



# Your voice

2020 Members' Council Elections  
North West

# The National Members' Council

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**Hello,**

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

Over the last 12 months, we've seen the power of co-operation in action. From Co-op Members raising £17m for local causes around the UK, to colleagues supporting communities devastated by flooding with getting back on their feet, our Co-op has demonstrated just how relevant our values and difference are in today's tough society. Council Members have played a key role in shaping the Co-op's new vision and strategy, 'Co-operating for a fairer world'. I'm excited to see how we're going to continue harnessing this energy and passion for change for years to come; together, we can make great things happen.

Having heard from members that wellbeing is a big priority for them, Council voted to make this the focus for the Co-op's latest charity campaign. We want to raise plenty in 2020 and help tackle mental health issues, so we've partnered with Mind, SAMH and Inspire

to make sure that people all over the UK benefit from our fundraising. Alongside launching our new charity campaign, the Co-op's also been busy making progress with our 'Safer Colleagues, Safer Communities' campaign too. Council has continued to champion the importance of making sure that retail crime, abuse and violence is not part of the job for frontline colleagues. In 2019, we've invested in new technology, partnered with community organisations to tackle the root causes of crime and responded to a call for evidence from the Home Office, which 700 Co-op colleagues bravely helped us answer.

## **Looking to the future**

In 2019, we launched our Co-operate 2022 plan - helping to improve communities through spaces, skills and wellbeing. As part of this, we'll be recruiting more Member Pioneers and I'm looking forward to working with them to get to the heart of what matters most to our members and customers. We'll also be holding more local and large Join in Live events around the UK to better connect with our communities.

For Council as a whole, we're passionate about being a true representation of our

diverse membership and communities, and it was great to see so many new faces applying for our Members' Council this year. In 2020 and beyond, we'll explore how we can support people from all walks of life with getting involved and benefitting from what we do.

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



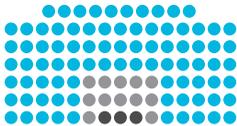
# 2020 Members' Council Elections

The 2020 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



### Members' Council

**Made up of:** 100 representatives

**What they do:** Representing the voices and interests of our members, Council representatives serve for up to three years.

### The Senate

15 representatives from the Members' Council

They co-ordinate the activities of the Council by regularly interacting with the Board and Executive on strategic matters.

### Presidential Team

One president and two vice-presidents

Lead the Council and Senate and promote Co-op values and principles externally to members, colleagues and customers.

# Your Current Representatives

To help you make a decision here's some information on your current representatives. You can see how many meetings they attended. We've also added a breakdown of the age, gender and ethnicity of the Council as a whole.

\* Co-opted Member

 Colleague

## Your Current Representatives

	Possible	Actual
Jan Barnett	5	3
Nick Crofts	5	5
Rebecca Hamilton	5	3
Robert Heys	5	5
Lois McClure 	5	4
Mary McGuigan	5	3
Frank Nelson	5	5
Alan Sandham	5	5
Debbie Sheen 	5	5
Elly Robinson *	3	2
Chames Eddine Zaimeche *	5	2

## Encouraging Diversity

The Members' Council believes diversity enhances co-operation. We're committed to encouraging a diverse range of members to stand for election to co-operative bodies.

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

## Diversity profile of Members' Council (as of December 2019)

### Age Profile

Under 30	7
30-49	24
50-69	49
70+	19

### Gender Profile

Male	43
Female	56

### Ethnicity of your representatives

Ethnicity White	90
Mixed	6
Any other ethnic group	1
Black British	2

# Your 2020 Candidates

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There are 100 seats on the Council. You're voting in the North West constituency where there are 3 vacancies. You have 25 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](http://co-operative.coop/agm).



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Member Pioneer



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## Stefan Cholewka

**Occupation** Community Tutor

**Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months** Insurance  
**Skills and experience**

A creatively ambitious and visionary leader, with extensive experience in higher/adult/further education and third sector consortia development. Previously United Co-op Ltd Central Members Relations Committee - 2007-2009. Determined to deliver the very best content for clients in the most beneficial and engaging way; with a real interest in how co-operative education and learning can improve quality of life.



## Jo Dixon

**Occupation** Head of Data Management

**Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months** Food and Electrical

**Skills and experience**

I'm a customer, member and colleague of Co-op and passionately live our values every day. They're the heart of everything I do and everything I stand for. All I've ever wanted to do was make a difference and I believe working for Co-op allows me to do that, in our business and in our communities. I'd like to take that a step further and secure a place on the Members' Council to increase that impact.

Colleague Member



## Elsa Parker

**Occupation** Community & Membership Specialist

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

**Skills and experience**

My pride in Co-op stems from our difference; ethics and sustainability, One Member, One vote and our positive impact in local communities. My 14 years as a colleague have cemented my genuine passion for community as demonstrated in my roles in the RSC and as a Member Pioneer. Co-op values and principles are fundamental to me professionally and personally, I would love the chance to help ensure these remain at the heart of business decisions.

Colleague Member & Member Pioneer



**President of the Council**  
**Current Council Member**

## Nick Crofts

**Occupation** Charity Executive

**Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months** Food and Funeralcare

### **Skills and experience**

Champion of our members, proud of our colleagues, I've had the privilege of serving as President of the Council since 2015. I always champion the interests of members, and I'm so proud of our amazing colleagues: they are our Co-op's biggest asset. Day in day out, our colleagues go the extra mile for members. Our Values and Principles are our Co-op difference and we must put them at the heart of all we do.



## Barbara Bartley

**Occupation** Exam Invigilator

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

### **Skills and experience**

As a Mother and Grandmother I am keen to support and promote the ethos of the Co-op, that of people being of more value than profits, for future generations to experience. I have a good sound education and administration skills. I have been a small business owner and understand the needs of commitment to a cause. To sum up I want to contribute to ensure the Co-op remains a big brand with a big heart.



## Mike Forbes

**Occupation** Part-time Management Consultant

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

### **Skills and experience**

As a Director and Managing Director of SMEs for 40 years I am now semi-retired. I now assist small local businesses with marketing and business strategies. I have also been a school governor. I believe the democratic and equality values of the Co-op, and the principles of openness, education and local community involvement are essential attributes of a business that cares. I would like to contribute to these, and have the time to do so.



## David Bowler

**Occupation** Retired Project Manager

**Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months** Food  
**Skills and experience**

I live close and shop every day at the local Co-op food store, I believe in the values and ethics of the Co-op, Fairtrade and better prices for the end consumer. I feel I will be a good candidate with a vast knowledge of finances and the construction industry. In my 20 years working with an Electrical supplier Industry and 10 years as a director of my own company. Please consider my application.



## Nicola Chamberlain

**Occupation** Community Matron NHS

**Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months** Food  
**Skills and experience**

Lifetime background of supporting British farmers within close family and friends. Knowledge and understanding of maintaining standards and profitability of dairy and arable farming. Experience of nursing management across many disciplines such as HMP, Police, Ministry of Defence and NHS with over 20 years experience as a registered nurse accountable for the care and management of patients abiding by the Nursing and Midwifery Council Code of Conduct.



## Kathy Morse

**Occupation** Special Needs Teaching Assistant

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

**Skills and experience**

I have been a special needs teaching assistant for 20 years and have dealt with very difficult teenagers as I work in secondary school. I have an outstanding reputation within Salford Council in my role. I always strive to come up with a solution to problems, I am a very practical and organised person.



## Richard Williams

**Occupation** Retired

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

### **Skills and experience**

I am putting myself forward as a candidate because I believe I am able to bring experience of working in the public eye, in public houses, clubs and a small hotel. I am also a volunteer governor with the Tameside and Glossop Integrated Health Authority.



## Simon Butler

**Occupation** Semi-retired

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

### **Skills and experience**

I have lived in Leyland, Lancashire, since 1977, and have shopped at my local Co-op in Leyland for many years. I have found the quality of the food sold to be good, and prices good value. I also like the loyalty inspiring cashback scheme, which adds to the value, and the fact that the Co-op produces its own brand of many foods which are cheaper than the big names.



## Lindsay Ponsillo

**Occupation** Self Employed

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

### **Skills and experience**

I have experience from my previous roles in Marketing and Business development in a global organisation that I could apply to this role, whilst ensuring the Board makes the right decisions for the business and its members. On a personal level as a mum of 2 children it is important we all act and embrace equality and difference and drive for change in our local communities to make them a better place to live.



## Michelle Heaton-Bentley

**Occupation** Post-graduate Student

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

### **Skills and experience**

I've been a member of the Co-op for nearly seven years and I am also a member of the Co-operative Party. I am currently a post-graduate student at the University of Central Lancashire researching the history of the Co-operative movement and the vital role that the Co-op has played in the lives of women. The Co-op has become an important part of my life and I would love the opportunity to become further involved.



## Steven Howarth

**Occupation** Chartered Accountant

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

### **Skills and experience**

I am an active member of the local community, a school governor and founding trustee/company director of a multi-academy trust serving 3 local schools in the North Manchester area. My wife runs local community Rainbows units and I help out with administration. In short I feel a sense of public duty to serve the community I live in and the Co-op has that ethos at its heart. A chartered accountant, with extensive financial management experience.



## Grant Wolstencroft

**Occupation** Retired Planner and Lecturer

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

### **Skills and experience**

The Group offers an alternative to people and communities excluded by mainstream democracy and economy. If elected I would work hard to help the Group achieve its potential through; reinforcing Values and Principles; acting locally; involving colleagues, members and communities; developing fruitful partnerships; and being forward-looking and innovative. The Group has stabilised and is leader of the UK Co-operative Movement but is severely challenged by competition, new technology, and a volatile world. Please contact [grantw2000@gmail.com](mailto:grantw2000@gmail.com)



Current Council Member

## Robert Heys

**Occupation** Operations Manager

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

### **Skills and experience**

I am coming to the end of an incredible first term on the National Members' Council, during which time I have learnt so much about all things co-operative – not just within our group, but literally all around the world. It has been a true honour to represent our members, and I would dearly love to continue to play my part in our organisation, and have the opportunity to continue my own personal Co-op journey.



## Jane Parkinson

**Occupation** Retired

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

### **Skills and experience**

I would welcome the opportunity to become a Council member and support the Co-op to continue to achieve high ethical and sustainable standards, helping make our local communities safer and stronger and to represent my local Co-op members in holding the Board to account. As a long standing member and supporter of its ethos, I believe my personal values and skills align well to this role.



## Stephanie Bennett

**Occupation** Manager

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

**Skills and experience**

Living in rural Cumbria, I recognise the essential role the Co-op offers helping small communities survive and thrive - we have elderly residents with limited transport access relying on Co-ops daily for essentials, tasty treats and social contact. I totally support Co-op's commitment to community and local good causes and their principles of Fairtrade. I will work with Co-op to further reduce environmental impact through minimising packaging and food waste, for a more sustainable future.



## Sue Barker

**Occupation** Supply Teacher

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

**Skills and experience**

As a Member Pioneer in Lancashire I am proud of the difference the support of the Co-op makes to communities and individuals. Co-op principles are as relevant today as in 1844. I am the mother of two young adults, a supply teacher. I have worked in retail, for the CWS, the local council and as a volunteer with community groups. My twitter tag is @RibbleValleysue which will provide more information about my interests.

**Colleague - Member  
Pioneer**



## Tom Stammer

**Occupation** Legal Health and Safety Coordinator

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

### **Skills and experience**

I'm a family man living in a rural area where the Co-op is our local supplier. It has always been part of my life, we shopped there as a child - I saved the stamps! I care about people less fortunate than myself; I believe in access to quality/fresh and excellent value products, environmentally produced by local people. Vote Tom, I commit to keeping the Co-op's focus on local produce/suppliers, affordable products and community support.



## Carol Edwards

**Occupation** Retired

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

### **Skills and experience**

I carry out various voluntary roles, for example, school governor, trustee of an educational foundation, member of an ethics committee, and others. I was a social work assistant, a probation officer and a Cafcass officer throughout my working life. I support the values and principles of the Co-op and I would welcome the opportunity to use my professional and personal experience in planning for the future of the organisation.



## Bill Lovat

**Occupation** Regional Housing Director

**Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months** Food  
**Skills and experience**

I've been a Co-op member for many years and I want to support the Co-op in helping communities to be successful and stronger together. I've volunteered and worked with a lot of community projects and social enterprises, all focused on increasing the opportunities, skills and confidence of everyone involved. I would actively support the wider membership by ensuring the business continues to operate based on our shared values and mission.



## Howard Ballard

**Occupation** Councillor

**Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months** Food  
**Skills and experience**

I am the local Member Pioneer for Thornton-Cleveleys and Fleetwood over the last two years. As part of my role I work closely with the community. I have engaged with the residents to look at ways to improve in areas of interest on social isolation, mental health, wellbeing and open space. I will be able to help the Board's ethical stance to improve everyone's wellbeing. Please support me, to support you on the Council.

**Colleague - Member  
Pioneer**



## Andrew Wilson

**Occupation** Manchester Airport Transformation Ambassador  
**Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months** Food  
**Skills and experience**

In my role as a Transformation Ambassador for Manchester Airport, I introduce my colleagues to change. I want to be part of the continuation of change at the Co-op, ensuring that I can help facilitate the healthy organic growth of the organisation.



## Rebecca Hamilton

**Occupation** Business Auditor  
**Co-op Businesses traded with in last 12 months** Food  
**Skills and experience**

I have been a Co-op employee and member for over 20 years. I am a Chartered Certified Accountant, having worked for the Co-op's Internal Audit department, gaining an overview of all the Co-op's business activities, products and services and their commercial impact within the retail sector. My Board experience includes National Members' Council as an employee representative; Co-op Credit Union and Co-operatives UK and am involved in local Rochdale community activities.

**Current Council Member**

# Your Constituency

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





It's what we do

## 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 trouble accessing the additional information online, please email us at [councilelections@coop.co.uk](mailto:councilelections@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**