



The Midcounties Co-operative Campaigns Fund

Annual Report 2021/22

This short report highlights the activities of the Society's Campaigns Fund during the financial year 2021/22. It is provided to members for information.

Members are welcome to ask questions about the Fund at the AGM on 14 May 2022. Alternatively, members can contact the Secretary:

edward.parker@midcounties.coop

Information about the Fund, its scope and the details for applications are also published on the Society's website:

<https://www.midcounties.coop/community/campaigns-fund/>

Edward Parker
Secretary & Head of Governance

1. The Society and political engagement

In October 2013, the Society's members adopted a Statement on Political Engagement. The Statement shows that the Society is willing to engage with any political organisation that shares its objectives and beliefs. A copy can be found in the appendix to this report.

2. Campaigns Fund

The Campaigns Fund was established, following member approval, at the Society's AGM in 2014. It supports campaigning activities (primarily within the Society's core trading area) that promote co-operation in the political arena and that are sympathetic to the Society's objectives and priorities.

Applications are welcome from any organisation, including the Co-operative Party, active in the Society's heartland areas, whose aims are sympathetic to the Society and the co-operative model generally.

Applications are requested on an annual basis and reviewed by a Grants Panel, made up of Society directors, which makes recommendations to the Society's Board for final approval.

The Fund is funded by a distribution approved by members at each AGM. Members approved a distribution of £60,000 at the 2021 AGM.

The Board approved the most recent allocation of funds at its meeting held in November 2021. Recipients are listed overleaf.

3. Future grant rounds

Members are invited to check the Society's website for further information. The Campaigns Fund webpage is regularly updated:

<https://www.midcounties.coop/community/campaigns-fund/>



Organisation	Activity request	Funds awarded (£)
Midcounties Gloucestershire and Swindon Party Council	Core funding for the Gloucestershire and Swindon Party Council. This covers three branches: Gloucester, Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury, Stroud and Swindon. The branches will maintain co-operative political activity in the Midcounties Co-operative Society's core trading area supporting Midcounties campaigns	£5,468
Co-operative Party	To defend and further the cause of co-operation in the UK, ensuring the movement's voice is heard in Parliament and at all levels of government by policy and legislative change and by securing the election of co-operators. To promote and protect the movement through policy, campaigns and legislation.	£32,460
Midcounties Oxfordshire Co-operative Party Council	Core funding for Oxfordshire Party Council. The branch and Party Council will maintain co-operative political activity in this part of the Midcounties Co-operative core trading area supporting Midcounties campaigns.	£4,322
Central Midlands Co-op Party	The funding will be used to sponsor candidates who contest elections to Councils and other public bodies.	£3,500
NHS Support Federation	The funding will contribute towards the cost of a marketing role to help distribute campaigning materials. The campaign seeks to raise awareness and improve community involvement to help influence local and national decision-makers about the crucial issue of how to raise NHS capacity so that it better meets local needs.	£2,000
Make Votes Matter	The funding will be used to focus on the West Midlands area to support more in-person campaign events which were not possible last year due to Covid-19. They would like to feature Midcounties Co-op in the campaign by inviting a speaker to a local group meeting or work together on an event for Co-op Party members. The funding would cover staff time to develop and support this new activity with Midcounties.	£2,503



Organisation	Activity request	Funds awarded (£)
Ownership at Work	Multi-year funding (£5,000 in 2021, £5,000 in 2022) to increase levels of support and address the gap in local and national government thinking around shared ownership business models in order to increase levels of support and funding.	£10,000
Total		£60,253



APPENDIX

The Midcounties Co-operative Limited

Statement on political engagement

Approved by members on 24 October 2013

The Midcounties Co-operative supports, in letter and spirit, the Principles set out in the Statement of Co-operative Identity of the International Co-operative Alliance and the Governance Code of Co-operatives UK, to embrace all who accept the responsibilities of membership without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

The Society recognises the important role that the Co-operative Party has played, and continues to play, in promoting the interests of co-operation in the political sphere and, with the endorsement of members as expressed at successive Annual Meetings, provides financial support for the work of the Party.

The Society also seeks to engage with other political organisations and campaigning organisations which are active in its core trading area and which share its objective of working towards a society based on democracy, equal opportunities and social justice; and an economy where co-operative ownership plays an important and growing role in generating prosperity, genuine consumer choice and sustainable community development.