

CCH Conference 2016

Claire McCarthy, General Secretary



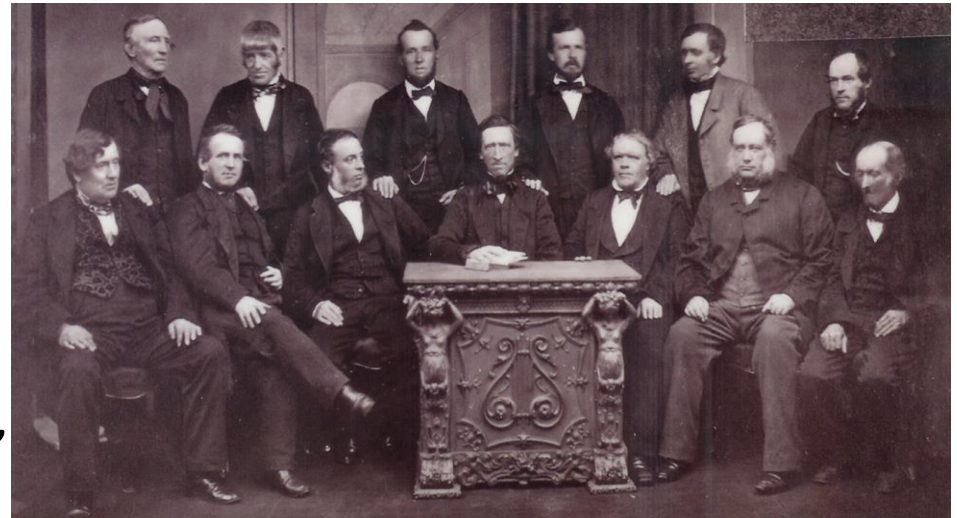
What is the Co-operative Party?

The Purpose of the Party is:

“to promote co-operative and mutual forms of economic and social organisation, which are based on the principles of mutual ownership and democratic control, and to support political action in pursuance of the Values and Principles of the co-operative movement in the UK and internationally as defined by the International Co-operative Alliance.”

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Historical achievements

Legislating for consumer protection

- ✓ The Consumer Protection Act 1961
- ✓ The Weights and Measures Act 1962
- ✓ The Hire Purchase Act 1964
- ✓ Abolition of resale price maintenance (1964)
- ✓ Licensing Act 1967
- ✓ Trade Descriptions Act 1968



Early environmental legislation

- ✓ The Farm and Garden Chemicals Act 1968
- ✓ The Clean Air Act 1968

Supported the creation of the agricultural co-operative movement

Promotion of the co-operative housing movement

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1997-2010

- ✓ Secured political support for the Co-operative Commission
- ✓ Transformed co-operative and mutual law
- ✓ Secured financial support to grow the credit union movement
- ✓ Supported Fairtrade
- ✓ Set up Supporters' Direct
- ✓ Helped found the co-operative schools movement
- ✓ Supported the development of community-led stock transfers in housing



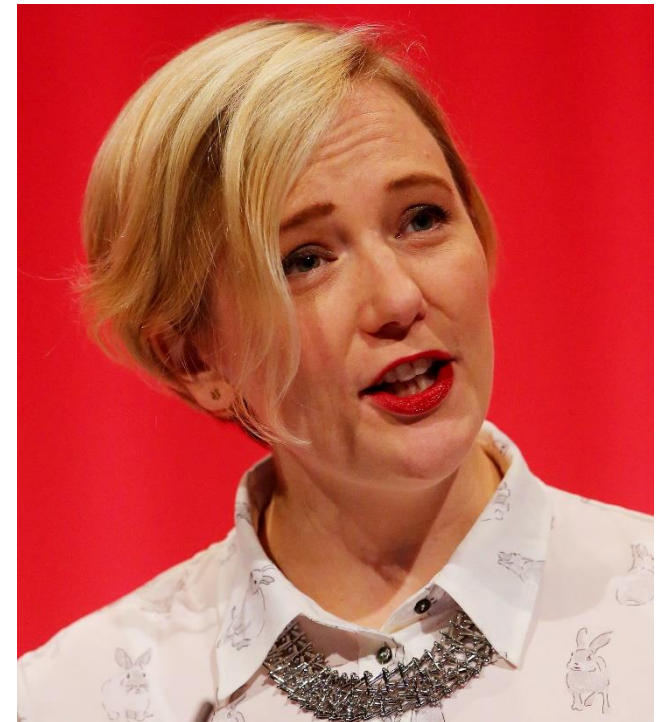
The Co-operative Party today

- ❑ 25 Labour & Co-operative MPs
- ❑ 17 Members of the House of Lords
- ❑ 11 Members of the National Assembly for Wales
- ❑ 8 Members of the Scottish Parliament
- ❑ Hundreds of Councillors in local government in England, Wales and Scotland



Recent Achievements

- ❑ Crackdown on payday lenders
- ❑ Armed Forces Credit Union
- ❑ Co-operative Consolidation Act
- ❑ Amendments to the Energy Act 2013



Co-op Party work on co-operative housing



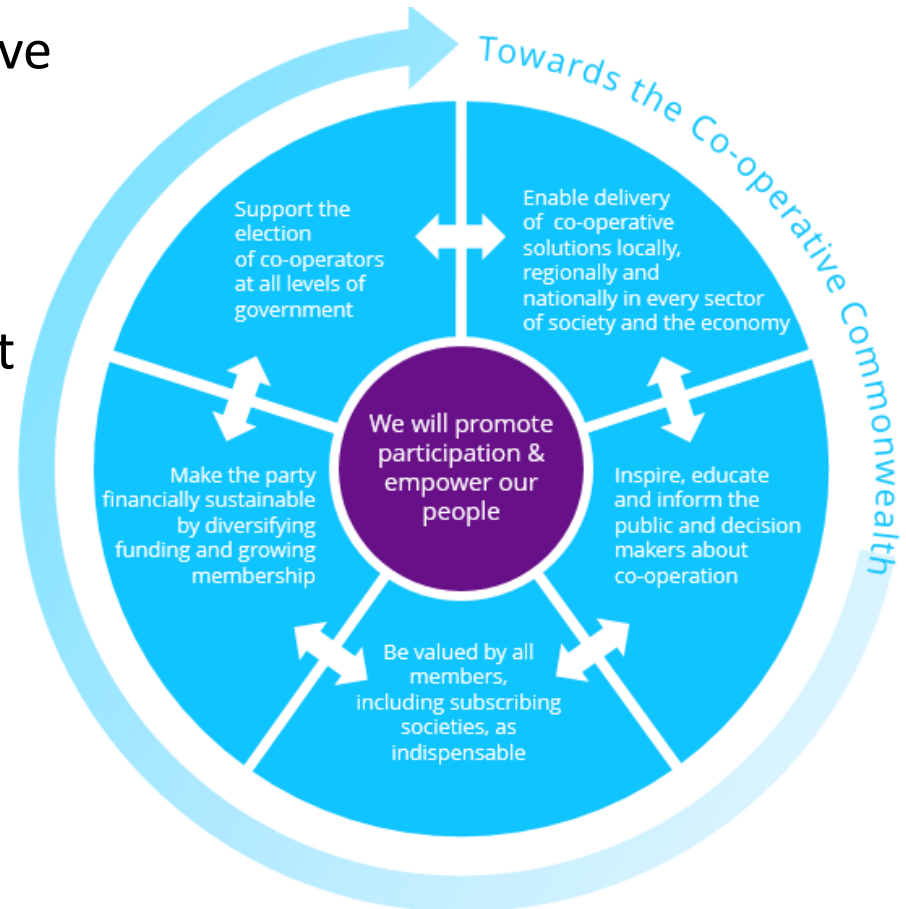
- ❑ **Housing Rents and Subsidies Act 1975** - for the first time, allowed housing co-operatives to seek public funding from national and local government.
- ❑ **Supported community-led stock transfers in housing**
- ❑ **Co-operative Housing Tenure (private members bill) Bill 2011**
- ❑ **Housing and Planning Bill 2015**

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The work goes on....

- ❑ Enable the delivery of co-operative solutions locally, regionally and nationally
- ❑ Inspire, educate and inform the public and decision makers about co-operation
- ❑ Support the election of co-operators at all levels of government
- ❑ Be valued by our members



The Big Question....



Can co-operation help solve
Britain's housing crisis?

Yes We Can!

- ❑ Challenging failing markets – its what co-operation is all about
- ❑ Great potential for growth
- ❑ Interest in the model – locally and nationally
- ❑ Inspiring examples of what is possible – Wales and Student Housing
- ❑ Custom and self-build
- ❑ Co-operative Housing Tenure



secure and confident
communities

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