

## Social Accounts 2023/2024

Market Cross aims to evaluate 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). However, 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 2023/2024

Local community projects were supported by Market Cross in 2023/2024:

- 1) Again this year safety advice and planning, including risk assessment to support Osmington Village Fete, as well as traffic control resources and additional signage at the event, was provided by Market Cross.
- 2) Market Cross Chair, Mike Reed, has been appointed as a charity trustee of the Osmington village hall.

#### Support and Sponsorship of Worthy Causes

- 1) In response to the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia in early 2022, Market Cross directors Greg and Ceri Wells have continued to provide Ukrainian refugee accommodation in Weymouth, Dorset. The Market Cross offices were also made available to the refugees.

#### Projected Support and Sponsorship of Local Community Projects in 2024/2025

In 2023/2024 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.
- 2) Part of the role of trustee of the Osmington village hall will be to improve the acoustics of the village hall by carrying out structural changes.

#### 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 2024/2025 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.

#### Helping workers in the Local Community set up and operate their own businesses

Another objective of the society is to help members of the community set up and operate their own businesses so that they can trade as independents and/or user members within the society.

- 1) To enable one Ukrainian refugee to ensure business continuity for their Ukraine based business, Market Cross has provided free use of office facilities at Winfrith.
- 2) Market Cross chair, Mike Reed, has been providing voluntary mathematics tuition for a local training provider which supports school leavers starting further education.

### 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 quality audited supply chain system, a number of local businesses continue to supply to Market Cross.

### 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 did not increase in 2023/2024. An increased membership is a priority target for 2024/2025 and a number of potential members have been identified and contacted.

### 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). Immediately following, the 2023/2024 financial year the indivisible central reserve stands at £4,507.43.

### 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

During 2023 and 2024, user members have undertaken training in several health and safety subjects, including NEBOSH fire safety, RPS refresher and First Aid at Work.

### 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. With the exception of this year, the pace of growth in membership has allowed the society to grow organically. However, an increased membership is a priority target for 2024/2025.

### 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 has passed its ISO 14001 annual surveillance review. 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.

(For directors signatures please see overleaf)

Approved by the Board

On \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_