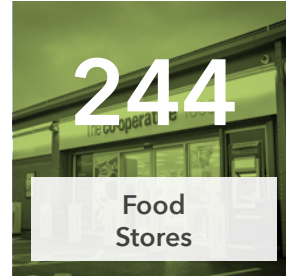


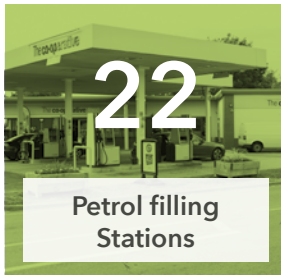


The **co-operative**
 Central England Co-operative
INTERIM
REVIEW
 28 weeks ended
 10 August 2019

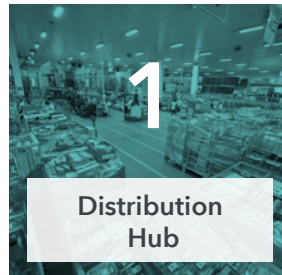
Our family of businesses



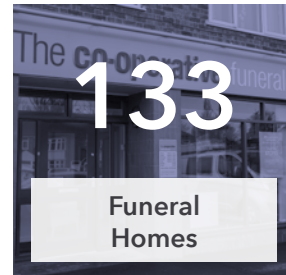
244
Food Stores



22
Petrol filling Stations



1
Distribution Hub



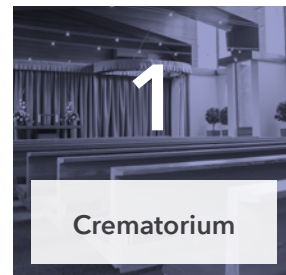
133
Funeral Homes



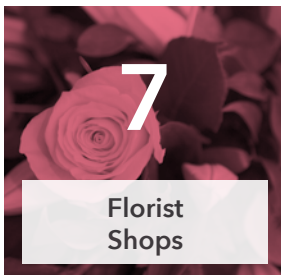
2
Masonry Showrooms



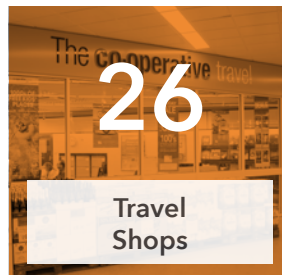
1
Coffin Factory



1
Crematorium



7
Florist Shops



26
Travel Shops



£130m
Investment property portfolio





CONTENTS

**** Interim Review 2019 ****

28 weeks ended 10 August 2019

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THANK YOU!



The co-operative food

Welton Way
Brewton Way
Open every day 7am-10pm

- Bakery
- COFFEE
- Currency
- Mobile Top Up
- ATM

Accepted here

Apple Pay

Co-operative food

Central England Co-operative

Co-operative food

Central England Co-operative

Welcome

Press for fresh

£10

GET 10% OFF WITH

extra

UNDER 25T

This ATM is monitored at all times

free cash withdrawal balance enquiry

cashzone

Our new Food Store in Breton Way, Stafford

About us

We are a
successful,
independent,
community-based
co-operative
owned by its
members



We operate
**OVER
400**
trading
outlets

We trade in over
16
counties



We employ
8,000
PEOPLE



Our commitment to
Corporate Responsibility
allows us to **continually**
seek opportunities to
improve the environment
and contribute to the wellbeing
of local communities



Our proud
heritage dates
back over
165
YEARS

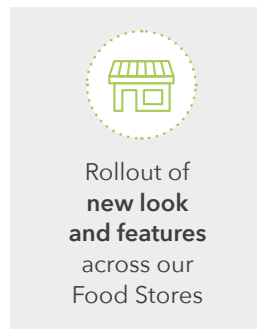
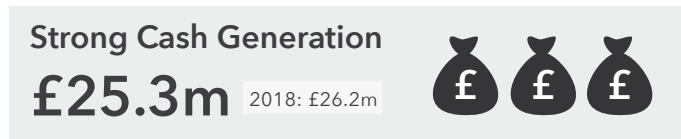
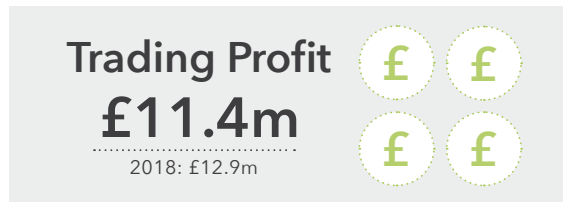
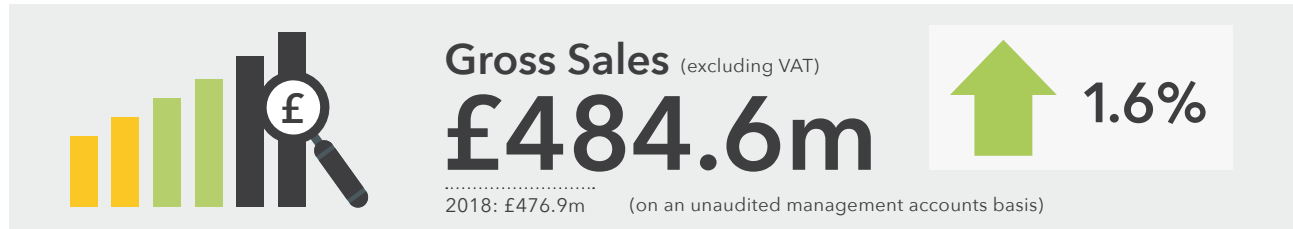
We invest
1% of our
trading profit
into **supporting**
local groups and
good causes through
our Community
Dividend Fund



WE  U

Our colleagues
are at the
heart of our
business

Financial highlights





8,000 colleagues bring smiles to the faces of customers and members every day

We are proud to support great causes like Action Homeless, in Leicester



Society highlights

♥ 60 ♥

Community Dividend
Grants Awarded

Total:
£90,000

 Community
Dividend Fund



The rollout of a
raft of **new security
measures in our
Food Stores** has
seen burglaries
drop by 6% and
**robberies drop
by 30%**



.....
We have donated the
equivalent of over
1.6 million
meals to people in
need thanks to our food
redistribution project with
FareShare East Midlands



.....
Our support of
Co-op Fortnight
saw us welcome **32
groups and good
causes** into our Food
Stores and **support
35 special events**

The Society continued
its effort to shine
a light on equality
and empowerment
by hosting a special
Women's Voices Event



Our carbon
footprint has
decreased by

61%
since 2010

Message from our President

Dear Members,

I am delighted to present our Interim Review for the first six months of the trading year. So far this year we have seen the arrival of our new Chief Executive, Debbie Robinson, following the retirement of her predecessor, Martyn Cheatle.

Debbie joined us in March and really hit the ground running from day one – you may already have spotted the many changes taking place as Debbie drives us forward as a community retailer.

Despite facing difficult trading conditions due to fluctuating weather, our Society is holding its own in a competitive and challenging market.

We were pleased to host Co-op Group board member Stevie Spring in February and she saw first-hand FareShare’s warehouse facility and our distribution centres in Leicester. We are so proud of the work we do with FareShare East Midlands and with food bank providers to tackle food poverty, holiday hunger and period poverty.

We held a second highly successful Women’s Voices Event in March with 80 attendees and inspirational speakers. We also held many events around Fairtrade Fortnight and Co-operatives Fortnight.

In July we held two wonderful celebrations at Chatsworth House for our long serving colleagues and we held a Senior Members’ Gathering in Derby to recognise people who have been members for 60 years.

We sent delegations to the Annual Retail Conference, Co-operative Congress and to the Co-op Group Annual General Meeting.

The Board has commenced a detailed review of our strategy with the aim of confirming our ambition to be the best UK co-operative and to be a leader in the movement when it comes to good practice.

Our Membership and Community Councils continue to thrive, working well across our communities; and our Retired Employees Associations have busy activity programmes, although the Anglia Association has ceased operating except as a member group.

Our annual Board elections saw John Howells return after a five year absence along with the re-elections of Marta Mayhew, Dave Ellgood and Richard Bickle. We also offered our appreciation and said goodbye to Max Hunt.

Sadly, in May, we also said a fond farewell to retired director Graeme Watkins, of Peterborough, with the Board and Executive Team attending his funeral.

Thank you for attending our Interim Members’ Meetings which we hope you find enjoyable and informative.



Elaine Dean
Society President





Message from our Chief Executive

It is a privilege to serve Central England Co-operative as Chief Executive and I would like to thank the Board and our amazing colleagues for such an incredible welcome since joining the Society.

In a challenging market, our gross sales of £484.6m (2018: £476.9m) increased by £7.7m (up 1.6%) driven by growth from new stores and our expanded travel shop network.

Trading profit of £11.4m is in line with budget and reflects a steady performance for the Society in the face of a highly competitive retail environment and uncertain economic backdrop.

We remain committed to investing in our future and have opened new stores in Nottingham, Sawston, Stafford and Stowupland alongside revamping sites in Bentley Heath, Ripley, Spies Lane (Halesowen), Terrington St Clement and Wells-next-the-Sea. We have also opened a new Funeral Booking Office in Lowestoft and refurbished Funeral Homes in Birmingham, Derby, Leicester and Loughborough.

The continuous uncertainty around Brexit is dividing public opinion. We have plans in place to attempt to mitigate any potential impact for our customers and members.

The Society remains alert to its funding obligations to address the Pension Scheme deficit on an affordable, fair and carefully controlled basis. As part of this commitment we were pleased to finalise a deficit recovery plan arrangement in March with the Trustee of the Scheme following completion of the latest triennial valuation.

It has been brilliant to meet so many colleagues in our community food stores, funeral homes, travel shops and

support businesses. Thanks to each and every one for their commitment to Central England Co-op. We are all custodians of this great Society and it is our job to ensure it is the best it can be now and in the future.

Serving the public can bring challenges and protecting colleagues is at the top of our priorities. We have launched a range of security measures including better CCTV and personal panic alarms which have helped drive down robberies and burglaries by 30% and 6%. We are now preparing to launch a new campaign solely aimed at putting a stop to violence and aggression towards colleagues.

The issue of food justice is one of the most difficult challenges in society today and we are at the forefront of work with the Co-operative Party, local food bank partners and FareShare East Midlands to try and combat holiday hunger to help ensure those in need do not go hungry. We also continue this work further by highlighting the issue of period poverty by supporting great organisations such as Hey Girls.

In difficult times, I believe our co-operative difference will set us apart and see us thrive while others may flounder.

Together we will grow and prosper by embracing our values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.



Debbie Robinson
Chief Executive

Membership and community

These pictures provide a snapshot of our ongoing work to support great community projects and the benefits we offer to our Members through classes and events.





Registered Office: Central House, Hermes Road,
Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6RH

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