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CCH Member Update – Corona Virus

Clearly these are challenging times and CCH member co-ops will need to consider how they respond to the difficult issues that may arise.

Co-ops may be aware of the general advice given so far by Government, but the National Housing Federation have provided links to various Governmental advice – available [here](#). The links they provide are from external sources and neither they nor the CCH are responsible for what they say. Co-ops may also need to seek advice from such sites periodically as advice changes.

It is not possible for us to give specific advice about what co-ops should or should not do, beyond that co-ops need to consider the risks they and their members face. Indeed, it is difficult for anyone to give definitive advice about what co-ops should do in the circumstances. As stated – these are challenging times.

With regards legal questions, co-ops may wish to consult their solicitors, but they also may wish to contact the CCH [free helpline](#) operated through our partners Anthony Collins Solicitors.

Some of the issues that co-ops may wish to consider either now or over the coming months are listed below. This is not intended to be a definitive list – there may be many other issues that co-ops will need to consider.

Governance issues

- Should co-ops hold General Meetings at this time? What should a co-op do if they have to hold their Annual General Meeting before or during the crisis period in order to comply with their rules?
- Should co-ops continue to hold face to face governing body/committee meetings, especially if this is necessary to comply with the co-op's rules?
- Should other meetings to discharge the co-op's governance function be taking place?
- What governance decisions are critical to be taken during the high-risk period? Could some decisions be deferred or taken in different ways?

Operational management issues

- What impact will the crisis have on co-op's business plans?
- How will co-ops ensure ongoing management during the crisis period?
- If employing staff – how are co-ops considering health and safety issues in relation to those staff? What happens if staff are not available for a period of time?
- If working with service providers, what dialogue has the co-op with them about impacts on their service provision?
- What approach will co-ops take regarding rent collection and arrears during this period?
- What repairs service can co-ops offer during this period? What contractors will the co-op have available?
- What do co-ops do regarding other tenancy management issues?
- What support can co-ops offer to their members? What engagement between members is possible or desirable?
- What – if anything – do co-ops do if members get infected?
- What responsibilities do co-ops have in relation to elderly and vulnerable members?

These are all important questions that need consideration and the legal department at Co-operatives UK has endeavoured to answer some of them in their briefing as reported in the Co-operative News [here](#).

If we become aware of any definitive Government or other advice that becomes available that impacts on any of these or other areas – we will endeavour to keep our members informed.

Stay safe everyone.



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