

Party Support Handbook

The Rule Book - Section S

Wales Council of the Co-operative Party

Cyngor Cymru Y Blaid Gydweithredol

Wales Council of the Co-operative Party

Name

1. The Council shall be called the Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol

Functions of the Council

2. The functions of the Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol shall be:
 - To secure the affiliation of Co-operative Societies to the Co-operative Party, and to encourage the formation of local Co-operative Party organisation in units best suited to the task of securing direct Co-operative representation in Parliament, in the National Assembly for Wales and on Local Government and other administrative bodies in accordance with the decisions of the NEC; to unify and co-ordinate the efforts of local Co-operative Party organisations and to act as an advisory and consultative committee to the NEC.
 - In furtherance of these objects, to undertake political, educational and promotional work and maintain an adequate distribution of Co-operative Party literature for the purpose of instructing the Co-operative Movement and the general public on the policy, aims and objects of the Co-operative Party.
 - To liaise with the Wales Labour Party and appoint delegates to all relevant Wales Labour Party conferences, committees and bodies.
 - To consider local government issues affecting Wales.
 - To undertake any duties allocated to the Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol by the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party, and to secure a proper observance of the decisions of the Annual Conference of the Co-operative Party.
 - To promote the political policies of the Co-operative Party.
 - To participate as a full partner in the Co-operative Party policy making process and to contribute to the advancement of Co-operative Party policies within the Labour Party's various policy forums.

Affiliates

3. All Co-operative Societies trading in Wales that subscribe to the Co-operative Party and all Society and Voluntary Co-operative Parties functioning in Wales shall be entitled to representation.



Finance

4. There will be an annual grant from the NEC of the Co-operative Party, and affiliation fees from Parties in accordance with a scale agreed from time to time.
5. Travelling expenses of members will be met by the appointing organisations.

Audit

6. The Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol shall submit its accounts to the Co-operative Party NEC annually for audit and a report from the auditors shall be made available to the Wales Council/Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol.

Composition of the Council

7. The Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol shall consist of:
 - The National Executive Committee member representing Wales.
 - Two representatives from each affiliated Co-operative Society.
 - Two representatives from each affiliated Society Party and Voluntary Party plus one further representative for each 50 members resident in Wales.
 - The Official Co-operative Members of Parliament in Wales, who shall have voting rights
 - Two representatives elected by and from the Official Co-operative Assembly Group
 - One Co-operative Official Councillor, elected by and from official Co-operative Councillors serving on unitary authorities in Wales.
 - The Co-operative Party National Organiser for Wales, who shall be the Secretary and shall be a non-voting member.
 - Adopted Official Co-operative Party Prospective Parliamentary Candidates for Welsh constituencies, as observers.
8. Arrangements may be made for observers.

Conditions of Membership

9. All members of the Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol shall be individual members of the Co-operative Party and subject to the rules thereof.
10. All delegates from affiliated Parties and Societies shall reside within Wales.
11. Co-operative Party membership and disciplinary regulations will apply.



Annual Meeting

12. There shall be an Annual Meeting, which shall determine Co-operative Party policy in relation to matters affecting Wales alone.
13. It shall receive greetings from the NEC and an annual report from the Wales Council - Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol.
14. Those entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting shall be as indicated in Paragraph 7 above.
15. All affiliated organisations shall be invited to submit resolutions for consideration by the delegates attending the Annual Meeting, in accordance with the standing orders.

Relationship with the Labour Party

16. The relationship with the Labour Party shall be governed by the National Agreement between the Co-operative Party and the Labour Party, and be overseen by the NEC.
17. The Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol shall affiliate to the Wales Labour Party.
18. Delegates to Labour Party conference shall be representative of the Co-operative Party in Wales. Each delegate shall have a duty at the conference to promote Co-operative Party policy.
19. Motions to Labour Party conferences shall reflect Co-operative Party policy.

Election of Officials

20. The officers of the Council shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected by and from the Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol at the Annual Meeting; they shall remain in office for one year and will not hold any office for a period exceeding two years without an intervening period of four years. Unless there are no other valid nominations, no person shall be nominated for the Chair if the position has been held by a representative of the same body during the preceding four years.
21. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the officers plus five members, to be elected annually at the Annual Meeting.

Meetings

22. The Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol shall normally meet quarterly.

Parliamentary and Assembly Representatives

23. The Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol shall have a duty to ensure that Official Co-operative Party Parliamentary & Assembly candidates are designated in accordance with the National Agreement on ballot papers & in election literature.



24. Arrangements for selecting official candidates for Parliamentary elections shall remain a matter for the NEC.
25. The Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol shall have a duty to ensure that the Co-operative Party is represented within the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with a scheme to be agreed with the NEC of the Co-operative Party.

Amendments to the Constitution

26. Amendments or alterations to the constitution can only be made at the Annual Meeting of the Wales Council of the Co-operative Party – Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol and only when such amendment or alteration has been received by the Secretary three calendar months before the date of the Annual Meeting. Upon receiving such notice the Secretary shall circulate a copy of the proposal to all affiliated organisations prior to the meeting considering it.
27. A two-thirds majority of the delegates present and voting shall be required in order to effect an alteration or addition to the constitution.
28. All proposed amendments to the constitution must be approved by the National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party.
29. These Rules do not replace the registered Rules of Co-operative Party Ltd and shall at all times be consistent with the registered Rules. In the event of any inconsistency, the registered Rules of the Co-operative Party Ltd. shall apply.