

CO-OPERATIVES UK

UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES 2025

13 February 2025

Rose Marley





International Year of Cooperatives

Cooperatives Build
a Better World









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



Buncey, Suma Wholefoods



Olivia, 8th Day Co-operative



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.



HERO



STORY
TELLER



AUDIENCE

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.

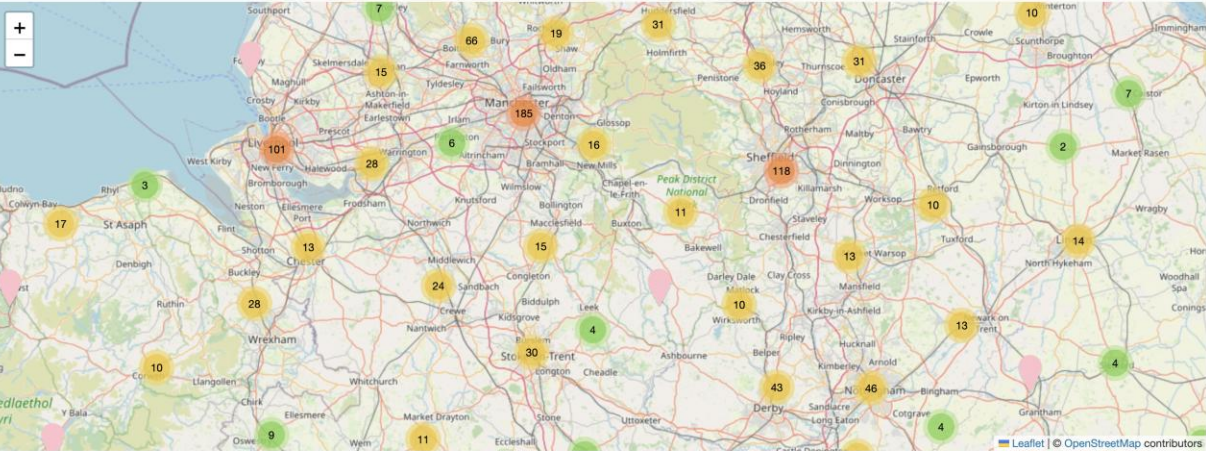


GET INVOLVED WITH IYC2025!

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



Cooperative World Map



Search

Apply

Filter by

(+) Expand all
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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^{GM}

Empowering the social economy: Greater Manchester's Hub

GREATER
MANCHESTER

10GM

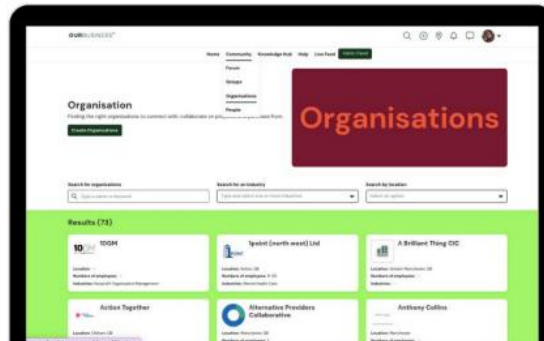
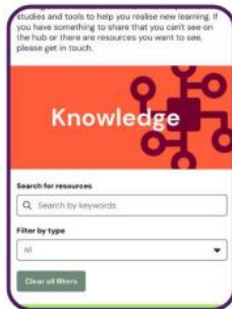
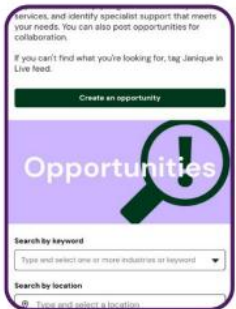
A joint venture to
support the new
VCS sector in
Greater Manchester

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

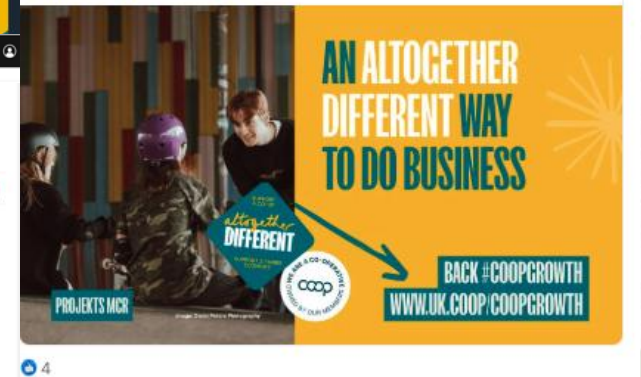
- 2nd July: General Assembly Manchester
- 3rd July: Festival of Co-operation
- 4th July: UK Congress and International Supper
- 5th July: UK Congress, National Youth Summit and International Day of Co-operatives

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
EC@NOMY 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

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



ADUR DISTRICT
COUNCIL

**Barking &
Dagenham**



Councils' Cooperative Development Toolkit

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



**Sunderland
City Council**





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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