

Annual Report 2007/08

Our thanks go to the Co-operative Fund and Midcounties Co-operative who continue to provide financial support to Co-operatives^{SE} to enable it to work on behalf of the co-operative sector across the South East region.

Many thanks also to the board who have once again worked hard on behalf of Co-operatives^{SE}. They are:

- Barbara Dunne
- Karen Froggatt
- Chris Funnell
- Felix Lozano
- Ann Hayes
- Andrew Syrett
- Mike Tiller
- Jo White.

We would also like to thank Co-operatives^{UK} for the support that they provide us with throughout the year.

Activities

Co-operative Fund Project

During 2007/08 the Co-operative Group's support for regional co-operative councils was passed to the Co-operative Fund. Co-operatives^{SE} applied for some funding a project to increase our representation, promotion, development and expansion of the co-operative movement in the South East by

- (1) Improving our knowledge of existing members and
- (2) Recruiting new Co-operatives^{SE} members

Although this has got off to a slow start during this year we intend for this project to be the focus of our work during 2008/09 and we are very grateful to the Co-operative Fund for this opportunity.

Support for Co-operative Development Bodies (CDBs)

The South East region has a number of CDBs which operate in it and Co-operatives^{SE} recognises the contribution that these organisations make to the growth and sustainability of the co-operative movement. Over the last year major changes have been made to the business support environment which have had a significantly detrimental effect on the regions CDBs. Co-operatives^{SE} with the CDBs and South East Co-operative Support (an umbrella body for CDBs in the region) is looking for ways to ensure that the movement does not lose these vital resources.

South East Social Enterprise Partnership

Co-operatives^{SE} continue to represent the co-operative sector on this partnership. At the end of this year the partnership incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and Co-operatives^{SE} is represented on the Board of Directors. The partnership is in the process of creating a business plan for future development. More information about the partnership can be found at www.se2partnership.co.uk

Work with Co-operatives UK

We continue to work closely with Co-operatives UK and as part of our membership drive continue to looking to raise their profile in the region. We participate in the network meetings of the Regional Co-operative Councils organised by Co-operatives UK. These meetings enable the sharing of good practice and information across the country.

Marketing

During this year we were pleased to produce our first brochure detailing the size and scope of the co-operative movement in the South East region. We hope to be able to update this brochure on an annual basis using the intelligence collected by Co-operatives^{UK} a copy of the brochure can be seen on our website. We have also started to create some marketing materials that can used to raise the profile of Co-operatives^{SE}

We have continued to develop the website and expect that this work will continue over the forthcoming months. You can find all of the minutes of the board meetings and membership application information on the site. The website can be found at

www.cooperatives-uk.coop/HoldingPage/about/regionsAndNations/co-operativesSe

Governance & Membership

Following on from the discussions at the AGM last year the board has been reviewing the company's memorandum and articles in light of the clauses about membership. As a result of this there will be an Extraordinary General Members meeting held with the AGM this year to change the governing document.

The board are pleased to be able to report that there is continual growth in the membership of Co-operatives^{SE} and look forward to further growth as result of our Co-operative Fund project.

Jo White
Chair
June 2008