



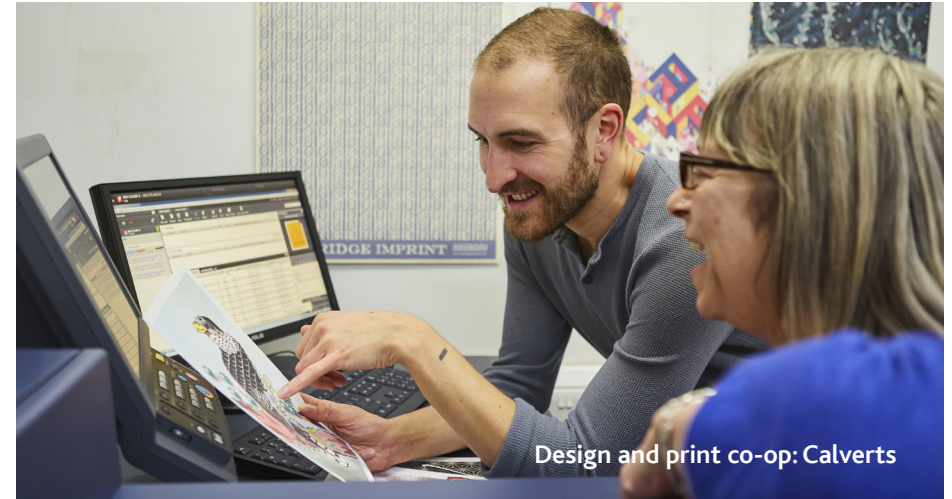
01

Your needs



What does your co-op need?

Some co-ops need business support or advice to help their organisation thrive. Others want to connect with co-ops like theirs and learn from what they do. More still want to be part of a campaigning network that raises awareness of the difference co-ops make to people's lives.



Design and print co-op: Calverts

Co-operatives UK aims to meet all those needs. We work to promote, develop and unite co-ops of all sizes, from community shops to high street retailers, and from football clubs to farmer co-ops. It is your membership of Co-operatives UK that makes all of this possible. Thank you.

In these pages we try to show how we have helped co-ops of all kinds over the last year, and what support and opportunities are available in 2018.

If you need advice you can access a host of free resources, like our 'directors toolkit' or 'anti-slavery toolkit' from our website. There's also unrivalled support on governance, membership, finance and HR for co-ops – at a fraction of the cost of other providers.

You may want to connect with like-minded individuals and organisations. We know every co-op is different, but often the issues they are dealing with are very similar.

Whether it's informally putting people in touch with one another, or through the 40 plus networking and training events we put on each year, Co-operatives UK is a way to connect with other co-ops.

Campaigning for co-ops remains incredibly important. From awareness raising activities like Co-operatives Fortnight, joining with other co-ops to lobby government for fairer treatment or bringing co-ops and MSPs together in the Scottish Parliament, together we are a voice for the UK's co-ops.

Crucially, Co-operatives UK is a co-op, owned by you. We are here to serve the needs of members so please, get involved. Make use of the advice, connect with other co-ops, take part in the lobbying – and tell us what you want us to do.

Co-operatives UK is yours.



Ed Mayo
Secretary General
Co-operatives UK



The Ceramics Studio Co-op

02

Doing it ourselves



We launched a groundbreaking strategy in 2017. Developed over two years with input from 500 co-ops, **Do It Ourselves** is a 20-year strategy to grow the UK co-op sector.



With ambitious targets, work is already underway to put co-op approaches at the forefront of critical issues facing the economy – from tackling problems like insecure work, to the social care crisis and unaffordable housing.

Our member, The Co-op, has been working closely with us to see where joint procurement might benefit the whole of the co-op sector.

We are also working with successful networks of co-ops to see how we can replicate their models to create a groundswell of interest in co-op start-ups in specific areas or sectors.

In 2018 will see these plans begin to come together, with further calls for all co-ops to identify ways they can support the growth of co-ops across the UK.

03

Advice services



We are proud to offer expert advice covering governance, membership, HR and finance. It is a fundamental role of Co-operatives UK – to help our members develop and grow. **It is what we do.**



3,828
resource
downloads

Hive support
worth **£400,000**



WE HELPED CREATE
ONE new
co-op
every **5** days



“We were supported with great advice and offered helpful resources.” Paper Rhino

We provide solutions! 144 pieces of bespoke advice directly benefited members through the Contact Package – our governance, HR, membership and finance support service – in 2017.

We provide model policies, contracts and toolkits to save members time and money. And we updated our groundbreaking governance guide, Simply Legal, to ensure our resources remain current and relevant.

Further support is provided through our HR package. Market-leading HR resources are a mouse click away, while we represent members at tribunals and provide early reconciliation solutions through our mediation work.

We also continue to champion the co-op model, helping 78 new co-ops come into existence in 2017. And we continue to develop our advice offering to best serve members' needs.

We successfully trialed a new finance training module; held a mock HR tribunal which attracted 133 delegates; and are directly serving needs by delivering member-led training.

The Hive, our business support programme funded by the Co-operative Bank, continues to support members. Advice worth more than £400,000 was accessed in 2017 while 4,000 advice resources – from expert guides to governance tools – were downloaded.

Member groups continue to be instrumental in providing those resources. The Co-operative Governance Expert Reference Panel produced a film on the make-up of a co-op board and toolkit for director recruitment, while a narrative reporting guide, on adding genuine value to your annual report, has been created by the Co-operative Performance Committee.

“The resources on The Hive are, quite frankly, invaluable.” Physio First



Contact Package

- The best support from some of the UK's leading advisers
- Covers co-operative governance, finance, HR and membership
- Legal queries dealt with by the UK's top lawyers for advising co-ops
- Priced just £200 per year



HR Package

- Expert advice on employment law
- Cost savings on market-leading HR resources
- Designed for co-ops with upwards of 10 employees
- Pay monthly option
- Contact our advice team for a quote: advice@uk.coop



The New Leaf Co-op

04

Influencing government



We lobby governments across the UK on behalf of co-ops, asking them to help create the conditions which enable co-ops to develop and thrive. We do this with the help and support of you, our members.

In 2017 we successfully lobbied the UK government to introduce legislation that will make the audit requirements fairer for growing co-ops. We also successfully argued to exempt mutual societies from the new 'persons of significant control' reporting regime. With our support MSPs have re-formed their Cross Party Group on Co-operatives in the Scottish Parliament.

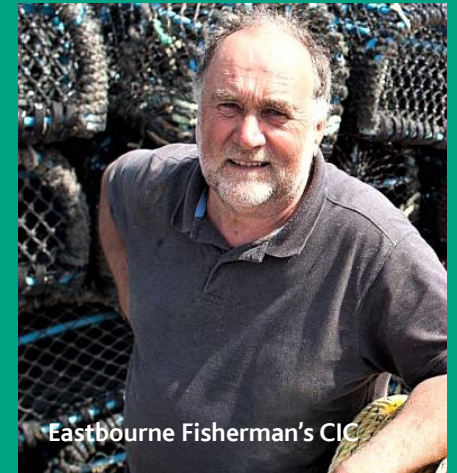
Elsewhere, we are positioning agricultural co-ops positively in the Brexit process and had detailed talks with government on the possibilities of supporting co-ops through its emergent Industrial Strategy.

Right now we are focusing on co-op law and regulation; the future of work; social care; agriculture; and community economic development.

Looking ahead, we will continue to encourage cross party support for co-ops across the UK and promote member-owned businesses in the inclusive economy agendas in Westminster and devolved nations.

We will seek broad political support for our freelancer, digital and care agendas, making the most of opportunities in government and newly empowered city regions.

We will continue to monitor the risks and opportunities in the Brexit process. We will champion community economic development among local governments. We will also bring forward detailed proposals to further improve co-op law in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



05

Spreading the word



**A vital role for
us is to raise
awareness of
the co-op way
of doing business.**

In 2017 we focused our campaigns on key UK economy sectors which would benefit from more co-operation, from insecure gig economy workers to the UK's struggling social care system.



Bristol Wood Recycling Project

The publication of our annual report on the state of the co-operative economy resulted in print and radio headlines about people turning to co-ops amidst a desire for a fairer economy.

A series of short films featuring a worker-owned bakery in Leeds, bouncer co-op in Newcastle and wood recycling project in Bristol, generated unprecedented social media interest, with hundreds of thousands of people watching inspiring films about co-ops.

Co-operatives Fortnight saw hundreds of co-ops promote co-ops. Encouraging their staff and members to take part in a campaign to share their #coopstories, together we shared more than 1,600 stories and achieved an impressive reach of five million on Twitter alone.

In 2018 we will see more concerted campaigning for co-ops as a way to address big issues facing the economy, backed up by practical support to help people develop new co-ops themselves.

06

Events and networking



**More than a
1,000 delegates
attended our
events in 2017**

**with a 98.5% satisfaction
rating from major conferences.**

An impressive 472 different organisations attended at least one of our events with focused training and local networking – as well as UK-wide conferences – contributing towards an extensive programme.

In 2018 we will continue to connect, inspire, provoke thought and provide learning through our events.

Results from our annual member survey indicate a growing interest in training delivered in-house and a desire for more flexibility over what training is offered. We have responded to those needs.

The survey also highlighted specific member training needs covering the roles of secretaries, directors and chairs as well as focused HR and finance training. These one-day training events are already in the diary at www.uk.coop/events.

Local networking remains another focus and our expanded programme takes in the UK's major cities, giving you the opportunity to connect, work with and learn from co-ops from your area.

Our major conferences will, of course, continue to offer fantastic networking opportunities while also covering the topics that matter to you and your organisation.

Dates for your diary

Co-operative Retail Conference

9-11 March, Kenilworth

Market trends, issues, opportunities and more... from a co-op retail perspective.

Worker Co-operative Weekend

11-13 May, Derbyshire

Enjoy campfires, superb food and great company at this back to basics event.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

18 May, Manchester

Co-operatives UK is owned by you and the AGM is a prime opportunity to have your say.

Congress

23 June, London

The conference focused on building a co-operative economy. Share ideas, be inspired and take action.

Practitioners Forum

22 November, Manchester

Our flagship learning event is for HR, communications, finance, governance and membership professionals.

07

Your contacts



**Remember,
Co-operatives
UK is your
co-operative.**

We are here to serve the needs of you, our members. A wealth of information covering advice, events, campaigns and more can be found at www.uk.coop. But, like all co-operatives, we have people at our heart and the human touch remains incredibly important. So we encourage you to make contact using the details opposite.

Communications

We want to hear your success stories and share them with fellow members. The communications team can also help you participate in campaigns and assist with media/communications issues. Contact Dom and Leila: dominic.mills@uk.coop, leila.osullivan@uk.coop or 0161 2141767.

Events

Details of all our events can be found at www.uk.coop/events. We can also showcase your events. Contact Leoni: leoni.merrifield@uk.coop or 0161 2141764.

General enquiries

Not sure who to speak to? Our general enquiry email is contact@uk.coop and switchboard number is 0161 2141750.

Advice and training

Our team provides professional, high quality advice, as well as ongoing guidance and training for new start and established organisations operating in the social economy. Contact a member of the advice team: advice@uk.coop or 0161 2141751.

Membership

Are you making the most of Co-operatives UK services? Our membership team is here to help, from connecting you with other co-ops to ensuring you are on the most suitable membership package. Contact membership@uk.coop or 0161 2141786.

Policy

One of our key roles is to lobby and work with governments and other decision-makers. Co-operatives operate right across the economy and offer solutions to a huge range of economic, social, cultural and environmental needs. Our policy work reflects this. Contact James: james.wright@uk.coop or 0161 2141775.

Social media

For regular updates follow [@cooperativesuk](https://twitter.com/cooperativesuk) on Twitter and find us on Facebook.

www.uk.coop/together

Thousands of businesses, one network

Co-operatives UK is the network for Britain's 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 £36 billion to the British economy.

CO-OPERATIVES UK



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Printed on
Cocoon Preprint
100% recycled paper
by Trafford Media, a
worker co-op member
of Co-operatives UK