



Co-operatives East

Original Constitution

Adopted 2nd May 2006
Amended 7th February 2008 and further amended by
Annual General Meeting 15 October 2013

Name: Co-operatives East (CE)

Objectives

1. The Objectives of CE shall be:-
 - a) To raise the profile of the co-operative sector in the Eastern region of England
 - b) To represent the interests of the Eastern region co-operative sector
 - c) To encourage mutual support, inter-trading, sharing of best practice, training and development opportunities between co-operatives.
 - d) To work with local, regional, national and transnational bodies to strengthen the co-operative sector.
 - e) To promote the support for and development of co-operatives throughout the Eastern Region.
2. The Eastern region is defined as the area covered by the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Powers

3. The Management Committee shall have the power to do all such lawful things as are necessary to achieve objectives.

Not-for-Profit Status

4. The income and property of the Organisation shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objectives and no portion shall be transferred directly or indirectly to members of the Organisation, except

payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any member, officer or employee for services rendered

Membership

5. Membership shall be open to individuals and to all organisations promoting co-operative principles operating in the Eastern region. Co-operative principles are defined as those set down by the International Co-operative Alliance (as appended). In interpreting these principles and values the Management Committee intends to be flexible and inclusive.
6. All applicants for membership must pay any subscription, as determined from time to time by the Management Committee and their application shall be considered at the first available Management Committee meeting following the date of their application.
7. A member shall cease to be a member if they:-
 - a) Resign
 - b) Cease to be an organisation as defined in Rule 5.
 - c) Are expelled from membership in accordance with Rule 8
 - d) Are wound up or go into liquidation
 - e) Die
8. The Management Committee shall have the right to expel any member who is:
 - a) in breach of this Constitution or
 - b) In breach of any standing orders enacted by the Committee or
 - c) who is considered to be guilty of misconduct or of bringing the Organisation into disreputeThe Member has the right to appeal.

General Meetings (Members Meetings)

9. The Management Committee shall hold an **Annual General Meeting** of members at such a time and place as the Management Committee may determine, but in any case shall not be held later than six months after the financial year end and no two successive Annual General Meetings shall be more than fifteen months apart.
10. The Management Committee shall present to the Annual General Meeting a report on activities and the financial statements for the previous year and will arrange for the election of Committee members
11. An AGM or a General Meeting shall be called by giving 3 weeks notice to each member. The quorum shall be 5 members or 10% of the membership whichever is the greater.

12. The Management Committee shall hold at least 3 **General Meetings** per year between successive AGMs.

The Management Committee (the Committee)

13. Members of the Management committee shall be elected from the membership at the AGM. At each AGM one-third of the members of the Committee will stand down but shall be eligible for re-election.
14. Upon the resignation of any Committee member, the Committee shall have the power to fill such vacancies by requests to the appropriate organisation represented or in the case of elected members by co-option. These vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the term of office of the person replaced
15. The Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of Co-operatives East. The Committee shall comprise not less than five or more than nine members.
16. The Committee should meet at least four times a year, although it may meet more frequently if necessary. At least one week's notice shall be given to each member. The quorum shall be three members. Each Committee member has one vote and all decisions are to be carried by simple majority.
17. In order to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the Management Committee, the Committee shall have power to:
 - a) Enact secondary rules or standing orders within the framework of this constitution.
 - b) Constitute such Sub-Committees as may be necessary.
 - c) Appoint a Bank of its choosing. Bank signatories are to be members of the Management Committee and all instructions to the Bank, including cheques, to be signed by any 2 appointed signatories.
18. No member may vote on any matter in which s/he is directly or indirectly financially interested and must declare such an interest to the meeting.

Officers

19. Members of the Management Committee shall elect from among their number a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as they think fit from time to time.

Dissolution

- 20.** In the event of the dissolution of Co-operatives East, any remaining assets shall not be distributed among the members of the organisation but shall be distributed to other organisations having similar objectives or to other bodies having social or charitable purpose.

Changes to the Constitution

- 21.** This Constitution may be amended by a resolution of members present at a meeting carried by a 2/3 majority. Notice for the meeting will be the same as for the Annual General Meeting.