

Your Voice

2021 Members' Council Elections

North West



The National Members' Council



Hello,

Thank you for using your vote as a Co-op Member.

In the face of immense challenge in

2020, our Co-op rose to the occasion and adapted quickly so we could feed the nation and look after our communities. I'm incredibly proud of how our Co-op has supported people through the worst of the crisis and we know that our values and our businesses will have a big part to play as we move beyond the pandemic and seek to create a fairer world.

There's real power in co-operation and despite us being apart, we've all rallied together to tackle issues that are affecting society and Council is keen to keep this momentum going. I particularly want to recognise our amazing frontline colleagues for putting our members and customers first to continue providing an excellent service; I was thrilled to hear we were increasing their pay to align to the Real Living Wage in recognition of their hard work. This is something Council has long been fighting for.

For the first time ever, we took our Join in Live events online in 2020, inviting members and customers to join us from the comfort of their own homes to find out how to get more from Co-op Membership. We had some great discussions on mobilising communities to use our new plastic film recycling scheme and ways we can continue to support people with their wellbeing, with the feedback going on to help shape plans and priorities. At last year's AGM, one of our Council Members, Kat Rose, incorporated members' views into a motion on climate change - asking the business to accelerate its plans and do more to fight it. We exist to meet the needs of our members and working together on a motion is a great example of democracy in action, so it was important to us that we involved them in our discussions and gained their thoughts and ideas for 2021's motions too. Through a survey on *Join in*, we heard that climate change remains a major concern for our members and that they would like to see us do more to tackle food poverty and support vulnerable people in our communities, so we worked with the business to draft motions in these areas for this year's AGM; if these issues matter to you, please use your vote and have your say.

In 2020, we also reached a huge milestone with our Member Pioneer programme, which was developed by Council in 2017. Now, we have 1,000 Member Pioneers connecting communities around the UK and making them better places to live, work, play and learn by locally delivering our campaigns and initiatives.

Looking to the future

This July, I'll have completed my final term as Council President, so I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our members for your continued support - you're helping us make a huge difference and shape a Co-op that's fit for the future.

Council has worked hard for and with our members since the

National Members' Council was formed in 2015 but there's still lots more to do. I'm looking forward to continuing my time as a Council Member and being a part of what happens next, especially around better representing our wonderfully diverse communities and eliminating the injustices that people are facing.

Now, it's over to you. It's time to choose who you want as a voice for you and your community at the heart of our Co-op.



Nick Crofts

President of the Members' Council



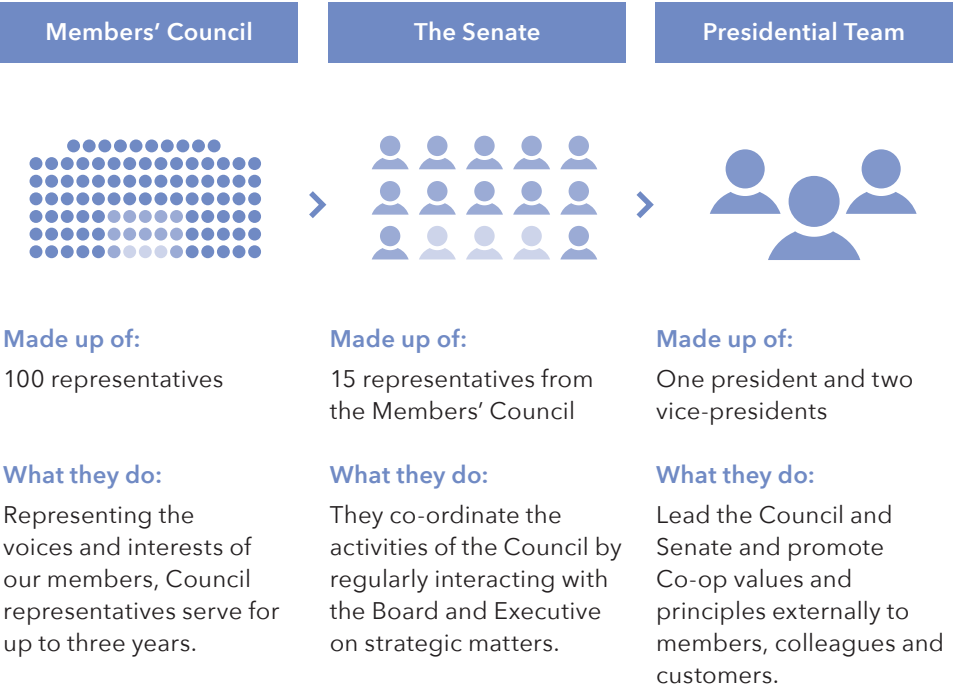
2021 Members' Council Elections

The 2021 Members' Council Elections are now open. It's important that you read this guide and use your vote. Whoever is elected will help shape our business and be your voice and representative for the next three years.

Your Members' Council is made up of 100 people from all walks of life. They include ordinary members, Colleague Members and members from other co-operative societies. Representing 13 areas across the UK they ensure millions

of members' voices are heard at the highest level by working closely with the Board.

The way your Members' Council works



Encouraging Diversity

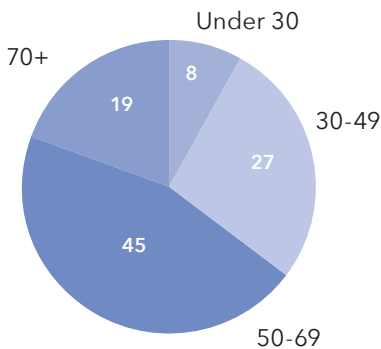
The pie charts on this page show the current diversity of our Members' Council.

Our Co-op exists to meet the needs of our members, but we know that we can only do this if we're able to represent the different voices of everyone we serve and support. That's why we're committed to improving the diversity of our Council.

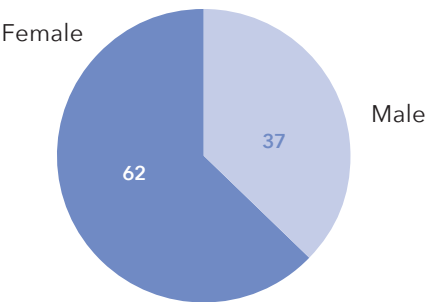
Each year we pilot new initiatives to encourage under-represented members to stand for election, whether in respect of ethnicity, age, disability, gender or any other diversity category. We ask candidates for diversity information to help measure our progress.

Diversity profile of Members' Council (as of December 2020)

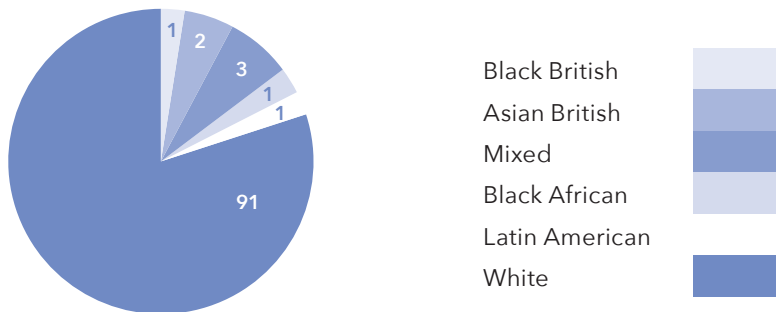
Age Profile



Gender Profile



Ethnicity



Your Constituency

Your Members' Council is made up of 100 representatives who are elected from our 13 constituencies.



Your 2021 Candidates

There are 100 seats on the Council. You're voting in the North West constituency where there are 2 vacancies. You have 7 candidates to choose from and you can vote for as many as you want.

Over the next few pages you'll see a summary of the candidates. Before you vote, read more about them by visiting **co-operative.coop/agm**. Here, you'll also find a glossary of the different terms used by candidates in their statements to describe the Co-op and the wider movement.



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Bill Lovat

Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months: Food and Insurance

Skills and experience

I've been committed to co-operative values and principles throughout my life, as well as being a member of co-operatives for decades; whether that's helping to set up local credit unions or working to develop community led housing, co-operation is central to a successful community.

Actively promoting the values of the co-operative movement is a vital role. I would work with passion on the Council to ensure we deliver on those values for all members.



Elly Robinson

Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months: Food

Skills and experience

I am a passionate supporter and long-time customer of the Co-op. As a Co-opted Council Member for the past two years, I have worked hard at the interface of the business to support and represent members within the community. If elected, I would continue to perform my role with energy, enthusiasm and integrity whilst working within local communities to make sure your voice is heard.



Robert Heys

Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months: Food

Skills and experience

I previously served on the National Members' Council after being elected in 2017. During my three-year term, I learnt so much about all things co-operative - not just within our Group, but literally all around the world. It was a genuine honour to represent our members. I would dearly love to resume playing a part in the organisation and have the opportunity to continue my own Co-op journey.



Frank Nelson

Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months: Food

Skills and experience

I'm privileged to have served you on the Members' Council for the last six years and ask for your vote.

My priorities are to ensure the Board is working in the interests of members, colleagues and pensioners - ensuring they're always treated fairly. I'm a former local councillor, Co-op Pension Fund trustee and currently a mental health act hospital manager, Labour and Co-op Party member. If you have any questions, email me anytime at: frank291250@hotmail.co.uk



Grant Wolstencroft

Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months: Food

Skills and experience

The world is volatile and dangerous. The weak suffer most.

Having stabilised commercially, the Group can now develop a vision for a better future, looking to:

Return our members, our greatest resource, to the heart of the Co-op

Help develop governmental and political policies to support and promote consumer co-operatives, especially in poorer areas.

Project co-operative values and principles into the wider world.

Please see additional information for more.



Bill White

Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months: Food

Skills and experience

The Co-op is an integral part of our communities throughout the country. I believe the Co-op makes a difference through its 3,600 locations and an extensive range of products and services. Since its founding in 1844 and by remaining faithful to its core principles, the Co-op's focus on ethical and transparent trading and reporting, and democratic accountability and participation remains strong. I would be honoured to become part of the team as a Council Member.



Deborah Sheen

Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months: Food and Insurance

Skills and experience

I've been a Council Member for the past six years and have worked hard holding the Board to account on behalf of members, after listening to their concerns around the environment, membership and products. I've worked with Member Pioneers in my community to promote local causes. I worked for the Co-op for 35 years so it's been such a huge part of my life and I would be honoured to continue to serve members.

Access for all

We can provide publications in large print, audio and other formats

If you require a copy of these documents in any other format or if you have difficulty accessing the additional information online, please email us at agm@coop.co.uk, call us on 0800 023 4708 or write to us at Co-op Membership, Department 10703, 1 Angel Square, Manchester M60 0AG.

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It's what we do