



Co-operatives London Annual Report September 2016

Co-operatives London is a network of London-based co-operatives set to promote cooperation among London's co-operatives and co-operators and to grow the cooperative economy. It also formally acts as the regional cooperative council for the Capital, and is recognised as such by Co-operatives UK.

Activity in 2016

In accordance with Co-operatives London Mission Statement we organise our activities around four themes:

Theme 1: *Promoting cooperation among London's Co-operatives and Co-operators to grow the cooperative economy.*

Our main focused activity in 2016 has been *building cooperation amongst London co-operators*, through three **Principles Six** events attended by 20 plus people on each occasion. These events follow a dynamic format that enable a range of co-operatives, social enterprises and potential co-operators to tell others about their activity, and receive business leads and referrals from those present.

Our Principle Six events were held on 11 November 2015, 9 May 2016, and 9 and 10 March 2016. These were three evening events and one Fair Trade Breakfast. All events were held either in conjunction or with other organisations. Thanks go to Hackney Cooperative Developments, Hackney Fairtrade, Outlandish, CDS Co-operatives, Altgen and Co-operatives UK and others.

Going forward Co-operatives London are keen to run more regular Principle Six events on quarterly basis – utilising participant's willingness to pay to attend, in terms of covering over heads, plus actively seeking small scale project funding for the events.

Theme 2: *Increasing understanding and knowledge of Cooperatives and Cooperation in London.*

Co-operatives London informative web site remains a source of information on Co-operatives in the Capital. It is only limited by the amount of fresh copy that members are able to provide.

Co-operatives London regular monthly meetings also aim provide a forum for discussion on coop issues in the Capital, and wider afield. We in particular had a very informative discussion led by Ian Adderley from the FSA in April of this year.

Theme 3 Representing and promoting new opportunities for cooperation in the Capital

Co-operatives London continues to ensure active participation at Co-operative Congress, Cooperatives UK meetings of the Regional Cooperative Councils, and other cooperative meetings with a national pull.

We are pleased to note that our V/Chair Sion Whellens, through his involvement and support to worker co-operatives and Co-operatives UK has been appointed to CECOP – CICOPA Europe is the European confederation of industrial and service cooperatives as a UK representative.

The election of the New London Mayoral administration provides further opportunities to explore in terms of elected London Governance. Although, unfortunately the call from Co-operatives London for Sadiq Khan to establish a Co-operative Commission for London, similar to that established by the Welsh Assembly did not see it to his Manifesto. There is a number of London Assembly Members who are both Labour and the Co-operative Party representatives with whom cooperative issues and ideas can be addressed formally and informally.

Theme 4 Communicating London Cooperation activity.

Co-operatives London web page at www.ldn.coop provides a substantial platform for communicating and promoting cooperative activity in London.

In addition, Co-operatives London features on Facebook and on twitter. Our twitter account @CoopsLDN has 1,662 followers.

Many thanks to Directors and other members who helped to spread the information and provided content for our pages and newsletters. Going forward there are variety of possibilities to add content and attract further social media interest in our activities.

Finance

Co-operatives London thanks Co-operatives UK for its continued financial support and co-operation, and we hope that this support can be revived in the future.

More information of about financial operations of Co-operatives London can be found in [Co-operatives London Annual Accounts Report](#).

Directors in 2015/16

The following acted as directors of Co-operatives London in 2015/16 with full voting rights and responsibility:

- Clive Fraser (Chair, individual member)
- Sion Whellens (Vice chair & Treasurer- Calverts)
- Greg Robbins (Director - London Federation of Housing Coops)
- Mervyn Eastman (Director - ChangeAgents)
- Alex Hartley (Director - South East London Community Energy)
- Dominic Ellison (Director – Hackney Coop Developments)
- Gregory Cohn (Director - Tower Hamlets CDA)

Co-operatives London was also privileged to have Tatiana Baskakova (Ceramics Studio Co-op) as our new secretary.

Other (non Director) members in regular attendance:

- Jan Kuiper (individual member)
- Alex Buckmire (Voluntary Action Harrow)

As Chair, I would like to formally thank my fellow directors, Tatiana as Secretary, and other regular participants, for their contribution in and outside meetings, and making the continued existence of Co-operatives London meaningful and successful.

I would particularly like to thank Sion Whellens, who in addition to being V/Chair, stepped in as Treasurer, and acted as the facilitator at the Principle Six events.

Clive Fraser
Chair Co-operatives London
September 2016