



# Your voice

2020 Members' Council Elections  
South 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



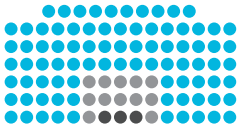
# 2020 Members' Council Elections

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

### The Senate

### Presidential Team

**Made up of:**

100 representatives

15 representatives from the Members' Council

One president and two vice-presidents

**What they do:**

Representing the voices and interests of our members, Council representatives serve for up to three years.

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

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

**C** Colleague

## Your Current Representatives

	Possible	Actual
Scott Allen <b>C</b>	5	5
Heather Baker	5	4
Sue Body	5	5
Marlene Corbey	5	5
Michael Harriott	5	4
Susan Milestone	5	2
Sandra Mitchell <b>C</b>	5	4
David Stanbury	5	5
Andrew Wade	5	5
Geoff Wood <b>C</b>	5	4
Carolyn Boyce * <b>C</b>	3	3
Sofy Crew *	3	3

## 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 South West constituency where there are 4 vacancies. You have 27 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](https://co-operative.coop/agm)**.





**Scott Allen**

Page 16

**Current Council  
Member**

**Colleague Member**



**Daniel Beare**

Page 10



**Tanya  
Brownridge**

Page 15



**Jonathan  
Charlesworth**

Page 16



**Craig Clarke**

Page 12

**Colleague Member**



**Kevan Cook**

Page 9



**Marlene  
Corbey**

Page 13

**Current Council  
Member**



**James Craigie**

Page 10



**Simon Crew**

Page 10



**Sean  
Edward-Playne**

Page 11



**Irene Ermelli**

Page 14



**Rob  
Hannaford**

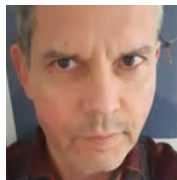
Page 11



**Michael  
Harriott**

Page 11

**Current Council  
Member**



**Jens Haus**

Page 17



**Stephen  
Hennessy**

Page 17



**Nicola Huckerby**

Page 15



**Paul Johnson**

Page 13



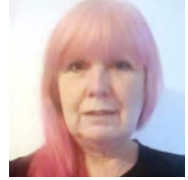
**John Lake**

Page 12



**Brian McAuley**

Page 14



**Sandra Mitchell**

Page 14

**Current Council Member**

**Colleague Member & Member Pioneer**



**Clive Moore**

Page 13



**Andrew Mullen**

Page 15



**Stephen Oliver**

Page 9



**Julia Schlotel**

Page 9

**Colleague Member**



**Graham Slack**

Page 17



**Mark Smith**

Page 12



**Ekaterina Vasileva**

Page 16





## Kevan Cook

**Occupation** Retired Marine Biologist

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

Hello, I'm Kevan and support the Co-op and its core principles. In particular, funding local community groups and the reduction of unnecessary packaging and plastic waste. I volunteer at The Acorn Theatre in Penzance and as a driver for Volunteer Cornwall. Although now retired, I trained as a marine biologist and have excellent organisational skills, honed managing and delivering several projects. If successful, I will bring this knowledge and passion to the role.



## Julia Schlotel

**Occupation** Team Leader

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

**Skills and experience**

I'm committed to the values of Co-op and want to help strengthen and spread them, encouraging awareness in all.

Colleague Member



## Stephen Oliver

**Occupation** Retired Deputy Head

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

I've shopped at Co-op all my life. My mum and sister worked on the check-out for over 30 years. It isn't an ordinary shop; it has standing when compared to other supermarkets. As a retired Deputy-Head and part-time Inspector, I'm used to people and optimism! I do voluntary work taking Plymouth children sailing and teaching in Uganda and Nepal. I believe I have the skills, enthusiasm and judgement to do a good job for members.



## Daniel Beare

**Occupation** Senior Project Manager

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

### **Skills and experience**

As a user of a local Co-op store for nearly four years I have seen the great work that the Co-op undertake within the local community and I am proud to be part of the local community helping causes that directly impact the local area. I'd love to help shape the future strategy and vision of the Co-op to ensure this valuable work continues.



## James Craigie

**Occupation** Horticulture

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

### **Skills and experience**

As a Co-operator, Co-op Party member and trade unionist with Unite Community, I know how important it is to safeguard the values of the Co-operative movement while adapting to the modern environment. In my industry of horticulture, we have to understand how things grow and eventually bloom if we get all the elements right. Any co-operative is the same, I see the role of the Co-op Group as the shop window of the whole movement.



## Simon Crew

**Occupation** Data Rights Handler

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

### **Skills and experience**

Standing to be a strong Co-operative voice with experience of representing Bristol members who elected me to Area Committees for 19 years. A co-operator all my life currently Joint-Secretary of National Federation of Progressive Co-operators. The Co-op must go back to its roots with local democratic structures and meaningful engagement with members to survive and grow. Co-operative values must be central to the business. I offer dedication and commitment and ask for your support.



## Rob Hannaford

**Occupation** Councillor

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

Many years in the retail sector. Management roles and USDAW representative. Co-operative Party member. A Councillor since 1995. Exeter City Council since 2004 , nine years' service as a Portfolio Holder. Devon County Council since 2005 ,Group Leader, Chair of Children's Scrutiny. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority member, Chair of the Human Resources and Development Committee. Charity volunteer and former school governor. Rural issues. Committed to a successful, ethical, sustainable, and profitable Co-op.



## Michael Harriott

**Occupation** Charity Volunteer

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

**Skills and experience**

I am a passionate believer in the Co-operative business model. As a member of the National Members' Council, I have used my skills, knowledge and experience to ensure that it succeeds in putting the owner's voice at the heart of our Co-op. I'm the Chair of Clevedon Community Bookshop Co-operative; putting principles into practice. My blog <http://coopsw.blogspot.co.uk> regularly keeps members informed about my contribution to the Co-op Council's activities. Thank you for your support.

**Current Council Member**



## Sean Edward-Playne

**Occupation** Civil Servant

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

I have forged a Civil Service career as an ambassador for diversity, and a spokesperson for our ethical Code, helping those who see injustice and wrong doing to find their voice and speak up, and in turn become advocates for others to do the same. My success at this I believe, lies in my passionate belief that we can all make a difference, and nobody's contribution need be of any less value than anybody elses.



Colleague Member

## Craig Clarke

**Occupation** Customer Team Member

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

### Skills and experience

Crucially I believe work is good for everyone, regardless of personal obstacles. I believe the Co-op can provide work for all abilities provided good will is shown. I believe the Co-op can stay competitive by being cooperative. I believe our pensions need to be protected. Those are the main reasons I would like to be a member of the Council and would be very grateful for your vote. Thank you.



## John Lake

**Occupation** Nurse

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

### Skills and experience

My professional Job is to ensure that people living with dementia are nursed to the highest standards of care, as often these people are unable to voice their needs. I am the voice of Staff Council ensuring that all staff are looked after in the best possible ways. I meet with management regularly to ensure best practice is maintained for all staff at all times. I passionately believe in Ensuring Highest Quality Standards.



## Mark Smith

**Occupation** Chief Engineer

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

### Skills and experience

I am a professional Senior Engineering Manager providing over 30 years' engineering and business experience in both the defence and commercial sectors. I bring an open and enthusiastic personality with discipline for governance and organisational transparency. I am a firm believer in the Co-op values and principles, and fully support my local food store and all the high-street stores that are invaluable to their communities. I will ensure that members' interests are represented.



## Paul Johnson

**Occupation** Principal Specialist

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

### Skills and experience

Passionate supporter of the Co-op's democratic, ethical, quality and community values. Strong experience of developing and leading national public interest projects in the government sector. I've worked both in task and finish groups and as part of large teams. I feel the human side of our business is fundamental. Want to find ways for our stores to source even fresher fruit and veg etc in more remote areas like Devon and Cornwall, where I live.



## Marlene Corbey

**Occupation** Retired

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

### Skills and experience

I joined The Co-op 1976 and shop regularly with Co-op Food, Insurance, Phone-coop, Energy and E-store. Elected 2009, I have represented our members on local and national committees. Working extensively, with food and Funeralcare across Wiltshire, I have engaged with our members, encouraging, building confidence and raising awareness of the potential of their influence. By identifying members' priorities, both personal and for their communities, we can ensure every voice is heard, employees, members and customers.

**Current Council Member**



## Clive Moore

**Occupation** Retired

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

### Skills and experience

I am an active volunteer in the local community, mainly involved in hospital transport, four days a week. I have served as a member of Great Western Trains Pension Committee, six years. I have a desire to bring my local community and surrounding area together in many ways, to uphold and to be involved in the principles of the Co-op. Especially the youth who so often get overlooked and their voices not heard.



## Brian McAuley

**Occupation** Semi-retired Volunteer

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

### Skills and experience

I have been a Co-op member for many years and also bank with the Co-op. I have experience in monitoring budgets and following objectives. I support the Fairtrade ethos of the Co-op and actively choose the recipients of the good causes. I have been a school governor at my children’s primary school. I have been a trade unionist all my working life and stood, unsuccessfully, for the Labour Party at the district Council elections.



**Current Council Member  
Colleague Member &  
Member Pioneer**

## Sandra Mitchell

**Occupation** Customer Team Leader

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

### Skills and experience

I grew up in Gloucestershire, in a working class family. I moved to Cornwall 29 years ago. I’m married with 6 children, 9 grandchildren and hold very strong family values. I’ve worked for Co-op for 14 years, Usdaw representative for 4 years and Member Pioneer for 3 years, Deputy Mayor and Sunday School teacher. My passion is to help my local community and to uphold the values and principles of the Co-op.



## Irene Ermelli

**Occupation** Teacher

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

### Skills and experience

A retired Teacher from full-time education (in the subjects of Performing Arts, Theatre and English) I still teach small groups in yoga/pilates and confidence building skills. I enjoy playing tennis, golf, walking and reading (a variety of different genres). My 35 years’ experience of working with colleagues, parents and students, most of those as Head of Department, have enabled me to manage the many problems that arise in day-to-day as well as policy making decisions.





## Andrew Mullen

**Occupation** Self Employed Actor and Company Director

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

A retired Naval Officer now running his own company supporting charities and small businesses in Devon and Cornwall. A long-term supporter and fan of the Co-op he strongly supports their ethos and values loudly applauding their commitment to local communities and causes. Co-op's value is only matched by the excellent quality of their own brand products supported by strong environmental policies. It would be my privilege and pleasure to represent you on the Members' Council.



## Nicola Huckerby

**Occupation** Director

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

In 2010 I worked in the Group's Membership Team, promoting the Co-operative values and principles in the Plymouth and Torbay areas. Today, I live near Exeter and work with Bristol and Plymouth City Council's. I am a member of six co-operatives, actively promoting our business model where I can. I am unashamedly proud of my co-operative credentials. It would be an honour for me to represent you, ensuring that your voice is heard.



## Tanya Brownridge

**Occupation** Partner

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

I am really interested in the running of the Society and keen to have an input in ensuring it's longevity and continued success as it is so important to our local community.



**Current Council Member**  
**Colleague Member**

## Scott Allen

**Occupation** Assistant Manager

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

### **Skills and experience**

As a food store colleague of 22 years, it has been an absolute honour to serve on the National Members' Council. I spend 39 hours a week interacting with colleagues and customers. I want to continue as an ambassador for the most important people, colleagues and customers.



## Ekaterina Vasileva

**Occupation** Marketing Manager

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

### **Skills and experience**

I feel passionate about our local communities, particularly about the voice of young people and people who have migrated here from abroad - I am committed to making a difference every day, however small it may be. I want to make sure that your voice matters and that your concerns are addressed.



## Jonathan Charlesworth

**Occupation** Charity Executive Director

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

### **Skills and experience**

I am passionate about ethical farming, food's provenance and the responsibility food retailers have towards arable and agricultural farming and our environment. Raised in a local rural county and now living in a city I have good understanding of the philosophies of rural and urban cultures. With extensive experience of sales, marketing, advertising and financial accountability I am mindful of the Co-op's need to set financial return against an honourable attitude towards suppliers and customers.



## Graham Slack

**Occupation** Internet Retailer

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

I have a depth of experiences that would allow me to be an active and valuable contributor to the Members' Council. My training was in Agriculture. Quality sustainable food production is essential to my views, values and principles. More recently I had developed and now sold an 'Online' and High Street successful store. Although small, it enabled me to understand the needs of both Highstreet and Online Customers. Questions to [ghslack@hotmail.com](mailto:ghslack@hotmail.com). Thank you, Graham Slack.

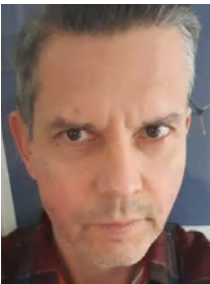


## Stephen Hennessy

**Occupation** CEO

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

I am 61 with a background working in care and social work. I am now CEO of Stepping Out Theatre, a mental health theatre company and registered charity which I helped to set up 23 years ago to bring the healing power of the arts, and theatre in particular, to those recovering from mental health problems through a spirit of co-operation and community ([www.stepsoutingtheatre.co.uk](http://www.stepsoutingtheatre.co.uk)). I am a lifelong Co-op shopper and bank customer.



## Jens Haus

**Occupation** Subtitled

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

I care passionately about ethical trade, the environment as well as equality in all aspects of life, be it within my local community, on a national or on a global level. Being of dual British and German citizenship, I bring a different perspective when it comes to finding solutions and new approaches.

# 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**