

it pays
to join...

welcome

As a co-operative business you will want to take every step you can to help your organisation succeed and reach its full potential. At

Co-operatives^{UK} we offer a wide range of services and benefits to support you and your co-operative and to make running your business that bit easier.

For many co-operatives, membership of Co-operatives^{UK} is a natural step to take. It gives you access to crucial knowledge and expertise that can otherwise be very expensive and hard to find. Add to that a range of services tailored to co-operative needs – from free business banking to exclusive discounts on business telecommunications – membership can save your co-operative business much more than you pay for your annual subscription.

As the central member-owned organisation for UK co-operatives, we work in partnership with our members to build a stronger and increasingly successful co-operative movement – join us and be part of something great.

This booklet describes the benefits of membership and includes an application form for you to join Co-operatives^{UK}. **Why not join us? You, your co-operative and the co-operative movement could start benefiting – today.**

Dame Pauline Green

Chief Executive

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“As a small fairly new co-operative, we took advantage of the year’s free membership of Co-operatives^{UK}, and got free banking and help from other local co-operatives. The free banking is great, and helps us manage our balances better, with no bank charges. But more than that, being a member means that there’s advice, support and information at the end of the telephone line. **As a small co-operative we find our membership invaluable!**”

Pat Smith
Welland Gallery Co-operative Limited

helping you
improve your
performance

free business banking

Business banking

A free business bank account exclusively for co-operative members!

Free banking means:

- No charges for writing cheques
- No charges for standing orders or direct debits
- No charges for paying in cheques or cash

This free business account* for co-operatives delivers the added benefit that, for every £100 of balances held in Co-operatives DirectPlus accounts, the Co-operative Bank donates 10p to our New Start Loan Fund, which is dedicated to helping new co-operative businesses get off the ground.

Furthermore, you'll be paid interest on all credit balances of £2,000 or more.

Yes, that's a free business bank account specific to co-operatives in membership of Co-operatives^{UK}!

*free business banking guaranteed for co-operatives with a turnover of £1 million or less, negotiated rates for co-operatives with a turnover of over £1 million.

tailored services

Insurance

Commercial insurance policies provided by CIS, the insurance provider at the heart of the UK co-operative movement.

CIS offers a Co-operative Combined Package Policy comprising up to 19 separate classes of insurance, allowing you to tailor your co-operative's insurance cover to meet your business needs, and all at a fiercely competitive cost.

Accounting Services

Discounted accounting and payroll services provided either by our in-house finance team or by one of our member co-operatives

Accounting services range from basic bookkeeping functions, such as completing and submitting VAT returns, through to comprehensive and regular financial management reporting to meet your needs.

And our payroll services offer a comprehensive approach to managing your day-to-day payroll needs.

We provide your back office services while you get on with running your business!

discounted services

Internet services

A free starter website providing you with a presence on the internet complete with the advice and support you need to make the most of it.

Our website service provides you with a free point-and-click website of your own, with the unique co-operative domain name – uk.coop. Giving you complete control over the content of your site.

DotCoop – you can register dotCoop domain names and purchase related internet services for your co-operative enterprise.

Special discounts

And how about some extra discounts – just for being a member?

Exclusive discount of up to 6% off your telecom bills. Provided in partnership with **The Phone Co-op**, a Co-operatives^{UK} member (of course), and one of the country's fastest growing consumer co-operatives.

3% discount with **GreenYourOffice.com**, the online provider of high quality socially and environmentally responsible office products and services at competitive prices.

To find out more about the benefits offered to members of Co-operatives^{UK}, contact the membership team on 0161 246 2920 or log on to www.cooperatives-uk.coop/improve

“Our main reason for joining was to seek advice about changing our rules through the legal services that Co-operatives^{UK} offers. Once we embarked on the rule changes, we also noted that new FSA regulations about money laundering would affect us. Co-operatives^{UK} provided the support and information we needed. Throughout the process, their legal team provided an excellent service and were clear and prompt. The advice and service we received was real value for money for our subscription fee.”

Alex Walker
Ekopia Resource Exchange Limited

bringing you
expert advice
and information

advice on legal matters

Expert legal advice

As a co-operative ourselves, with a wealth of experience, we are best placed to advise you on legal matters

- Advice on regulation and best practice for Industrial and Provident Societies and Companies by website, email and telephone.
- We offer your co-operative time with qualified specialists through our legal surgeries.
- Advice and information on all aspects of corporate governance, including codes of practice, constitutional reviews, registration of new co-operatives, and best practice guidance.
- Employment law advice line for worker and consumer co-operatives.

information is key

Expert business information

Information is key – at Co-operatives^{UK} we provide business information to help you run your co-operative

- Advice and good practice guidelines on accounting for co-operatives.
- Specialist co-operative development briefings for members involved in development work.
- Business Bulletins – regular briefings keeping you up to date with key issues in the business environment.

Demonstrating our co-operative difference

Customers trust co-operatives – we can help you promote your message

Our Co-operative Environmental and Social Performance Indicators, allow our members to develop, assess and promote their performance in the area of corporate social responsibility – a field of work that co-operatives by their very nature have pioneered.

The information we gather from members' annual returns enables co-operatives to assess their commercial performance against external benchmarks.

like-minded business

Events, networking and contacts

We hold a number of events designed to bring like-minded businesses together

- Seminars and networking events designed to keep you informed and up to date.
- Sharing information between our members, enabling you to learn from the experience of other co-operatives.

As a centre of expertise and knowledge about the co-operative sector in the UK, if we do not know the answer to your query ourselves, we'll signpost you to other sources of information on the issue.

To find out more about the advice services that we offer to members of Co-operatives^{UK}, contact the membership team on 0161 246 2920 or log on to www.cooperatives-uk.coop/advice

“We got involved in Co-operatives^{UK}’s policy work on trying to get the Big Lottery Fund to acknowledge that co-operatives should be eligible for funding. The policy team worked at a national level, included our experience as evidence for the need, and negotiated with the Big Lottery Fund on our – and many other co-operatives’ – behalf. **The result is brilliant, and certainly helps us here at Co-Active** to provide a range of funding and financing options for new and existing co-operatives, and more generally to raise the profile of co-operative options.”

Bryonie House
Co-Active (a co-operative development organisation)

promoting our co-operative values

celebrating our success

Promoting the success of co-operation

The values and principles that underpin co-operative enterprise are as relevant today as they were back in the 1840s when they first evolved.

We promote and defend our shared co-operative values, and support our members in putting these values into practice through their business operations.

Our magazine, *Co-operatives*, demonstrates how co-operatives can empower and regenerate businesses, local economies and their communities.

Our annual return monitor for the co-operative movement provides the crucial information we need to build the evidence base upon which we can demonstrate to government, and others, the significance and potential of the co-operative sector of the economy.

This is further strengthened by the mapping and monitoring work that we carry out, which has enabled us for the first time to gain a real understanding of the scale, breadth and diversity of co-operative enterprise in the UK.

Lobbying and raising awareness

We work at a regional and national level, and beyond the UK to ensure politicians, civil servants and other key agencies are aware and informed of the potential of co-operative enterprise.

We work hard to ensure co-operatives are considered as viable options in national and regional government policy and agenda. We submit evidence-based responses where there have been formal consultations, and contribute in other ways to ensure co-operatives do not miss out.

Co-operatives^{UK} has been building its strength in the UK's regions and nations, through regional co-operative councils.

Our regional co-operative councils are making an impact in their region – organising public events, bringing co-operators from all parts of the movement together and making interventions in policy debates on behalf of the movement.

Europe and beyond!

We work in Europe and internationally to realise the full potential and value for co-operation amongst co-operatives.

We work nationally, across the UK, in Europe and internationally to connect the co-operative movement, raise awareness through global initiatives like dotCoop and so realise the full potential and value for co-operation amongst co-operatives.

a collective voice

Together we have a stronger voice

Recognising the value and strength of our collective voice, we work to influence government and other policy-makers on behalf of our members and the entire co-operative sector.

Our work is not confined to government-led initiatives of course. We work with other co-operatives, mutual organisations and social enterprise bodies, on issues such as governance, business support, training and qualifications and unclaimed assets.

Our aim is to represent the co-operative sector wherever and whenever that needs to be done, demonstrating the existing and potential co-operative contribution and advancing the interests of our members.

To find out more about how we could promote your business as a member of Co-operatives^{UK} and how we spread the word about co-operation for the sake of all our members, contact the membership team on 0161 246 2920 or log on to www.cooperatives-uk.coop/success

join us today...

Co-operative enterprises across the country are recognising the benefits of working together, through Co-operatives^{UK}, to advance their business and co-operative interests, and to demonstrate their co-operative difference.

Join us today, simply by completing and returning the attached application form, and we can get started straight away.

If you would like to talk to someone at Co-operatives^{UK} about how your organisation can benefit, or arrange for us to come and see you please complete the form or **contact us:**

by phone: 0161 246 2920

by email: membership@uk.coop

by post: Membership Enquiries
Co-operatives^{UK} Limited
Holyoake House, Hanover Street
Manchester M60 0AS

or visit our website: www.cooperatives-uk.coop/join

Continuous improvement

We regularly evaluate our services to members and are always exploring ideas and options for the development of new services. Consequently the range of services we offer may differ from those outlined in this document. Please check our website or contact us for updates or to obtain further information on new services. If you have ideas for suggestions for potential new member services, please let us know, email us at **membership@uk.coop**.

I want to know more...

Please complete the relevant section below to either **join** or find out more about how membership can benefit your organisation.

- I want to join Co-operatives^{UK} today.
- Please contact us/arrange a visit to discuss how we can benefit from membership

Registered name of organisation:.....

Trading name (if different):.....

Is your organisation a:

Company IPS LLP Registration Number:.....

Unincorporated Not sure

Contacts

Main Contact:..... Secretary:.....

Email:..... Email:.....

Telephone:..... Telephone:.....

Registered Address

Property Name/Number.....

Street..... Town/City.....

County..... Postcode.....

Correspondence Address (if different)

Property Name/Number.....

Street..... Town/City.....

County..... Postcode.....

Organisation's Details

Telephone Fax

Email Website

How many people work for your organisation?

Full-time (more than 30 hours per week)

Part-time (more than 30 hours per week)

What is your turnover?

£ Financial Year Ending / /

Please describe the work of your organisation

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

If applying for membership: On receipt of your application we will contact you to discuss your subscription fee and methods of payment. To check out our current subscription rates please visit www.cooperatives-uk.coop/subs

We hereby apply for membership of Co-operatives^{UK} and confirm that we support the purpose and objects of Co-operatives^{UK} and agree to accept and abide by the Rules of the Society.

SIGNED Date
by Secretary or another authorised officer

A copy of the Rules can be downloaded at www.cooperatives-uk.coop/rules
or telephone 0161 246 2900 for a paper copy.

Completed forms should be sent to:

Membership Application Co-operatives UK, FREEPOST NAT 3491
Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M4 9ZQ



Co-operatives^{UK} represents the spectrum of co-operative enterprise throughout the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Our purpose is to develop and extend the co-operative sector.

Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 0AS

www.cooperatives-uk.coop



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