A co-operative is a group of people that get together to organise collectively for mutual benefit. Work, housing, services, pubs and social centres can all be co-operatively owned and managed.

Co-operatives are based on the values of democracy, self-help, self-responsibility, equality, equity and solidarity.

In the tradition of the Rochdale Pioneers, co-op members believe in the ethical values of honesty, social responsibility, openness and care for others.

The Principles

1. Co-op membership is open and voluntary.
2. Co-ops are controlled only by their members, who each have equal control.
3. All members have a fair stake in the co-op. Investment does not give control and only gives a small return.
4. Co-ops are autonomous and independent self-help organisations.
5. We educate and train members so they can contribute to the co-op. We also inform the public about the benefits of co-operation.
6. Co-operation among co-ops benefits members and the wider co-op movement.
7. We act with concern for the wider community.

For more information about co-ops contact Radical Routes – a network of radical housing co-ops, workers' co-ops and social centres committed to positive social change:

www.radicalroutes.org.uk