

# The National Co-operative Development Strategy

An update  
March 2019



CO-OPERATIVES UK  
**COOP**

# About the National Co-operative Development Strategy

The strategy, *Do It Ourselves*, was formed by [Co-operatives UK](#) with its members and partners, drawing on advice from an expert national panel. A set of [resources](#) around the strategy are available on the Co-operatives UK website.



**We created an Open Strategy designed to leave space for co-operatives, new entrants and sector partners to come in with their ideas and actions.**



The [Confederation of Co-operative Housing](#) has helped to champion backing for new government funds for community housing in England.

[SAOS](#) is partnering with the food and drink industry, as part of a long-term strategy to grow the farmer co-op sector in Scotland.

[SolidFund](#) is raising regular donations for the development of worker co-ops



## We launched the Hive, a new national advice service for co-ops



thehive.  
Building better  
co-operative businesses

By...  
CO-OPERATIVES UK



In partnership with...  
The **co-operative**  
bank





**We chose three key sectors for new a co-operative development focus...**

**And looked to pilot how to replicate successful co-ops more broadly.**

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Supporting freelancers to come together in today's 'gig' economy.

Meeting needs for social care through new models of co-operation.

New digital ventures, or 'platform co-operatives', using new technology for shared ownership services.



# Supporting freelancers to come together

## Into action

1. Supported [IndyCube](#) to convert to a co-op
2. Advised the set up of the [Contractor Co-op](#)
3. Organisers' Guide with the TUC & Co-op College
4. Recognised [IPSE](#) as a co-op with 74,000 members

## On the drawing board

1. Helping pilot Dutch-style [Bread Funds](#)
2. Supporting emerging [cycle courier co-ops](#) in the gig economy
3. Launching a digital co-op formation tool for freelancers



## Meeting needs for social care

### Into action

1. Supported formation of care co-op consortia in Wales and England
2. Care to Co-operate programme run by Wales Co-op Centre
3. Assisted the development of [Choices4Doncaster](#)
4. Funded early work to get the [Equal Care Co-op](#) established

### On the drawing board

1. Input to national policy on social care delivery
2. Pilot incubator for independent care providers



## New digital ventures or 'platform co-ops'

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### Into action

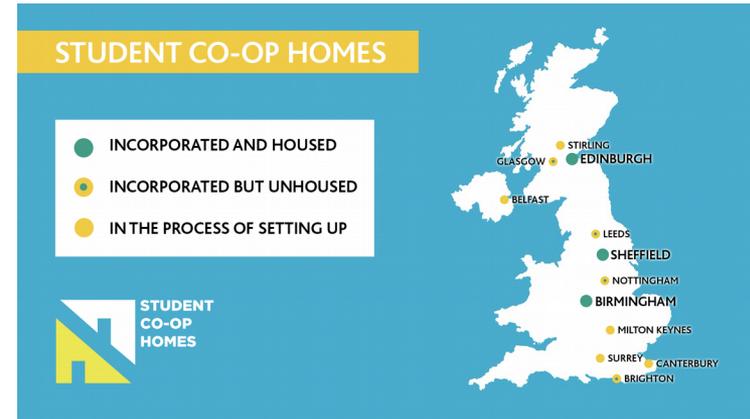
1. Co-run [UnFound](#), the world's first accelerator for platform co-ops
2. Published [research](#) on innovative finance models
3. Raised capital for £70,000 investment in one platform co-op
4. Advised the ICA on global action for platform co-ops

### On the drawing board

1. New unit funded to promote platform co-ops from mid 2019
2. Pilot £1 million social investment fund for platform co-ops
3. Event-led campaign to promote platform co-ops to new markets



# Replicating success: student housing co-ops



## Proven model

### North American Students of Co-operation

- Supports 50 co-op members and over 4,000 co-operators in USA and Canada

## Secondary co-op

Student Co-op Homes set-up in March 2018, bringing together existing and emerging UK student housing co-ops

## Catalyse field

Aims to increase the national capacity of student housing co-ops from 150 to 10,000 beds within 5 years.

## **Next steps**

**We are designing a review of the strategy, to include:**

**Process - how should we go about the review?**

**Metrics - What should we be measuring?**

**Topics - Who has been engaged so far?**

**What's missing?**

**Review of the scope?**

**Interested in getting involved? [mark@culture.coop](mailto:mark@culture.coop)**