

Central Midlands Co-operative Party

Annual Report 2021

2021 was another very difficult year for us all as we lived through the 2nd year of the Covid pandemic. This meant that we could not hold physical meetings during the year, although we continued to meet regularly online as a Party Council and at local Branch level. Our Annual Conference in October was also an online event and many of our members joined this and took part in various sessions.

More elections for local Councils than usual were held in 2021, as these included those postponed from 2020 including the elections for Police and Crime Commissioners and the Metro Mayors. In late 2020 in preparation for the West Midlands Mayoral election we set up a West Midlands Co-op Task force and a link to their work is here:

<https://party.coop/west-midlands-co-operative-taskforce>

Although sadly we were unsuccessful in the Mayoral election much of the work undertaken by this group will help our future campaigns.

As well as sponsoring the candidate for West Midlands Mayor we also sponsored 2 candidates for Police and Crime Commissioners in Warwickshire and Staffordshire and 33 candidates for local Councils across the area we cover. This helped us to spread the message of co-operation and we will be sponsoring a similar number of candidates in this year's elections, including in Birmingham where elections to the City Council elections are now only held every 4 years.

Our individual party Membership increased to 657 at the end of the year and we will work to continue this welcome trend. We are especially keen to recruit more young members and members from ethnic minorities to ensure our membership is representative of the area we cover.

We are very grateful for the generous funding provided by our 2 societies, Central England Co-op and Mid-Counties Co-op and look forward to working together with them in the future to spread the co-operative message and grow the co-operative economy in our region so that many more residents share the co-operative benefits.

Officers: Chair Councillor Kate Booth
Secretary: Councillor Rupinder Singh
Treasurer: Nick Stephens
Vice-Chair: Janet Marsh