



## Steve Allsopp

It is an exciting time to be a Co-operator and a member of Midcounties. The downturn in the economy has led increasing numbers to return to tried and tested brands based on trust in one another rather than faceless corporations. Long gone is the old fashioned Co-op image of dusty shops, declining market share and an organisation going backwards. We need to ensure that Midcounties continues to be best placed to take advantage of the upturn in the fortunes of co-operation.

We need to continue:

- to invest in our staff
- provide a reasonable return to our members
- build our business
- strengthen our links with the community
- enhance our ethical trade, building on our success with Fairtrade and Local Harvest
- work to reduce our environmental footprint
- co-operate with co-operators locally, nationally and internationally

and emphasise our Co-operative Difference as a member owned and run organisation.

I have served on the Board of Midcounties and its predecessors for more than 20 years. I currently chair the Audit Committee working to ensure that we manage our risks effectively and operate our controls to support a sustainable future for Midcounties. I also serve on the Board of Co-op Futures and I am a member of my local Credit Union. If re-elected I will continue to bring my background in people skills to the Board and press for progress on the areas identified above to help build future success for our Society throughout the region we serve.

**Steve Allsopp**