

2012 UNITED NATIONS
**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF CO-OPERATIVES**
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The Co-operative Party Annual Conference 2012

Conference & AGM Final Agenda

New Century Hall, Manchester
7th September - 9th September

#CoopParty

The Co-operative Party

Annual Conference 2012

**7th, 8th, 9th September
New Century Hall, Manchester**

This booklet contains a complete list of all motions and amendments submitted and accepted by the Conference Arrangements Committee. It also contains suggested composite motions.

Contents

- Conference Sessions
- Grouping of Motions
- Motions, amendments and composites
- Original motions and amendments replaced by composites
- Procedural Rules for Annual Conference

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The Conference Arrangements Committee will recommend that conference sessions be held as follows:

Friday 7 September	2pm - 5pm
Saturday 8 September	9.30am -12.30pm 2pm - 5pm
Sunday 9 September	9.30am -12.30pm

GROUPING OF MOTIONS

The Conference Arrangements Committee has allocated the motions into four groups as there are four sessions of Conference as follows:

Group A

Party Organisation and Elections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Group B

Public Services 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

Group C

International Issues 24, 25, 26, 27

Group D

Economic, Trading and Employment Issues Composite A
29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36

Group E

Co-operative Development and Energy Issues Composite B
Composite C
37, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50

Group F

Housing Composite D
53, 55

This Conference Arrangements Committee will recommend the Session to which each group will be allocated in the Programme of Business.

Party Organisation and Elections

Motion 1

CG North Eastern and Cumbrian Party

This Conference notes that in recent local elections Co-operative Party members have been prevented from standing as Co-operative Party candidates in multi-member wards where not all the Labour candidates are sponsored by the Co-operative Party.

Conference requests that the NEC enter negotiations with the Labour Party to enable all members supported by the Co-operative Party to stand as joint Labour and Co-operative candidates in future.

Motion 2

CG North Eastern and Cumbrian Party

This Conference recognises that the Morning Star is the only national, daily newspaper in the United Kingdom that is mutually owned through a co-operative society. It is also the only daily newspaper that campaigns in support of the Co-operative Movement and co-operative ideals.

Conference therefore calls on the NEC to consider what steps might be taken to develop a stronger relationship with the Morning Star and the co-operative that owns it, the Peoples Press Printing Society (PPPS). This to include obtaining increased news coverage of the Co-operative Party, and it's Parliamentary Group, in the news columns and feature articles in the newspaper.

Conference recognises that the co-operative owned Morning Star faces competition from Murdoch's News International and other Fleet Street millionaire-owned papers. It, therefore, calls for an examination on how the wider co-operative movement might support the survival and growth of the paper especially through increased advertising and circulation.

Amendment

First paragraph, second sentence:

Insert before "*It is*"

"Conference congratulates the Morning Star on its excellent articles on co-operation and notes that"

Third paragraph, line four:

Insert between "through" and "increased"

"purchasing shares,"

Chelmsford Star Party

Motion 3

CG Central and Eastern Region

This Conference notes that the Co-operative Party has been described as the Party of the consumer. However, although very relevant in today's consumer society, the electorate know little if anything of this fact. Conference therefore agrees that the Co-operative Party should, through its supported MPs, determine how it can offer further support and rights through legislation to consumers.

Motion 4**CG Plymouth and South West Party**

This Conference notes that in recognition of the tough economic times and to help increase membership, the Co-op Party could offer a concessionary rate to members of the Labour Party on their first year of membership.

Conference believes that this should be seen as a move to increase joint membership and help boost the number of Labour and Co-operative Candidates for future elections.

Amendment

Paragraph 1, line 3:

After "Labour Party" add:

"and SDLP"

CG Northern Ireland Party**Motion 5****CG Plymouth and South West Party**

This Conference instructs that should any help be sought from Societies that are not affiliated to the Party that full costs should be charged to that Society including all Wages, Administration and Service Charges.

Amendment

First sentence, remove:

"from"

And replace with:

"by"

Change full stop to a comma and add:

"in order to achieve total cost recovery for the Party. There should then be a value added premium equal at least to a year's subscriptions had the society affiliated."

CG Hampshire and Isle of Wight Party

Motion 6

CG London Party

This Conference recognises the importance of building a sustainable Co-operative Party membership by recruiting and retaining individual members. Conference values the range of initiatives that have been introduced to encourage youth and student membership.

Conference recognises that students have come under attack from the Tory Led Government with the negative changes to student finance and the ending of EMA.

Conference therefore agrees to extend the £5 first year membership offer to the full term of being a student, to completion of first degrees.

Amendment 1

Paragraph 3 to delete:

“to completion of first degrees”

CG Plymouth and South West Party

Amendment 2

Final paragraph, delete all:

After “offer to”

And replace with:

“all members up to 23 years of age.”

CG Surrey, Berks and Bucks

Amendment 3

Add at end:

“The national Party Membership Unit will be responsible for maintaining the Membership database in respect of this concessionary rate and passing the information to organisational units.”

CG North West North Party

Amendment 4

In the last paragraph:

Remove the full stop and add the text:

“and in order to avoid loss of members upon graduation, for a further year thereafter.”

CG Hampshire and Isle of Wight Party

Motion 7

CG Northern Ireland Party

This Conference calls on the NEC to complete the process of establishing the Co-operative Party in Northern Ireland by registering in Northern Ireland with the Electoral Commission and giving Northern Ireland parity with the other nations in the United Kingdom by allocating a place on the NEC for a member elected by Co-operative Party members in Northern Ireland.

Motion 8**Scotmid Party**

This Conference notes with pleasure the efforts made by the Party staff in ensuring that the Party Conference is well organised and professionally conducted.

Conference calls on this Conference to maintain the present formatted of motion based; this clearly reflects the views of the Party members.

Motion 9**CG Bath & West Party**

This Conference deplores the government's sham commitment to co-operatives and reaffirms our full support for all seven International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) principles.

Conference asks that the NEC should write to all MPs and Peers, informing them of the full co-operative identity (as published by the ICA) and requesting that they, individually and collectively, pledge to uphold all seven co-operative principles when making decisions on proposed legislation concerning co-operatives.

Conference asks that a full report on responses from Westminster Parliamentarians is to be prepared and presented to conference in 2013.

Motion 10**Midlands Society Western Region Party**

This Conference notes one of the original reasons for founding the Co-operative Party was to get co-operators elected to Parliament and other public bodies.

Conference believes that this objective is as relevant today as it ever was. To that end, conference calls upon the NEC, party staff and all party members to make a greater effort to encourage active co-operators, directors, managers and employees from across the co-operative movement to stand as Co-operative Party candidates. This could include, but should not be restricted to, having this as a primary purpose of exhibition stands and fringe meetings at co-operative events, and adverts in the Co-operative News and the social media.

Amendment

Paragraph 2:

After "active co-operators"

Delete up to and including:

"co-operative movement"

Paragraph 2:

After "to stand as"

Insert:

"Labour"

And delete the last sentence

CG North Eastern and Cumbrian Party

Motion 11**Midlands Society Western Region Party**

This Conference notes that there is often an inverse correlation between the length of submitted motions and their quality. Mindful of the need to use the time for conference debates as effectively as possible, conference calls upon the NEC to bring forward rule changes placing a word limit on the length of any motion submitted.

Public Services**Motion 12****Midlands Eastern and Southern Party**

This Conference believes that schools should be part of local communities, taking their intake locally, providing facilities to the wider communities and being governed by community representatives. Further we believe that the local authority has an important role to play in making sure that there are adequate school places, that admissions are fair, and supporting the improvement of schools.

Conference believes that the local authority provides vitally important and targeted support, such as policies for inclusion, specialist educational needs and in specialist areas of the curriculum. We recognise that the local authority helps to connect up services, such as Health and Social Care, with schools.

Conference opposes the erosion of community schooling and of the Local Authority by pushing schools to become academies and by creating "Free Schools". Conference understands that our Labour and Co-operative Party members who are Councillors or school governors are now being put in a very difficult position because opting out of Local Authority control is being incentivised by the Government.

Conference urges that if schools are looking at opting out, the Co-operative Trust model is considered, and that steps are taken to help and give advice to governors of this alternative.

Conference calls upon all Labour and Labour/Co-operative MPs to ensure that the next Labour Government reconnect schools to Local Authorities and the wider community.

Motion 13**CG Plymouth and South West Party**

This Conference notes that now that it costs young person's up to £9,000 per annum to attend Higher Education courses and calls upon the Co-operative Party to discuss with the Co-op Group the potential of the Group to offer a limited number of bursaries to young co-operators.

Amendment

Change full stop to a comma and add the text:

"where a major study of the co-operative movement, history, governance, types, value and principles are part of the degree course."

CG Hampshire and Isle of Wight Party

Motion 14**Midcounties Society**

This Conference notes that under the new arrangements for monitoring the delivery of Health and Social Care in England, each top tier local authority is charged with setting up a new corporate body with statutory functions, Local Health Watch, which will link with the national body Health Watch England. Each Local Health Watch will replace the current LINK patient and public network in that local authority area from April 2013.

Conference urges the NEC to promote the development of the Local Health Watch organisations as co-operatives, owned and controlled by their members, who could be either individuals or local organisations with an interest in Health and Social Care.

Motion 15**CG South Western Party**

This Conference is very alarmed at the pressure that is being put on schools maintained by local authorities to become academies with the consequence that there will be no local accountability. Children could be refused admission and schools could become part of chains of schools which are based on faith and ideology or commercial organisations. Conference, therefore, calls on the NEC and the Parliamentary Group to work with the Co-operative College to ensure that all schools facing this pressure understand the benefits of becoming a Co-operative Trust or Academy school to ensure schools remain accountable to their local communities.

Motion 16**Chelmsford Star Party**

This Conference notes that the proposed HS2 railway is expected to cost the taxpayer at least £16.3bn to build the first phase to Birmingham and £32.7bn by 2033 to take the line to Leeds and Manchester.

Conference believes that if the taxpayer is to invest such huge sums in this massive undertaking then it is the people that should get the reward, not private enterprise. Conference, therefore, determines that if the HS2 is to be built, the Co-operative Party will campaign for the project to be run within the publicly owned sector and, through Parliament, to be publicly accountable.

Amendment

On first line, "This Conference notes":

Delete "notes" and substitute:

"welcomes"

And after "railway" insert:

"and notes it"

Add at end of motion:

"Furthermore Conference agrees that this project should have a higher priority, in order to establish the need for significant investment in infrastructure. That will stimulate the much needed growth that the economy so desperately needs!"

Midlands Society Northern Region Party

Motion 17**Scotmid Party**

This Conference welcomes the introduction of concessionary travel for retired people instigated by Labour councils and extended nationally in Scotland by the Labour lead Executive.

Conference calls upon our elected representatives, to campaign to implement concessionary travel by rail and ferry for the over 60s throughout the UK."

Amendment

Paragraph 2:

Insert after "Conference":

"noting that free travel throughout the island of Ireland is available to all pensioners in Northern Ireland over the age of 65, and acknowledging the social benefits and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from promoting the use of public transport by pensioners,"

And add after "UK"

"and the Republic of Ireland"

CG Northern Ireland Party**Motion 18****Midcounties Oxfordshire Party**

This Conference supports the principle of co-operative organisations playing an active role in the provision of social care as an alternative to the privatisation of social care services by local authorities. In particular, co-operative organisations can help to ensure that recipients are able to remain in control of the day to day provision of their care on the one hand, and that personal care assistants of the co-operative enjoy fair and appropriate employment conditions on the other.

This Conference calls on the National Executive Committee to work with Co-operative and Labour groups on local authorities, together with relevant professionals, to prepare legal guidance and precedent documentation to support in a practical way the promotion and expansion of co-operatives in social care with appropriate levels of accountability, for example using a multi-stakeholder form of governance, as an alternative to privatisation.

Motion 19**Midcounties Gloucestershire and Swindon Party**

This Conference deplores the misuse of the term social enterprise to describe those organisations that are not really social enterprises, being set up to replace Primary Care Trusts in England. Conference believes the Co-operative Party should encourage local government and the National Health Service to pay careful attention to the governance of such new organisations and encourage them to work with co-operatives, co-operative support organisations and others with experience of setting up democratically accountable organisations, including multi-stakeholder co-operatives.

Motion 20

CG Cymru/Wales Region

Conference calls on the NEC to promote home and community care services that are organised and managed on co-operative values not driven solely by marketplace considerations, where it is often profit driven, impersonal and undignified in some cases.

Motion 21

CG Kent Party

This Conference believes there is an urgent need to reform the current system of providing and paying for the care of Adults in England and Wales. Conference urges the NEC along with our Co-operative and Labour Members of Parliament to lobby the Government to come forward with Primary Legislation to address this most serious issue.

Conference notes the Commission on Funding Care and Support, led by Andrew Dilnot, has said the current system of funding social care is not fit for purpose and needs urgent reform. Conference further notes our sister party, the Labour Party, has welcomed Dilnot's proposals as an important step towards a better, fairer and more effective system.

Conference believes the Co-operative Party should encourage and assist the wider Co-operative Movement to provide fair and equitable care services for our members and the country's ever growing ageing population. Conference believes the Co-operative Movement should demonstrate to Government the Value and Principles and benefits of providing Co-operative and Mutual models of Social Care. Conference notes it may not be possible to provide these services free at the point of delivery, however the Co-operative Movement can assist Government to provide a Fair and Transparent method of payment and in turn much improved Social Care for all those in need, not the post code lottery that is currently experienced.

Amendment

Paragraph 1:

Line 4; add after Legislation:

"in England"

After paragraph 2, add a new paragraph:

"Wales is currently making a range of crucial changes to Social Services laws and structures, with a Social Services (Wales) Bill, and a consultation on a Welsh model of 'Self Directed Support' due this year. Conference emphasises the strategic role of multi stakeholder co-operatives (ie service users, workers and community supporters), self help and education.

Paragraph 3, at line 8, after "in turn" insert:

"to support self help co-operatives and"

CG Cymru/Wales Region

Motion 22**CG Kent Party**

This Conference is concerned at the present ill-conceived proposals being drawn up by the Post Office to remove Counters from those shops with a dedicated Post Office area, with Post Office customers being forced to queue at the main shop counter. This would mean that in future benefit claimants would have to stand in line with other shoppers to collect their money, raising concerns about privacy and security. The alternative being to travel to a main Post Office possibly many miles away especially for those living in rural areas.

Conference believes the Party encourage Retail Co-operative Societies and the movement as a whole to oppose the loss of service which will inevitably adversely affect the most vulnerable in our society.

Motion 23**CG Herts & Beds Party**

This Conference notes that the Manifesto for the 4th Term and the subsequent Local Government Manifesto both indicated that the Co-operative Party is supportive of developing co-operative models for home care provision. A start has been made. Caring Support in Croydon is an example of a community co-operative set up by local people who need reliable and consistent quality home care services enabling them to exercise choice to remain at home and live safely with peace of mind, dignity and respect.

Conference agrees that in addition the Party needs to develop models for residential establishments with the facilities of a hub offering satellite operations and providing services directly into the community.

Conference resolves that the NEC draws together interested parties including professionals and trade unions and with support from The Co-operative Enterprise Hub.

International Issues

Motion 24

CG Cambridge and South & West Essex Party

This Conference is concerned at the continuing conflicts in the Middle East/North Africa and the danger that they may even be widened, in particular with the threat of military action against Iran, on the pretext of its nuclear program. There are no military solutions to such international problems. Diplomatic and political means must be employed to resolve the crisis in the relations between Iran and the West on the basis of international law.

Conference does not recognise the right of any country in the world to acquire nuclear weapons, and fully supports UN General Assembly resolutions in favour of a Middle East free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. This must include both Iran and Israel, which already has a large nuclear arsenal, and has not signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We call upon all countries in the region to support the proposed international conference on this subject. The huge number of "conventional" weapons in the region is also a concern.

Conference believes that the Israel/Palestine conflict is a constant source of insecurity in the whole region and the gains of the "Arab Spring" are threatened by the continuance and resurgence of repressive regimes. Israel's policy of building settlements outside its UN agreed borders is a significant contribution to unrest in the region. The UK Co-operative Group must continue to ban Israeli goods from these illegal settlements, including those labelled "Palestinian" as if they originated from Palestine.

Conference welcomes and supports local non violent campaigns for human rights, democracy and fair trading in countries including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Libya and Syria, which continue despite the attempts to suppress them. Conference calls on the UK Co-operative Group to develop trade links with progressive co-operatives in these countries and cease links with repressive, undemocratic regimes.

Motion 25

CG Cambridge and South & West Essex Party

This Conference welcomes the international Arms Trade Treaty which is due to be signed this year. However, as at present formulated it is an inadequate response to, eg, the Middle East conflicts. It is claimed that Britain has some of the tightest controls in the world on arms sales, yet the UK supplies weapons to human rights abusers and conflict zones across the world. Under these 'tight controls' both the current and the previous government allowed sniper rifles and crowd control weapons to be sold to Gaddafi in Libya. Under these same 'tight controls' the UK is still supplying weapons to repressive regimes – including Egypt and Bahrain where human rights abuses and repression continue today. It appears that the Treaty as at present drafted would not change this situation. A truly effective Arms Trade Treaty must go much further than simply "regulating" the international arms trade; the aim must be to reduce and ultimately to almost completely eliminate it. Immediate measures should include a ban on the sale and use of depleted uranium-tipped shells and unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Reaper Stealth bombers (Drones). Noting that enough bullets are produced each year to kill every man, woman and child on earth - TWICE - reducing this number should be a high priority.

Conference calls for an immediate halt in sales to countries engaged in repression, including Egypt, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. We further call on the government to end the use of taxpayers' money to promote the arms trade, in particular through the UKTI Defence & Security Organisation.

Conference believes that in the UN International Year of Co-operatives, we call on the countries of the world to use co-operation to seek peaceful ways to resolve issues between and within nations rather than seeking "security" by continually increasing their arsenals.

Motion 26

Chelmsford Star Party

"This Conference condemns the trade in human trafficking with people taken against their will ending up in forced labour on the land, in domestic servitude, sweatshops and prostitution.

Conference deplores the fact that human trafficking is a worldwide trade, including from the UK to other parts of the world.

Conference notes that over ten years ago the biggest chocolate companies promised to get rid of child trafficking in the West African cocoa industry but despite their promises, we still only have a tiny amount of traffick free chocolate.

Conference notes the efforts being made by the Fairtrade Foundation to eliminate the causes of trafficking and that the BBC Panorama' report, Chocolate: The Bitter Truth, stated: "Fairtrade can only take action because its farms are traceable and open to scrutiny. Most are not."

Conference calls on members of the Co-operative Party to note this when they buy chocolate and to purchase Co-operative Fairtrade chocolate as their first choice.

Motion 27

CG Northern Ireland Party

This Conference condemns the LOCOG (London Olympics) for having accepted sponsorship from Dow and using Dow Materials for a canopy to the stadium building, in view of the role of Dow's responsibilities following the Bhopal disaster in India. Dow Chemical acquired Union Carbide as a wholly owned subsidiary in 2001. They are therefore responsible for the clean-up of the former Union Carbide Factory site in Bhopal, India. The area around the factory is densely populated and continues to be heavily contaminated by chemicals and toxins produced by the factory which Dow, despite their evident responsibility, have thus far refused to clean up.

Conference believes the situation in Bhopal is a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe that continues to affect tens of thousands of people today and many children are still being born with serious birth defects. Conference condemns Dow for failing to compensate the victims and urges the co-operative and labour movement to boycott Dow products such as Styrofoam in any buildings or projects.

Economic, Trading and Employment Issues

COMPOSITE MOTION A

Motion 28 and Motion 31 plus amendment

This Conference notes the thirty year long over inflation of top salaries and bonuses that has spread throughout our economy from a starting point in the City of London. As co-operators we believe that differentials between the highest and lowest paid people in our community should be fair and equitable.

Conference acknowledges that low pay and lack of access to affordable credit is socially and economically damaging and leads to: poorer diets, colder homes, arrears of rent, council tax and utility bills, depression (which impacts on job seeking behaviour) and poor health and notes that unaffordable credit extracts wealth from our most deprived communities, usually redistributing it towards the least deprived.

This Conference congratulates the work of The Living Wage Campaign and recognises the importance of working across the Co-operative movement in partnership with Trade Unions to secure the minimum pay rate required for a worker to provide for their family with the essentials of life.

Conference notes that a Living Wage is:

a) Good for Business

An independent study of the business benefits of implementing a Living Wage policy in London found that more than 80% of employers believe that the Living Wage had enhanced the quality of the work of their staff, while absenteeism had fallen by approximately 25%.

Two thirds of employers reported a significant impact on recruitment and retention within their organisation. 70% of employers felt that the Living Wage had increased consumer awareness of their organisation's commitment to be an ethical employer.

b) Good for the Individual

A Living wage affords people the dignity to provide for themselves and their families.

75% of employees reported increases in work quality as a result of receiving the Living Wage.

50% of employees felt that the Living Wage had made them more willing to implement changes in their working practices; enabled them to require fewer concessions to effect change; and made them more likely to adopt changes more quickly.

c) Good for Society

The Living Wage campaign was launched in 2001 by parents in East London, who were frustrated that working two minimum wage jobs left no time for family life. Over 10,000 London families have been lifted out of working poverty as a direct result of the Living Wage.

In London the current rate is £8.30 per hour. Outside of London the current rate is £7.20.

Conference recognises this as a core principle of good co-operative business and adopts the Living Wage as policy and urges Labour/Co-op MPs and Peers to drive this forward in Parliament.

Conference therefore instructs the NEC to construct a policy statement on the Co-operative ideal for the financial future of our people and communities that includes commitments towards campaigning for:

- The adoption of a National Living Wage initially based on £7.20p an hour for the financial year 2012/13, to be inflated annually by the RPI or CPI whichever is the greatest.
- A statutory right for employees in large companies to have a 50% representation on the remuneration committee of that company.
- The introduction of a statutory maximum annualised percentage rate of interest on all forms of credit agreements.

Moved by: CG North West North Party
Seconded by: CG London Party
Supported by: CG Sussex Party

Motion 29

CG Scottish Party

This Conference condemns the substantial rise in Youth unemployment and also those iniquitous practices that have seen the unemployed take up unwaged positions

in large commercial enterprises under the threat of loss of benefit. Conference congratulates those co-operatives who have refused to take part in such approaches and have instead offered an increased number of apprenticeships leading to real jobs.

Motion 30**CG London Party**

This Conference notes that the 2008 Banking crisis and the consequent bail out by UK taxpayers were for the most part caused by former Building Societies, including Northern Rock and the Halifax, and reckless behaviour by Royal Bank of Scotland.

Conference commends the national Party for its The Feeling's Mutual campaign and deplores the decision by the Coalition Government to sell Northern Rock to Virgin Money.

Conference notes that Building Societies, including Nationwide, did not cause the Banking crisis but have been forced to contribute large sums towards the funding of safety nets designed to prevent another crisis, whereas reckless banks such as RBS have benefited hugely from the taxpayer funded bailout.

Conference calls on the NEC to campaign for a level playing field for Building Societies and other financial mutuals as part of the continuing The Feeling's Mutual campaign, so that they are appropriately rewarded for exercising prudent stewardship of their members' assets.

Motion 32**CG Yorkshire Party**

This Conference expresses deep concern at the potential for a relaxation of Sunday Trading Laws, following the initial period of relaxed trading associated with the period leading up to and including the duration of the Olympic Games held in London 2012. Long term and more permanent changes would have a detrimental impact on families, individuals, a large number of co-operative shop workers, small to medium sized retailers and would inevitable favour larger Public Limited Companies.

Motion 33**CG Hampshire and Isle of Wight Party**

This Conference notes and welcomes the UK-wide campaign to end 'legal loan sharking'.

Conference believes that the lack of access to affordable credit is socially and economically damaging. Unaffordable credit is causing a myriad of unwanted effects such as poorer diets, colder homes, arrears in rent, council tax and utility bills, depression (which impacts on job seeking behaviour) and poor health.

Conference further notes that unaffordable credit is extracting wealth from the most deprived communities.

Conference believes it is the responsibility of all levels of government to try to ensure affordable credit for all, and therefore pledges to use best practice to promote financial literacy and affordable lending. This will help to ensure that wealth stays in the local economy. Conference also pledges to promote credit unions by supporting each party council and branch, working with community based organisations that offer access to affordable credit and promoting saving.

Conference calls on the government to introduce caps on the total lending rates that can be charged for providing credit.

Conference further calls on the government to give local authorities, whether via the Localism Act or other means, the power to veto licences for high street credit agencies where they could have negative economic or social impacts on communities.

Motion 34**Midcounties Gloucestershire and Swindon Party**

This Conference calls on the Co-operative Party to consider the impact on future generations when making policy decisions. To this end they must advocate both sustainable development and methods to measure national progress that take into account environmental damage and depreciation. GDP is a crude measurement of economic activity that encourages ever-increasing consumption and the destruction of ecosystems.

Conference believes existing examples of more comprehensive measurements are the UN Human Development Indicator 2011, and GPI or Genuine Progress Indicator (San Francisco ThinkTank 1995) as such factors as CO2 emissions; deforestation; water supply; governance; income distribution; housework; caring; volunteering; public infrastructure; health; education and leisure activities are taken into account."

Motion 35**Midlands Society Western Region Party**

This Conference notes the important role that town centres play in the economic and social life of local communities, and the fact that a large proportion of co-operative retail enterprises in the UK trade from high street locations. Bearing in mind the recommendations of Mary Portas's review of the future of the high street, conference calls upon the NEC to work towards the next Labour Government requiring all town, parish and community councils to publish an annual report on the economic and social viability of their local high street.

Amendment

Second sentence, delete all after:

"conference calls upon the NEC"

And replace with:

"to encourage the next Labour Government to develop a new kind of simple, easy to complete report on the state of the local high street which is within the competencies, both human and financial, of town and parish councils to complete annually."

CG Surrey, Berks and Bucks

Motion 36**CG Manchester and District Party**

This Conference calls upon a future Labour government to legislate to include worker representatives to be involved on all pay committees considering executive pay.

Co-operative Development and Energy Issues

Motion 37 CG North Eastern and Cumbrian Party

This Conference welcomes the government's commitment to introduce a Co-operative Act. Conference calls upon the NEC to examine how any such legislation can be improved in order to give more practical help to the co-operatives and mutuals sector.

Amendment

Add at end:

"and to improve deficiencies in current operations of co-operative organisations arising from deficiencies in existing legislation."

CG North West North Party

COMPOSITE MOTION B

Motion 38 Motion 43 and Motion 46

Conference congratulates Midcounties Co-operative Society for establishing a competitively priced energy company based on a simple, transparent price structure and backed by outstanding customer care. Through the policy of one fair price, “Co-operative Energy” avoids the confusion of tariffs common with other energy providers – competitors seeking to exploit confusion to raise profits. “Co-operative Energy” was a winner in the Market Gravity UK Corporate Entrepreneur Awards in 2011, coming ahead of its major energy competitors after only one year in business.

Conference also congratulates “Co-operative Energy” for contracting an energy mix with less than half of the carbon content of the national average. Through its ethical stance “Co-operative Energy” is assisting with the much needed adaptation towards a low-carbon life-style. Clearly, “Co-operative Energy” exemplifies the superiority of the co-operative way of doing business.

Consequently, Conference recommends that our movement be encouraged to investigate further co-operative based initiatives, including co-operative business models to assist with the alleviation of fuel poverty – for example, for residents of remote communities where heating needs are often reliant on high cost fuels such as domestic heating oil. Without co-operative leadership “The Green Deal” could result in higher bills for the most vulnerable and could do nothing for the fuel poor.

Conference believes clear and transparent co-operative solutions as exemplified by “Co-operative Energy” must be made available for this emerging market to offer a fair and green deal.

Conference calls for an effective and efficiently financed fair green deal throughout all the regions of the United Kingdom and urges all Co-operative Party councillors and members to support in every practical way open to them the establishment of the Energy Saving Co-op.

Conference calls on the NEC to arrange for the collation and publication of co-operative movement expertise in supplying community groups with energy, alternative energy sources and associated measures.

Conference believes that the outcome should offer advice and practical solutions to community, neighbourhood and voluntary organisations to assist them in reducing energy consumption and the associated costs, and subsequently their carbon footprint.

Moved by: Midcounties Oxfordshire Party
Seconded by: CG Northern Ireland Party
Supported by: CG North West North Party

COMPOSITE MOTION C

Motion 39, Motion 47 and Motion 51

“Conference notes that co-operative enterprises are more successful than PLCs and in this, the UN International Year of Co-operatives, urges the NEC to work with the Labour Party, in order to place co-operatives at the heart of a new economic policy.

Conference believes that the Co-op Party should be encouraging the growth of worker owned commercial ventures which should attempt to include consumers in the organisation through their management structures.

This Conference welcomes the work of Co-operative Development Bodies in producing the “From 2 to 20” action plan. It further welcomes the outcome of the Future Co-operatives Conference in 2012 published in Co-operative News in February 2012. It calls upon the Party to give full support to the Action Plan as published in Co-operative News and work with CDBs and other partners to deliver the objectives of increasing the percentage of GDP produced by Co-operative enterprises from 2 to 20% by the end of the century.”

Moved by: Midlands Society Northern Region Party

Seconded by: Midcounties Society

Supported by: CG Manchester and District Party

Motion 40

CG Scottish Party

This Conference calls on Government to take advantage of the consolidation of co-operative legislation largely enacted through the excellent work of Labour and Co-operative MPs, to introduce new legislation removing further barriers to co-operative ownership, rather than relying on community control of projects.

Motion 41

CG Scottish Party

This Conference calls on the Scottish Government to develop a mutually owned Scottish Natural Resources Co-operative, encompassing Scottish Water and ownership of renewables across Scotland.

Motion 42

CG Yorkshire Party

This Conference notes that in view of the series of stringent reductions in services which local authorities need to make over several years due to the present Government's public finance policies, this Party welcomes the opportunities and challenges to establish co-operative enterprises which can respond to social needs and provide worthwhile employment for those whose jobs and skills in the public services are increasingly at risk.

Conference believes that in view of both the seriousness of the threat to much-needed services, as well as the opportunity it provides to extend co-operative enterprise to take over where local public services may be unable to provide for local needs, it recognises that efforts need now to be made to identify those service activities which can most readily bring together service providers and service users with the management and resources necessary to generate and maintain the resources in question. In the light of this, Conference calls on Regional Party Councils supported by the national Co-op Party to hold information and education events to promote to workers, users and policy makers the benefits of mutual solutions.

Amendment 1

Add at end:

This Conference believes that such an approach may be particularly appropriate for library services within local government, and welcomes the imaginative approaches being developed by Labour and Co-operative Councillors in authorities such as LB Croydon and LB Lambeth.

CG London Party

Amendment 2

Second paragraph:

Last line, insert:

"members" between *"to"* and *"workers"*

CG North West North Party

Amendment 3

After:

"Co-op Party" in the final sentence

Insert:

"and the Co-operative Enterprise Hub"

CG Herts & Beds Party

Motion 44**CG Hampshire and Isle of Wight Party**

This Conference believes that football clubs are vital community assets.

Conference urges all Co-operative Party elected representatives, members of the House of Lords, party councils, branches, officers and the NEC to redouble their efforts to work together to promote fan ownership and control of football clubs, to achieve genuine democratic governance.

Conference urges the football authorities to place a limit on total spending for each football club at all levels. This limit would be a percentage (e.g. 60%) of the total revenue in a financial year. Conference notes that such a limit was agreed between the G14 European clubs in 2002, but was never implemented. It could be argued that a decade on, the crisis has worsened.

Conference urges the Government to find sustainable models of funding for Supporters Direct.

Conference therefore requests the NEC to find ways to enable them to do so, whether this would be at the national or local levels. This is vital to building links between the Co-operative Party, and to diversifying funding to our Party. Conference also urges all members, in the spirit of co-operation and mutual benefit, to build other links between the Co-operative Movement and supporters trusts. For example, sponsorship of football clubs by our co-operatives, such as the Co-operative Group has done.

Motion 45**CG Hampshire and Isle of Wight Party**

This Conference believes that the Co-operative Party should work with Co-operatives UK to insist that local authorities only describe themselves as 'Co-operative' Councils, when they meet the following standards:

- a) A commitment that all former council housing is owned and managed by fully democratic Tenant Housing Co-operatives, and not by Housing associations or ALMOs.
- b) That at least half their services are provided by fully democratic Co-operative societies owned and managed by employees or customers.

Amendment

Add to the existing wording:

"c) They pay the living wage to all employees.

d) They offer all employees access to affordable credit with a Credit Union."

Midcounties Gloucestershire and Swindon Party**Motion 48****CG Kent Party**

This Conference welcomes the establishment of Co-operative Councils and asks the NEC to review the policies implemented and to promote best practice.

Conference requests that Co-operative Party members are supported and equipped to maintain pressure on Local Authorities that have declared themselves to be Co-operative Councils in order to support them.

Motion 49**CG Notts, Lincs & Erewash Party**

This Conference notes and celebrates the purpose of the Party, that is 'to promote co-operative and mutual forms of economic, social and democratic control, and to support political action in pursuance of the values and principles of the Co-operative movement in the UK and internationally as defined from time to time by the International Co-operative Alliance'

Conference urges the NEC to continue its programme of promoting co-op ideas and values, is particularly proud of its work around the feeling's mutual campaign, people's rail and International Year of Co-operatives, and urges the NEC to seek opportunities to promote new co-op endeavours such as co-op housing.

Amendment

At the end of the motion, delete the full stop and insert a comma and add the words:
"social care homes and schools"

CG Plymouth and South West Party**Motion 50****CG Manchester and District Party**

This Conference believes that the Co-operative Party should do more to promote credit unions to counter the growth of loan sharks and pay day loan companies. The Party should also urge co-operative societies to provide facilities to support them.

Housing

COMPOSITE MOTION D**Motion 52 plus amendment and Motion 54**

This Conference notes the importance of affordable decent housing for the people of this country.

This Conference notes that Jack Dromey and Ed Balls work on Housing Co-operative Legislation. Conference calls for a campaign on the promotion of the principle of Co-operative Housing to maximise access to all stakeholders, and ask that the Co-operative Party and Labour MPs ensure that Co-operative Housing becomes a major thrust in the Labour Party Manifesto for the next General Election.

Conference requests that the National Executive Committee prioritise the dissemination of 'best practise' in using co-operative principles across all sectors of the housing market; social or private rented accommodation and that which is owner occupied including older housing in need of retrofitting to be energy efficient.

Moved by: CG North West North Party
Seconded by: CG South and West Region
Supported by: Glenall Housing Co-op

Motion 53**CG Central and Eastern Region**

This Conference calls upon the co-operative movement to act in reversing the decline in social housing by asking Local Authorities and Local Housing Authorities to release land for co-operative housing initiatives. This would provide local work for local unemployed builders and associated trades, suppliers and construction workers and help to improve the availability of housing for rent at a time of great need. We hope that every Local Authority and Housing Authority will put a scheme forward in their area commensurate with the size of the authority.

Amendment

First sentence, after "initiatives" add:

"and provide development finance and promote local co-operative housing agencies."

Glenall Housing Co-op

Motion 55**CG Bath & West Party**

This Conference recognises the success of The Community Self Build Agency when helping young and vulnerable people build their own homes.

Conferences realises that Government departments, housing associations, local authorities, existing co-operatives and voluntary sector organisations all have a part to play when tackling the serious problem of youth unemployment.

Conference therefore urges the governments of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to establish sustainable youth employment schemes devised to encourage young people to build their own homes and learn new skills – via local co-operative projects.

COMPOSITED MOTIONS

COMPOSITE A

ECONOMIC, TRADING AND EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Motion 28

CG North West North Party

This Conference notes the thirty year long over inflation of top salaries and bonuses that has spread throughout our economy from a starting point in the City of London. As co-operators we believe that differentials between the highest and lowest paid people in our community should be fair and equitable.

Conference acknowledges that low pay and lack of access to affordable credit is socially and economically damaging and leads to: poorer diets, colder homes, arrears of rent, council tax and utility bills, depression (which impacts on job seeking behaviour) and poor health.

Conference further notes that unaffordable credit extracts wealth from our most deprived communities, usually redistributing it towards the least deprived.

Conference therefore instructs the NEC to construct a policy statement on the Co-operative ideal for the financial future of our people and communities that includes commitments towards campaigning for:

- The adoption of a National Living Wage initially based on £7.20p an hour for the financial year 2012/13, to be inflated annually by the RPI or CPI whichever is the greatest.
- A statutory right for employees in large companies to have a 50% representation on the remuneration committee of that company.
- The introduction of a statutory maximum annualised percentage rate of interest on all forms of credit agreements.

Motion 31

CG London Party

This Conference congratulates the work of The Living Wage Campaign and recognises the importance of working across the Co-operative movement in partnership with Trade Unions to secure the minimum pay rate required for a worker to provide for their family with the essentials of life.

Conference notes that a Living Wage is:

- a) Good for Business

An independent study of the business benefits of implementing a Living Wage policy in London found that more than 80% of employers believe that the Living Wage had enhanced the quality of the work of their staff, while absenteeism had fallen by approximately 25%.

Two thirds of employers reported a significant impact on recruitment and retention within their organisation. 70% of employers felt that the Living Wage had increased consumer awareness of their organisation's commitment to be an ethical employer.

b) Good for the Individual

A Living wage affords people the dignity to provide for themselves and their families.

75% of employees reported increases in work quality as a result of receiving the Living Wage.

50% of employees felt that the Living Wage had made them more willing to implement changes in their working practices; enabled them to require fewer concessions to effect change; and made them more likely to adopt changes more quickly.

c) Good for Society

The Living Wage campaign was launched in 2001 by parents in East London, who were frustrated that working two minimum wage jobs left no time for family life. Over 10,000 London families have been lifted out of working poverty as a direct result of the Living Wage.

In London the current rate is £8.30 per hour. Outside of London the current rate is £7.20.

Conference recognises this as a core principle of good co-operative business and adopts the Living Wage as policy.

Amendment

Section C:

add at end of final paragraph:

“and urges Labour/Co-op MPs and Peers to drive this forward in Parliament”

CG Sussex Party

COMPOSITE B

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY ISSUES

Motion 38

CG North West North Party

This Conference calls on the NEC to arrange for the collation and publication of co-operative movement expertise in supplying community groups with energy, alternative energy sources and associated measures.

Conference believes that the outcome should offer advice and practical solutions to community, neighbourhood and voluntary organisations to assist them in reducing energy consumption and the associated costs, and subsequently their carbon footprint.

Motion 43

CG Northern Ireland Party

This Conference calls for an effective and efficiently financed fair green deal throughout all the regions of the United Kingdom and urges all Co-operative Party councillors and members to support in every practical way open to them the establishment of the Energy Saving Co-op.

Motion 46

Midcounties Oxfordshire Party

Conference congratulates Midcounties Co-operative Society for establishing a competitively priced energy company based on a simple, transparent price structure and backed by outstanding customer care. Through the policy of one fair price, "Co-operative Energy" avoids the confusion of tariffs common with other energy providers – competitors seeking to exploit confusion to raise profits. "Co-operative Energy" was a winner in the Market Gravity UK Corporate Entrepreneur Awards in 2011, coming ahead of its major energy competitors after only one year in business.

Conference also congratulates "Co-operative Energy" for contracting an energy mix with less than half of the carbon content of the national average. Through its ethical stance "Co-operative Energy" is assisting with the much needed adaptation towards a low-carbon life-style. Clearly, "Co-operative Energy" exemplifies the superiority of the co-operative way of doing business.

Consequently, Conference recommends that our movement be encouraged to investigate further co-operative based initiatives, including co-operative business models to assist with the alleviation of fuel poverty – for example, for residents of remote communities where heating needs are often reliant on high cost fuels such as domestic heating oil. Without co-operative leadership "The Green Deal" could result in higher bills for the most vulnerable and could do nothing for the fuel poor.

Conference believes clear and transparent co-operative solutions as exemplified by "Co-operative Energy" must be made available for this emerging market to offer a fair and green deal.

COMPOSITE C

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY ISSUES

Motion 39

Midcounties Society

This Conference welcomes the work of Co-operative Development Bodies in producing the "From 2 to 20" action plan. It further welcomes the outcome of the Future Co-operatives Conference in 2012 published in Co-operative News in February 2012. It calls upon the Party to give full support to the Action Plan as published in Co-operative News and work with CDBs and other partners to deliver the objectives of increasing the percentage of GDP produced by Co-operative enterprises from 2 to 20% by the end of the century.

Motion 47

Midlands Society Northern Region Party

Conference notes that co-operative enterprises are more successful than PLCs and in this, the UN International Year of Co-operatives urges the NEC to work with the Labour Party, in order to place co-operatives at the heart of a new economic policy.

Motion 51

CG Manchester and District Party

This Conference believes that the Co-op Party should be encouraging the growth of worker owned commercial ventures. They should attempt to include consumers in the organisation through their management structures.

COMPOSITE D

HOUSING

Motion 52

CG North West North Party

This Conference notes the importance of affordable decent housing for the people of this country.

Conference requests that the National Executive Committee prioritise the dissemination of 'best practise' in using co-operative principles across all sectors of the housing market; social or private rented accommodation and that which is owner occupied."

Amendment

Second paragraph, after "owner occupied" add:

"including older housing in need of retrofitting to be energy efficient."

Glenall Housing Co-op

Motion 54 CG South and West Region

This Conference notes that Jack Dromey and Ed Balls work on Housing Co-operative Legislation. Conference calls for a campaign on the promotion of the principle of Co-operative Housing to maximise access to all stakeholders, and ask that the Co-operative Party and Labour MPs ensure that Co-operative Housing becomes a major thrust in the Labour Party Manifesto for the next General Election.

The Rule Book

Section C

Party Conference

Party Conference

Introduction

1. These Rules do not replace the registered Rules of Co-operative Party Ltd and shall at all times be consistent with the registered Rules. In the event of any inconsistency, the registered Rules of the Co-operative Party Ltd. shall apply.

Party Conference – status

2. There shall be an Annual Party Conference, which shall itself be subject to the National Rules and Constitution.

Procedural Rules for Party Conference

3. The Annual Conference of the Co-operative Party shall be convened in accordance with the Constitution.
4. A Special Conference may be called in accordance with the Constitution.
5. All delegates shall be individual members of local Parties.
6. A delegation fee for each delegate shall be payable by the organisation sending delegates to Party Conference. Such fees must be paid to the Secretary of the Party before credentials are issued. The amount of the delegation fee payable for each conference shall be fixed by the NEC and notified to all subscribing Societies and registered Parties. For the Annual session of Party Conference this shall be fixed by 31 December of the preceding year.
7. Ex-officio members of the Party Conference are as follows:-
 - Members of the NEC
 - Official members of Parliament
 - Official members of the Scottish Parliament
 - Official members of the National Assembly for Wales
 - Official members of English regional assemblies
 - Official Co-operative Party Councillors
 - Elected members of the National Youth Committee
 - Members of the Parliamentary, Scottish and National Assembly for Wales Parliamentary Panels and English Regional Panels
 - The Party General Secretary
 - Members of the Conference Arrangements Committee

8. Ex-officio members may speak but have no voting powers unless appointed as a delegate. Staff members may also speak, where appointed by the NEC, but they may not be selected as delegates.
9. Notices of motions for the Annual Party Conference shall be forwarded in writing to the head office at such times as the NEC shall determine, but at least eight weeks shall be given for their inclusion in the first Agenda issued to organisations entitled to representation. Amendments to the motions for inclusion in the Final Agenda shall be forwarded to head office before the closing date determined by the Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC).
10. No other business than that upon the Agenda shall be considered unless recommended by the NEC or by the CAC.
11. When the Annual Conference has by resolution made a declaration of a general policy or principle, no motion concerning such policy or principle shall appear upon the Agenda for a period of two years from the time such declaration was made, excepting such motion which, in the opinion of the NEC, is of vital importance and urgency.
12. No motion or speeches dealing with staff terms and conditions or the appointment or behaviour of any member of staff shall be in order. Such matters must be referred in writing to the NEC.
13. No more than three motions and three amendments shall be submitted by any one organisation.
14. Submitted motions and amendments shall not exceed 300 words.
15. The CAC shall have the power to composite motions dealing with the same issues. Where in the opinion of the CAC any organisation submitting a motion refuses to have its motion composited, the CAC shall reserve the right to recommend that the motion be not debated.
16. Notices of motions of an emergency nature must be recommended to the CAC by the NEC or supported by not less than ten organisations represented at Conference. Such motions must be handed to the CAC duly signed not later than 9.30 am on the day of the Conference excepting the last. No emergency motion shall be accepted unless its submission has been expressly authorised by the delegates of promoting organisations present at Conference. Subject to the approval of Conference, the CAC shall decide the admissibility or otherwise of any emergency motion submitted to it. The acceptance of such motion or motions by the CAC does not guarantee that the motions will be brought before the Conference for debate.
17. The CAC shall be composed of five persons: four elected by ballot to be held at Annual Conference; and member of the NEC who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the NEC and represent that body. Notwithstanding casual vacancies, no more than two persons shall be elected at any one Annual Conference.

18. Nominees for the CAC should be delegates to the Conference
19. Voting for the CAC will be on the same basis as the NEC.
20. No more than one representative shall be elected from any one Region.
21. The successful nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall serve for three years and the successful nominee with the next highest vote shall serve for one year.
22. The CAC shall call together not later than the day preceding the first day of Conference a representative or representatives of all organisations whom it deems necessary to cater for in connection with motions or amendments submitted for the Agenda. The CAC shall, immediately after the Chair's address, submit to the Conference for confirmation or otherwise a printed Conference timetable. It shall group the motions according to subject, indicate the order of precedence, and set down a maximum time limit for each motion or group of motions. It shall issue to delegates copies of all composite motions agreed upon and any new motions properly submitted in accordance with Procedural Rule 13.
23. The CAC, subject to the Procedural Rules for Party Conference, shall govern the procedure of the business of the Conference and make the necessary arrangements for the success of the Conference.
24. The CAC shall appoint its own Chair by simple majority, who will be responsible to the Conference for its work and guidance. The Secretary to the CAC shall be appointed by the General Secretary acting on behalf of the NEC. The business of the Annual Conference shall include the following:
 25. Civic Welcome (if any)
 26. Fraternal Greetings
 27. Chair's Address
 28. Report of the CAC
 29. Parliamentary Reports
 30. Motions and amendments accepted for inclusion in the Final Agenda and emergency motions accepted in accordance with these Rules.
 31. Except where a special time limit recommended by the CAC has been accepted by the Conference, the mover of every motion shall be allowed five minutes and three for reply, and the NEC shall be allowed up to seven minutes for reply to the whole debate. When an amendment is made to any motion and no further amendment is carried, then it shall become the substantive motion.
 32. No delegate shall be permitted to speak more than once on the same proposition, except the proposer, who shall have the right to reply before the vote is taken.

Voting

33. Any debate may be closed by a resolution “That the question be now put” having been moved, seconded and carried. Such a resolution must be put to the meeting without debate, but no speech shall be interrupted for the purpose of proposing such a motion.
34. If carried, the debate will move immediately to the right of reply and then to the vote.
35. All votes shall be taken, in the first instance, by a show of hands.
36. A card vote shall be taken on any motion if it is either recommended by the CAC or requested by the delegates of ten organisations rising in their places and showing their book of voting cards.
37. All changes to these Rules must be taken by Card Vote.
38. Any Procedural Rule may be suspended by a majority vote of the delegates assembled.
39. On a card vote, each Local Party and society shall have ten votes, plus one additional vote for every £25 or part of that amount paid to the Party during the previous financial year.

the co-operative party

politics for people



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