

What did we do together?

Impact Report 2015



Promote

We are the network for Britain's thousands of co-operatives, owned by you, our members. We have made huge strides in 2015 – and you all played a part. The UK enjoys currently enjoys record numbers of member-owners at almost 15 million. Combined turnover remains on an upward trend, 15% up on 2010 levels at £37 billion. The co-operative economy remains both diverse and dynamic. Together we are stronger, together we achieve more.



Community ownership continues to gather pace. Our new Inside the Market report reveals that more than **60,000 people** have raised over

£60 MILLION

in the last five years, making community shares the fastest growing element within the alternative finance movement.

Thousands of successful businesses make up the co-operative economy. We developed and launched an open data platform so the full co-operative economy can be explored in numerous new and wonderful ways. It contributed to levels of exposure for individual co-ops and the sector as a whole, at both a national and local level, never seen before.

233 media stories

advertising value equivalent estimated at **£5.5 million**

BBC

BBC
RADIO

1

BBC
RADIO

5 live

The
Telegraph

FINANCIAL TIMES

the guardian

THE  TIMES

THE 
INDEPENDENT

Daily  Mail

We quite literally cleaned up during Co-operatives Fortnight. Thousands of co-op members took to their local parks, high streets, and even kitchen cupboards under the Big Co-op Clean campaign theme. Our members made a positive difference within their communities - and we will build on this momentum in 2016.

#Coops14
enjoyed a record
potential reach of
8.8
MILLION



“ **The Big Co-op Clean isn’t just about picking up litter, it’s about achieving more by working together. It might sound obvious, but co-operating is central to our success as a co-operative – and we are part of something much bigger happening across the UK. ”**

Gemma Lacey, Southern Co-operative

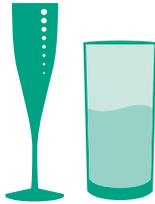
We raised the profile of co-operatives in the run up to the General Election as a leading Social Economy Alliance player. We racked up **1,565** contacts with parliamentary candidates and secured important manifesto commitments from every party.

Our intervention ensured that the **Scottish Community Empowerment Act** was amended to include community co-ops. This gives people the power to own and run local assets using the co-op model. Footy fans were also left cheering after Scottish Parliament voted to extend the 'right-to-buy' to football supporters' trusts.



Develop

We have joined forces with The Co-operative Bank to deliver a **£1 million** package of co-op support. All co-operatives, big and small, will be able to access the three-year programme and take advantage of a suite of services designed to help businesses grow.



The **Fair Tax Mark**, now taken up by some of Britain's largest companies, was pioneered by Co-operatives UK members who inspired us to gain accreditation in 2015. Co-operatives are increasingly known for paying the right amount of tax at the right time – and by securing a member discount on Fair Tax Mark accreditation we have strengthened the sector's ability to champion the cause of open and responsible business.

“ We were very pleased with the speed and thoroughness of Co-operatives UK's work – also the willingness to draft special clauses which addressed our particular needs. A major task performed with the minimum of fuss. ”

Mark Wood, Tynegrain Ltd

Our advice has helped



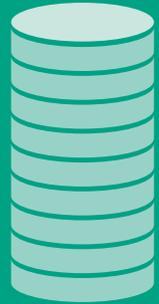
co-operatives and
mutual enterprises
improve their governance

For every £1

gifted by members for
co-op development
we raised

£30

in match-funding



Our lobbying cut the £2
million audit bill paid by
larger societies by 10%

Our members have saved and created valuable community assets, from pubs to piers and shops to solar farms. We have now launched the **Standard Mark** so share offers can demonstrate that they meet national standards of good practice.



“ Our member investors
are the lifeblood of
Shared Interest and
achieving this standard
is recognition of their
continued loyalty and
commitment. ”

Patricia Alexander, Shared Interest.

Because people are at the heart of all successful co-operative business, we have launched a new HR service. Already benefiting more than 100,000 co-op employees through high quality HR advice and support, it has saved societies £300,000 through joint purchasing of permanent health insurance.

Unite

Together we prompted the Financial Conduct Authority's major rethink over its treatment of co-operatives. The narrow definition that excluded retail societies and worker co-operatives was dropped and restrictive interest rate caps scrapped. Our combined efforts created positive change and as a sector we will **continue to guard against damaging regulation.**

Satisfaction with
Co-operatives UK events
remains high at:



“ Congress was great, Worker Co-ops Weekend was superb, legal team have been wonderfully helpful. ”

Chris Nicholl, Delta-T Devices



We have adopted the global co-operative marque as our logo to help pioneer its use in the UK. Developed by one of our members, the marque differentiates co-operatives, giving us a strong common identity. The marque has now been taken up by **210** UK co-ops and has found a home in **107** countries just two years after its launch.

“ If it had not been for the advice and support we would never have got as far as we did - in the time we did. ”

Ed Common, Liverpool Community Renewables

The strength, unity and common purpose of the community energy sector shone through in our award-winning Peer Mentoring Programme. World class support and training helped raise £1.4 million in share equity while consultancy fee savings ran into six figures.

There is no better way for people to take control of the things that matter to them than by coming together and planning how they want their local economy to work. We are helping 50 communities in England develop their plans as part of the Community Economic Development programme.

It is your membership, your involvement and your support that made our achievements and their impact in 2015 possible – and keeps the network of co-operatives alive and well.

Thank you!



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 £37 billion to the British economy.

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