

# POLICY WORKSHOP

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MANCHESTER 21-22 JUNE 2019

- ▶ Overview of our policy work
- ▶ Current campaigns
- ▶ Open discussion: views, feedback and ideas

# Mission: Advocate for public policy that creates a supportive environment for people to form and develop successful co-ops



- ▶ Balance between proactive and reactive
- ▶ Priority areas for defense and progress
  - ▶ Business environment for co-ops
  - ▶ Cross party support
  - ▶ For community, consumer, worker and farmer co-ops
- ▶ Member participation
- ▶ Evidence-based
- ▶ In Westminster, Devolved Nations and local settings

# Public policy that creates the right environment for co-op formation and development



Formation	Start-up	User-friendly frameworks	Development and resilience	End of life and after
e.g. community economic development (Communities in Charge campaign)	e.g. public commissioning of expert co-op development advice (GM Local Industrial Strategy)	e.g. accessible, straightforward registry services  e.g. fit for purpose co-operative law code	e.g. law protecting common capital  e.g. tax treatments supporting co-op investment and common wealth creation	e.g. improved insolvency framework  e.g. law protecting common capital

# CAMPAIGN: 1 MILLION OWNERS

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- ▶ Westminster Government to set ambition for 1 million employee and worker owners in the UK by 2030
- ▶ Expansion through start-ups, early evolutions and conversions
- ▶ Addressing key barriers: awareness, understanding, confidence and conviction, advice and support
- ▶ Funding in Spending Review to support LEPs and Combined Authorities to run pilots that:
  - ▶ improve awareness and practical understanding of employee and worker ownership for workers, communities, founders, business leaders and those who advise them
  - ▶ provide paid-for and subsidized expert facilitation and technical support to support conversions, start-ups and early evolutions

# CAMPAIGN: COMMUNITIES IN CHARGE

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- ▶ 25 percent of the Shared Prosperity Fund should be allocated for community economic development (CED), prioritizing the participation of people in the most deprived parts of the UK
- ▶ CED is the process through which communities become leading partners in local economic strategy and gain greater agency, ownership and control in their economic lives; using local partnerships, economic and social co-operation, ownership and control of assets and enterprise
- ▶ Widespread and properly supported CED can create very fertile conditions for co-op formation, among people who could benefit the most

# RECENT IMPACT

- ▶ Support for co-ops in Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy
- ▶ Improved FCA Mutuals registry service: accessible online register, new digital portal, abolition of annual fees
- ▶ Protecting farmers' ability to co-operate in post-Brexit competition rules
- ▶ Support for farmer co-ops in post-Brexit agricultural policy and £10 million Collaboration Fund
- ▶ Support for co-ops in Civil Society Strategy: new social sector forum in Whitehall, new support for community shares and community ownership, recognition for communities' role in local economics

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# YOUR VIEWS, FEEDBACK, IDEAS

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## ▶ Goals:

- ▶ What policies are needed to support co-op formation and development?

## ▶ Method:

- ▶ How can we make the most of member participation?
- ▶ How can we balance national and local, UK and devolved? Enabling locally-led advocacy?
- ▶ How can we cut through?
- ▶ What's the right messaging, tone?