

**CO-OPERATIVES UK**

# **UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES 2025**

13 February 2025

Rose Marley



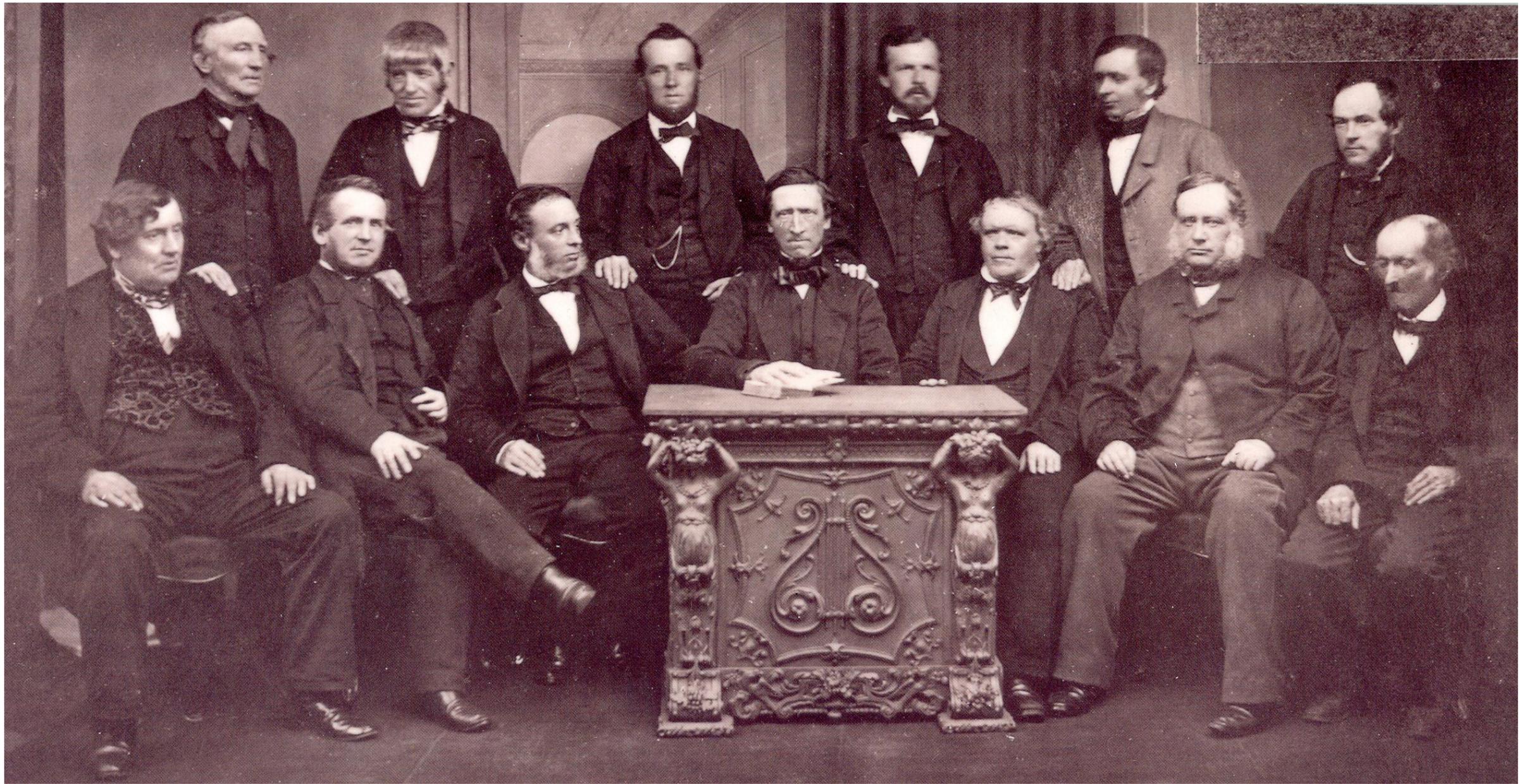


# International Year of Cooperatives

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Cooperatives Build  
a Better World





A large red graphic with a circular cutout showing a woman in a red sari filling a blue plastic bag with pink flowers. The text "Cooperatives Build a Better World" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font in the upper left. Below it is a circular logo with stylized figures and the year "2025". At the bottom, the text "International Year of Cooperatives" is written in white, sans-serif font.

**Cooperatives  
Build  
a Better  
World**

2025

International Year  
of Cooperatives



## MEET THREE CO-OP HEROES

There are great examples of how co-operatives **Build a Better World** – here are just three.

They're not alone. There are 15 million memberships of co-operatives in the UK – 250,000 people work for one!

But only half the country knows anything about us. Many of them think "the co-op" is just a shop. They don't see the more than 7,000 of co-operatives existing in communities across the UK.

**We're sitting on the greatest stories never told.**

Ellie, The Developer Society



Olivia, 8th Day Co-operative



Buncey, Suma Wholefoods



CO-OPERATIVES UK

# WE CAN BE HEROES

Telling co-operative stories



## AUDIENCE FIRST

**When you're telling stories, they're about people.**

We don't tell stories about projects, places or principles unless they're brought to life by people. Writing lists of facts, opinions, or mission statements about your co-operative doesn't work. It feels like asking your audience to do homework.

Remember, you're trying to reach out beyond your colleagues, family and friends. You need to reach people who don't know what you do.

You have to find a good story. You need a Hero to focus on.

"Ah", you say, "but the *community* is the hero of this story."

Sorry, that doesn't work as a story. Your audience will struggle to form a deep emotional connection with a large group of people. We connect one-to-one.

**Remember:** you're writing for busy people who don't know what you do. And they won't care either, unless you make them.

So give them someone to care about. Give them a Hero.



HERO



STORY TELLER



AUDIENCE

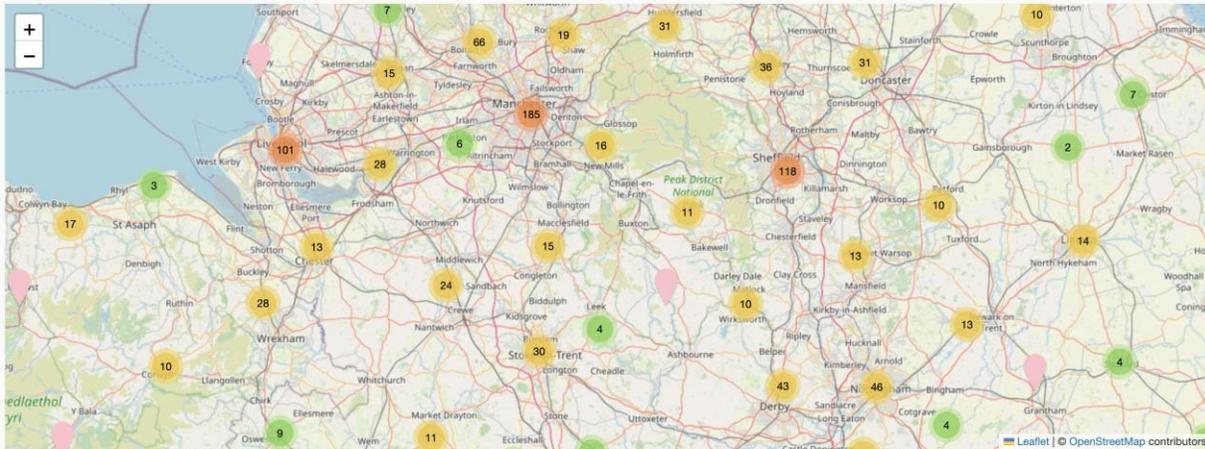


### GET INVOLVED WITH IYC2025!

Access the latest resources and opportunities to get involved in the UN International Year of Co-operatives 2025: [www.uk.coop/lyc](http://www.uk.coop/lyc)



## Cooperative World Map



Search

Filter by  
(+) Expand all  
(-) Collapse all  
Categories

Displaying 1 - 12 of 7232

-  **241 Co-operators**  
1 Waterloo Bank  
Old Town, Hebden Bridge  
Providing development support
-  **3F Co-operative**  
6 Stafford Court  
Stafford Road, Croydon
-  **4 Seasons (Hull)**  
C/O Sandhill Garden Centre  
Wyton Road  
Preston, Hull
-  **8th Day Co-operative**  
107-111 Oxford  
Road, Manchester  
8th Day Co-operative exists to



**CO-OPERATIVES UK**

# CO-OP CONGRESS

4-5 July  
Rochdale Town Hall



**Co-operatives UK** @CooperativesUK Promote

**#Mondaymotivation:** Your community can start a co-op! 🌟

We've got a huge range of community co-ops within our membership at Co-operatives UK, & we can help you start your own!

Take Wedmore Village Farm for example! A market garden with tons of projects for local people...



10:00 AM · Sep 2, 2024 · 743 Views

# OURBUSINESS<sup>GM</sup>

Empowering the social economy: Greater Manchester's Hub

GREATER MANCHESTER

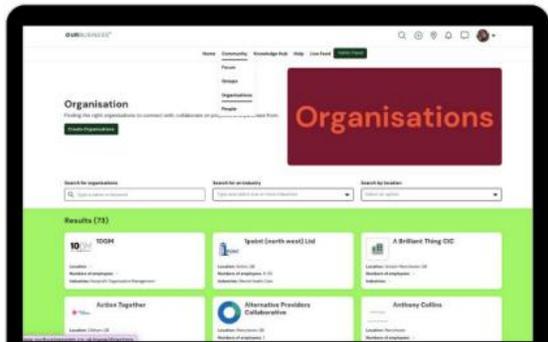
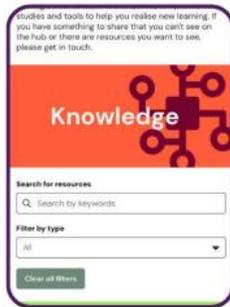
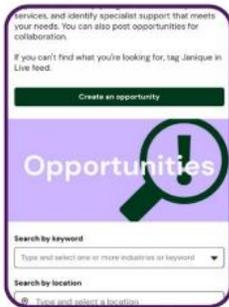
10GM

A joint venture to support the new VCSE sector in Greater Manchester

CO-OPERATIVES UK

Funded by UK Government

LEVELLING UP



# Sharing Knowledge Building Community Offering Help

# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES 2025

Co-operatives UK will unite the UK movement behind the UN International Year of Co-operatives 2025.

We will also connect the UK government's 'doubling the size' ambitions with the global movement.



International Year  
of Cooperatives



More: [CUK IYC activity](#)

# INFLUENCING POLICY

## CO-OPERATIVE GROWTH

## LAW COMMISSION

## MUTUALS BUSINESS COUNCIL



### Exclusive: Reeves to reveal new mutual council with Nationwide and Co-op

 Charlie Conchie  
City Editor

Share



# JULY

- 2<sup>nd</sup> July: General Assembly Manchester
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July: Festival of Co-operation
- 4<sup>th</sup> July: UK Congress and International Supper
- 5<sup>th</sup> July: UK Congress, National Youth Summit and International Day of Co-operatives

# CO-OP FORTNIGHT, 23 JUNE-6 JULY 2025

Every year, hundreds of co-ops and organisations across the UK work together to celebrate and promote co-ops during Co-op Fortnight.

This year, the campaign will heavily feature the IYC.

The campaign is coordinated by CUK and brought to life by our members.



**CO-OPERATIVES UK**

**CO-OPERATIVES BUILD A BETTER WORLD**



# THE DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY

CO-OPERATIVES UK

**£165.7bn** income



**68.8m** memberships



**1.3m** employees



**9,342** businesses



CO-OPERATIVE AND MUTUAL  
EC@NOMY 2024 

# CO-OPERATIVES UK

**7,370**

Independent co-ops  
in the UK



**15.0  
MILLION**

Memberships



**£42.7  
BILLION**

Annual income



**CO-OPERATIVE AND MUTUAL  
ECONOMY 2024**



# WHY CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS?

Co-operatives and mutuals contribute £165.7bn to UK economy:

- They boost productivity per worker by between 8-12%
- Building society members received **£1.5billion more in savings interest** than from major banks
- Mutual insurers and friendly societies manage **assets of over £200 billion**
- The average annual turnover in a UK co-operative (£5.4m) is **seven times greater** than the average turnover in UK business generally (£0.7m)



# CO-OPS EXIST ACROSS ALL SECTORS

<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Arts and culture</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Energy and environment</b> 	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Food service and pubs</b> 	<b>Health and social care</b>
<b>482</b> Co-ops	<b>189</b> Co-ops	<b>143</b> Co-ops	<b>238</b> Co-ops	<b>303</b>  Co-ops	<b>428</b> Co-ops	<b>314</b>  Co-ops	<b>116</b> Co-ops
<b>£9.7bn</b>  Income	<b>£11.9m</b>  Income	<b>£10.5m</b>  Income	<b>£621.3m</b>  Income	<b>£45.2m</b>  Income	<b>£337.1m</b>  Income	<b>£51.0m</b>  Income	<b>£184.8m</b>  Income
<b>Housing</b>	<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>Social clubs and trade unions</b>	<b>Professional and legal services</b>	<b>Retail</b>	<b>Sports and recreation</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>762</b> Co-ops	<b>76</b> Co-ops	<b>2,445</b> Co-ops	<b>143</b> Co-ops	<b>765</b> Co-ops	<b>563</b> Co-ops	<b>34</b> Co-ops	<b>351</b> Co-ops
<b>£690.9m</b>  Income	<b>£472.6m</b>  Income	<b>£520.1m</b> Income	<b>£93.7m</b> Income	<b>£28.8bn</b>  Income	<b>£894.7m</b>  Income	<b>£8.8m</b>  Income	<b>£193.6m</b> Income

**CO-OPERATIVES UK**

# **BUSINESS SUPPORT IMPACT REPORT**



# BUSINESS SUPPORT

Since 2016, The Co-operative Bank has funded our Business Support programme:

- 4,000+ groups have benefited from a range of support – from consultancy, registration, or free webinars and events
- 500 groups have been offered direct support for their co-operative, to start or grow
- 45% of all co-operatives registered in the UK since 2020 have incorporated using our online registration too
- +80% of co-operatives receiving direct business support are still trading



More: [Impact Report](#)

# SUPPORTING FAIR AND ETHICAL BUSINESS TOGETHER

Programme Impact Report  
2016-2024



SUPPORTING FAIR AND ETHICAL BUSINESS TOGETHER

CO-OPERATIVES UK

The **co-operative** bank



# CO-OPERATIVE GROWTH STRATEGY

January 2025



## Summary

We have a historic opportunity to unlock rapid co-operative growth in the UK. In doing so we can address major societal challenges, including the need for inclusive growth and the climate emergency.

The UK government's manifesto pledge to 'double the size of the co-operative sector' is ambitious, but with the right condition in place, is certainly achievable.

Co-operatives UK has an important role to play in helping the sector and government work in partnership to deliver co-operative growth. This Co-operative Growth Strategy sets out how we will do this.

Our strategy identifies **eight national-level growth opportunity areas** where there is evidenced potential to unlock high-impact co-operative growth. In each area, collaborative effort is needed to create the conditions for high-impact co-operatives to form and for existing co-operatives to thrive and reach their potential.

Co-operatives UK aims to work with partners to play a leading role in policy development and delivery, in four opportunity areas:

- **Community co-operation**
- **Food system**
- **Digital**
- **Public services**

We will also play a supporting role, to varying degrees, in another four opportunity areas: **worker co-operation, net zero, housing** and **financial services**.

We will work with partners and government to optimise the following cross-cutting enablers:

- **Co-operative development**
- **Finance and capital raising**
- **Our in-house expertise**
- **Tech and digital**
- **Rules of the game**
- **Education and training**
- **Policy development process**
- **Evidence and insight**

While the national picture is important, the specific opportunities, barriers and enablers will vary between places. A key principle of this strategy is to encourage and support local action to enable co-operative growth.

While this strategy is animated by a step-change in ambition at the UK level, Wales and Scotland already have more developed policy and practice to enable co-operative growth. We must learn from what has worked there, while supporting further ambition and impact in all nations of the UK.

Delivery is dependent on securing new funding, strengthening partnerships, having a strong core business and building our skills and expertise.



# Councils' Cooperative Development Toolkit

A Toolkit to help Councils grow the number of cooperatives in their local area





AIM

**BY INSPIRING EVERYONE TO BE A  
MEMBER OF A CO-OP, AND EVERY  
CO-OP TO BE ONE OF OUR MEMBERS,  
WE WILL HELP CREATE A FAIRER  
SOCIETY TOGETHER.**



# THANK YOU

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