

Social Accounts 2019/2020

Market Cross has the general aim of evaluating its impact on the community and the environment in which it operates. Our company develops policies that reduce harmful impacts and increase positive impacts.

These social accounts use these aims and objectives to identify measurable indicators of progress. The indicators are re-used from year to year, each year providing a baseline against which the next can be measured.

Except where otherwise noted, the only measurements in this report are of outputs (that is, the immediate products of our activity). We believe it is too soon to evaluate many outcomes (changes affecting others that we are solely and directly responsible for) or any impacts (outcomes to which we have contributed, or as one factor among many).

Unique Objectives

Support and Sponsorship of Local Community Projects in 2019/2020

Local community projects were supported by Market Cross in 2019/2020:

- 1) Market Cross sponsored Dorchester Council's Museum of the Moon event in July 2019. Members and associates also volunteered their time for the event which included the building of a 'replica' International Space Station to carry out educational radiation experiments;
- 2) Market Cross provided safety management and risk assessment training for Grove Pre-School, Dorchester in January 2020;
- 3) Market Cross carried out a survey and full radiological risk assessment for the Nothe Fort museum in Weymouth in January 2020. The work involved an assessment of World War II items containing radium painted dials.

Projected Support and Sponsorship of Local Community Projects in 2020/2021

In 2020/2021 Market Cross will also be supporting:

- 1) Market Cross will continue to sponsor Co-operatives UK and thus have an effect on local communities via Co-operatives UK's programme of advice and training for local community co-operatives.

Resourcing of New Work for Members and Local Communities

One of the society's main objectives is to find contract work for user members who are part of the local community. Indeed in the period 2019/2020 work was sourced for a number of user members in the local area and the society is committed to furthering this achievement for all user members.

Most notably new user members were contracted to carry out safety audit work from October 2019 to February 2020 and safety training work in January 2020.

Helping workers in the Local Community set up their own businesses

Another objective of the society is to help members of the community set up their own businesses so that they can trade as independents and/or user members within the society. In this period one user member was helped to achieve this and health and safety contract work was also provided to them.

Keeping Local Businesses in the Supply Chain

A further objective of the society is to source products and services from local businesses. As part of Market Cross's supply chain audit system, a number of local businesses have qualified to supply to Market Cross. For example, a local catering company now supplies Market Cross with training course lunches and a local printing company provides Market Cross with a good proportion of its marketing material.

Co-operative Objectives

These objectives are based upon the Rochdale Principles which are a set of ideals for the operation of co-operatives. In broad terms, these are as follows:

- 1) Open, voluntary membership;
- 2) Democratic governance;
- 3) Limited return on equity;
- 4) Surplus belongs to members;
- 5) Education of members and public in cooperative principles;
- 6) Cooperation between co-operatives.

Building membership

Membership increased again in 2019/2020. A number of membership application forms were distributed in early 2020 and three were returned and approved. An increased membership is a priority target for 2020/2021.

Creating common wealth

The financial accounts provide the main indicators and show that providing services to our customers provides the basis for building assets (and contributing to the central reserve). At the end of 2019/2020 the indivisible central reserve stands at £2,844.

Autonomy and independence

A key indicator of autonomy is the type of contracts entered into by the co-operative. Currently there are no contracts running that compromise the co-operative's autonomy, independence or control by its members. The intention is to ensure this is a key consideration for any future contracts.

Education, Training and Information

This year user members have undertaken webinar training with regard to accounting, Brexit, radiation protection and service exports supplied by HMRC, Cornwall museum's partnership, the Society for Radiological Protection and Dorset Growth Hub.

Supporting the co-operative movement

Membership of Co-operatives UK and Somerset Co-operative Services has been maintained. No opportunities for trading with new Co-operatives have arisen. We are continuing to trade with the Co-operative Bank.

Consulting with and empowering members

Note that user membership overall is too low to allow 'equality of opportunity' to be effectively monitored. The pace of growth in membership has allowed the society to grow organically. However, an increased membership is a priority target for 2020/2021.

Evaluating social impacts

None to date. Future indicators might draw on survey evidence from members and other stakeholders. The new Market Cross online portal for members may provide a vehicle for input in this regard.

Evaluating environmental impacts

Market Cross is now certificated to ISO 14001 Environmental Management. As part of its Business Management System (under which the local ISO 14001 systems sit) environmental impacts are continually assessed. Also, by keeping local businesses in the supply chain, Market Cross reduces the environmental impact of the carriage and transport of goods and services.

Approved by the Board

On _____

Secretary _____

Chairman _____

Treasurer _____