

Social Accounts 2018/2019

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 2018/2019

Two local community projects were supported directly and one indirectly by Market Cross in 2018/2019:

- 1) Market Cross purchased a centrifuge for Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester to support the school's DNA sequencing projects;
- 2) A Physics Student in Poole was supported by a member of Market Cross by carrying out substantial repairs to his laptop (spares were donated by RITE Advice Ltd);
- 3) Market Cross also continues to sponsor Co-operatives UK and thus has an effect on local communities via Co-operatives UK's programme of advice and training for local community co-operatives.

Projected Support and Sponsorship of Local Community Projects in 2019/2020

To date in 2019/2020 Market Cross has already directly supported two local community projects:

- 1) Market Cross sponsored and members volunteered for Dorchester Council's Museum of the Moon event;
- 2) Market Cross sponsored Dorchester Middle School to go to the Big Bang Science Fair at Bovington Tank Museum.

In 2019/2020 Market Cross will also be supporting:

- 1) A local museum by carrying out radiological survey and risk assessment at no charge. The work will involve assessment of World War II items containing radium painted dials.

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 2018/2019 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 user members were contracted to carry out audit work for business management systems in support of separate ISO 9001 and ISO 4001 certifications and bid management and bid production work for health, safety, environment and engineering contract prospects in the nuclear industry.

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.

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 cooperatives.

Building membership

Membership increased again in 2018/2019. A number of membership application forms were distributed in early 2019 and one was returned and approved. An increased membership is a priority target for 2019/2020.

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 2018/2019 the indivisible central reserve stands at £2,420.

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 undertook training supplied by the Department of International Trade and the Dorset Growth Hub. The training included guidance on intellectual property, trademarking and export management.

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 2019/2020.

Evaluating social impacts

None to date. Future indicators might draw on survey evidence from members and other stakeholders.

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.

Approved by the Board

On 27/09/19

Secretary 

Chairman 

Treasurer 