

# REGENERATING YOUR CO-OP

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Simon Underwood

SRC (Social Regeneration Consultants)

For CCH Conference May 2016

# Session summary

- 'Regenerating reviews'
- Two case studies from Teesside
- Some mutual self help discussion
- Some tips and techniques

# Our review process

1. Meetings with active co-op members
2. Survey of all co-op members
3. Meetings with less involved members
4. Interviews with other relevant stakeholders
5. Desktop analysis of co-op information
6. Research - relevant comparisons, ideas, resources
7. Draft report - choice of options
8. Final report – sustainability plans
9. Away day - discussion and action planning
10. Action Plan - implemented and monitored

# Case study – Norton Co-op

## SITUATION

- 50 mixed households
- About 10 people, mostly older, actively involved
- Very limited housing management role
- 70% of members want it to continue
- Have money in the bank
- Key issues – involvement, community support, sustainability



### Introducing the Research



5

### 12 Key Messages



6-8

### Tenant Profile



9-12

### Views on the Co-op



13-16

### Increasing Involvement with the Co-op



17

### The Wider Community



18-28

“I have just got back into the Co-op and some things do feel lacking. A lot of the members don't come to the meetings. It seems to be a board meeting all the time. People show an interest initially to be involved and to be co-operative just to get a house, but then they don't bother attending meetings ..”

“Involving the wider community will certainly reinvigorate the Co-op's involvements. Providing trips for kids is fine but we also need events for adults. I have lived here five years and there has been nothing for me and other adults except the Christmas party”

“The Co-op helps you be a part of the community and see how the community is developed, which is important”

# Case study – Norton Co-op

- CONCLUSIONS
- Close or continue?
- Broaden or deepen the co-op?
- Rethink 'involvement'
- Open up to wider catchment
- Become a community co-operative



# Talking to Langridge Crescent Housing Co-op Tenants

November 2015



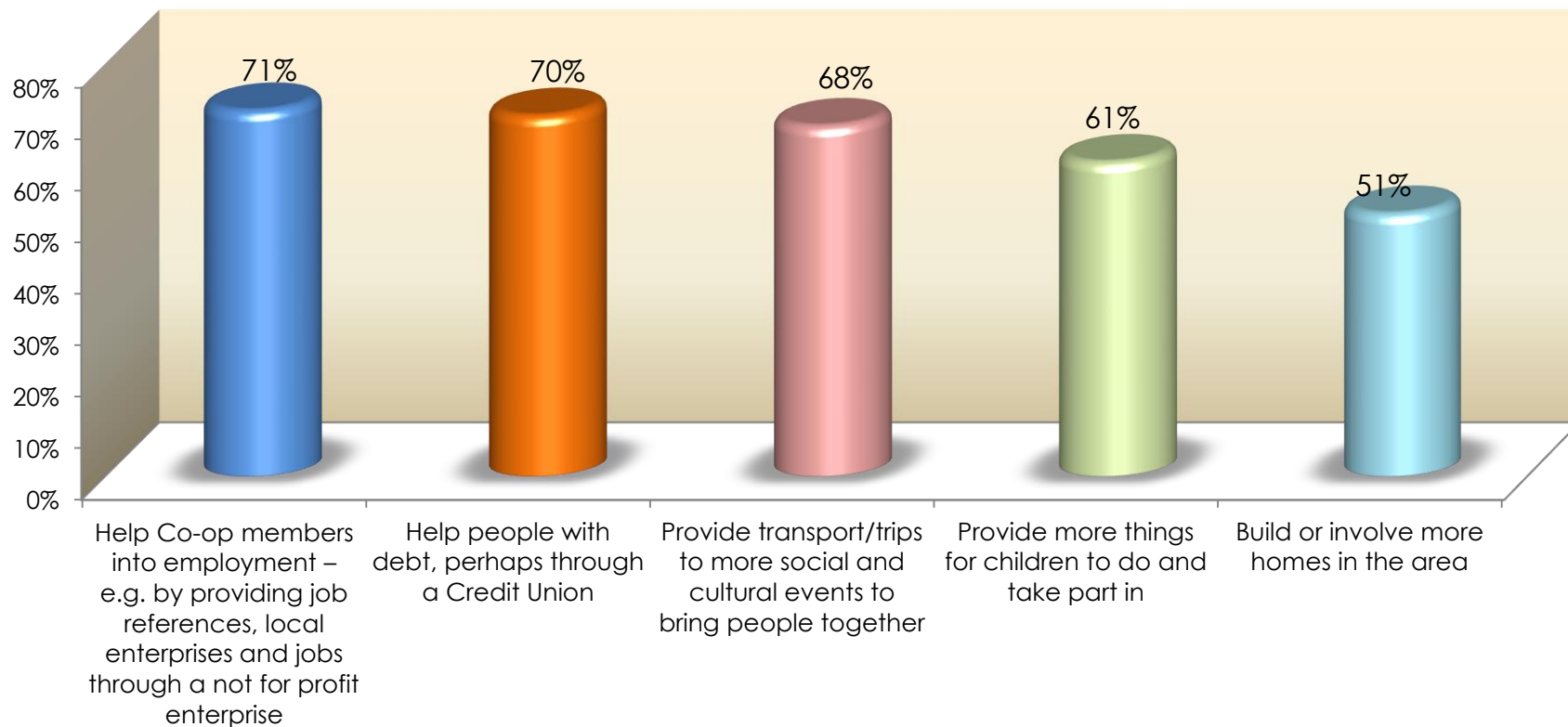


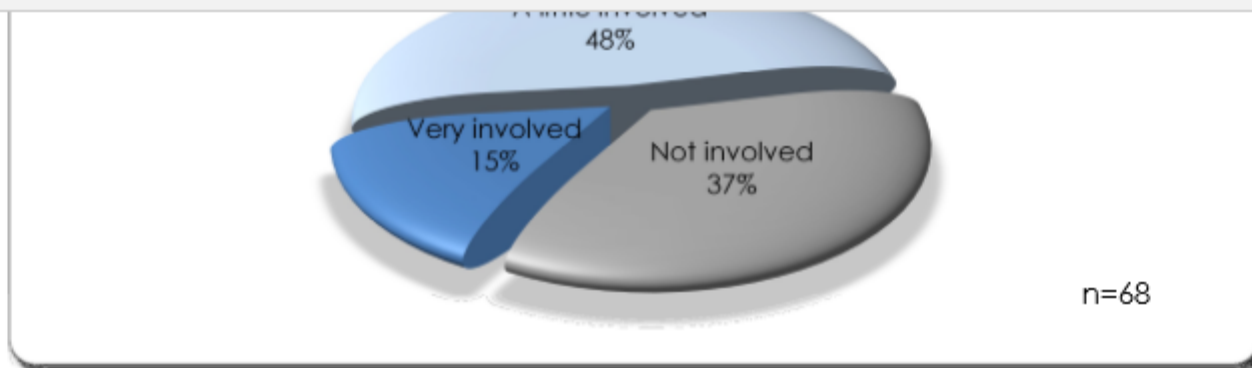
# Case study – Langridge Co-op

## SITUATION

- Pioneering co-op in the 1980s
- 102 properties ex Council and HA
- Few children
- About 10 people, mostly older, actively involved
- 60% of members never been involved
- 70% of members want it to continue
- Key issues – change, involvement, sustainability

## Focusing Increased Co-op Involvement in the Community





### Increasing Tenant Involvement with the Co-op

Figure 12 highlights the main reasons currently preventing increased involvement with the Co-op. These clearly focus on a lack of time, associated work and family commitments, health and mobility issues, and personal preference.

Figure 12



# Case study – Langridge Co-op

## CONCLUSIONS

- Change the way the co-op works
- More community involvement
- Review management agreements
- Re instate training
- Change the housing association's role



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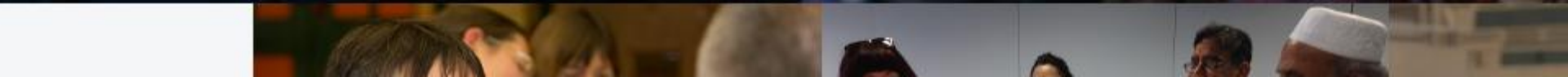
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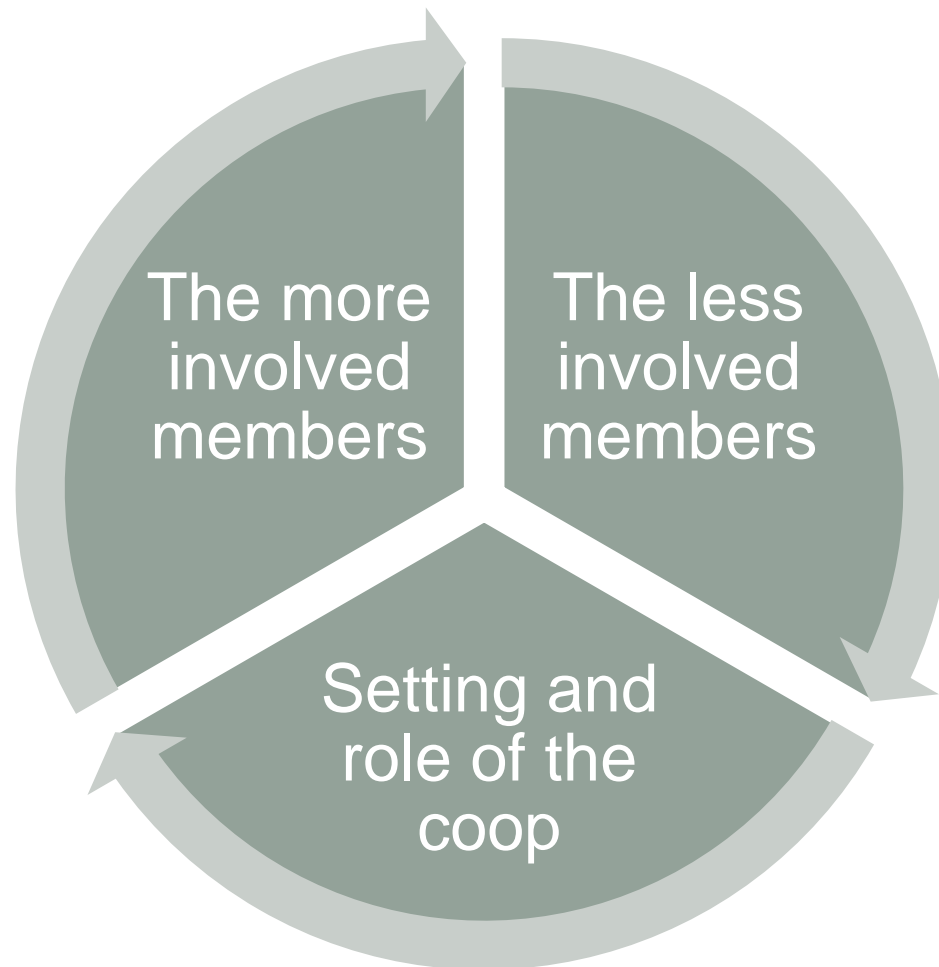
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# A healthy co-op – key factors





# 1. Rethink involvement

- The rise of the consumer
- Interest vs duty
- Asset based approaches
- Paid vs volunteer roles
- Dare to change
- Set aside your rules
- Process and outcome both important

## 2. Co-ops role in the community

- Co-ops as a community organisations
- Meeting wider needs
- Tapping wider interests
- Projects and activities
- Fundraising
- New organisations and partnerships
- Set aside your rules

## 3. How the co-op operates

- 'Form follows function'...
- How long do we want to go on like this?
- How long can we go on like this?
- Revolving roles and responsibilities?
- Paid vs voluntary roles?
- Better use of budgets?

# For more information

- Simon Underwood
- [simonguy@btinternet.com](mailto:simonguy@btinternet.com)
- 07787 193968