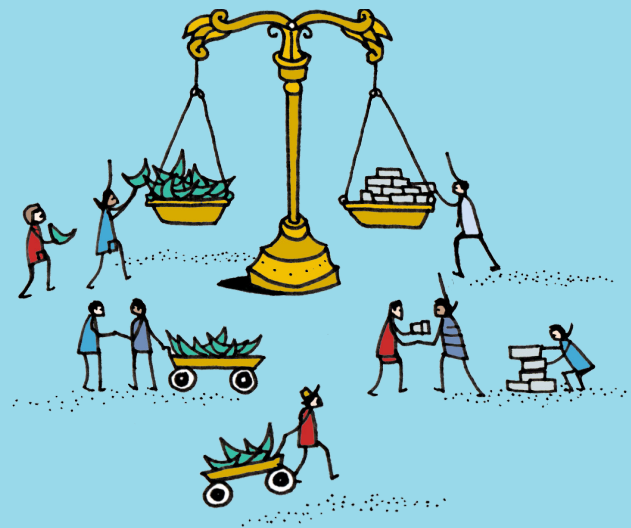
# UNITE

Our network has extended to 804 direct members, with a further 3,500 co-ops represented through federal membership, including the Association of British Credit Unions and the Unified Football Supporters' Organisation.

The co-operative values and principles bind our innovative sector together and the principle of co-operation among co-operatives flows through our extensive range of member events.

In 2019 we brought together more than 1,400 co-op members, supporters and employees to learn and share knowledge across 50 events, including national conferences, local networking and study visits.

It is you, our members, who continue to make these events a success through your willingness to share knowledge and passion for learning – and 95% of delegates rated our major conferences either good or excellent.



**1,452**  
delegates



**56** events



Brexit legislation  
**WIN** for farmers

**95%** event  
satisfaction  
rating



**THREE**  
webinars  
**126**  
participants



A growing  
network of  
**4,300**  
members



We expanded Co-op Connections, our local learning and networking programme, to 12 events in seven cities across the UK – helping more than 200 delegates come together and learn from one another.

Following member feedback we launched a series of webinars, enabling 126 co-op members and colleagues to participate in a range of subjects from sociocracy to managing conflict.

Alongside The Co-operative College and The Co-op Press, we presented the co-operative model and principles to 80 business management students. We plan to repeat this in 2020.



Uniting with our farmer members we successfully lobbied for an essential extra piece of Brexit legislation – ensuring that farmers' ability to co-operate will continue unchanged on the day we leave the EU.



**Just like your co-operative, Co-operatives UK is owned by its members. To help the co-operative movement thrive we need your participation.**

There are many ways your co-op can benefit from being a part of the UK's growing network of co-operative enterprises.

**Get involved!** Access specialist advice and support. You can help shape and drive our campaigns. You can also take advantage of unique member offers and discounted training and events.

**Visit [uk.coop](https://uk.coop) for more information or contact us on 0161 2141750 or [membership@uk.coop](mailto:membership@uk.coop).**

# *Thousands of businesses, one network*

Co-operatives UK is the network for thousands of co-operatives. We work together to promote, develop and unite member-owned businesses across the economy.

From high street retailers to community owned pubs, fan owned football clubs to farmer controlled businesses, co-operatives are everywhere and together they are worth £37.7 billion to the UK economy.

**www.uk.coop**



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