

New Year, New Challenge?

Would you like to play a part in a large locally based retail organisation that could really benefit from your extensive skillset?

If you believe in self help, ethical trading, democracy, equality, and supporting local communities - then this may be for you?

Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society (one of 19 independent retail co-operative Societies in the UK) currently operates across Essex with 46 outlets including convenience food, department stores, travel and funeral homes. With an annual turnover in excess of £70m and currently employing more than 800 local people, the Society makes a real difference to the Essex business economy.

Unlike any other high street retailer, the Society is owned and controlled by its members' who are entitled to vote for the most suitable candidates to represent members' best interests on the Board of Directors. This non-executive board is made up of 10 directors including a President and Vice President. Their ages and backgrounds vary; some are in employment, some retired. They do however all have two things in common, a belief in Co-operative Principles and a desire to work together for the benefit of all Members and the community.

Operating below the board of Directors are a Members' Council, which acts as a first step on the governance ladder allowing people to familiarise themselves with the Society and co-operation before becoming more involved and a Membership Committee which focuses on Membership issues.

Directors meet in the evening on a monthly basis with the Chief Executive



Officer, Deputy Chief Executive and Secretary/Accountant. The Board directs the Society's Strategy ensuring positive future prospects. The continued success of the Society very much depends on the quality, strength and dedication of its board.

Depending upon their own personal circumstances and skills, Directors are expected to get involved in sub-committees covering a variety of subjects including executive succession, pensions or membership. Where gaps in knowledge exist, training is not only available, it is positively encouraged.

A Director normally serves for a three year term, after which time they may stand down, but may put themselves forward for re-election. Directors may not serve for more than nine consecutive years.

Each year there are always board positions available for election and to be eligible to become a Director, nominees will have to have been a member of Chelmsford Star or another Co-operative Society for at least two years. They will also have to spend at least £500 a year or have held £250 in a share account for a year with Chelmsford Star prior to nomination.

The recruitment process starts in February with a **'Meet the Directors' event**. This evening is an opportunity to find out what's involved via short presentations and networking with the present Board and executive management. If you are not a Society member, following the event you may consider joining with a more long term view to nomination.

Those people who prefer to get to know the Society first could join The Members' Council which meets 4 times a year and the Membership Committee which meets 8 times; each body reports into the main Board on a regular basis.

INTERESTED...

So, if you need a fresh challenge, believe in the ethics of the Co-operative and are people minded this could be a rewarding option.

For more information...

**www.chelmsfordstar.coop
members@chelmsfordstar.coop
'Meet the Directors' Evening,
scheduled for 28th February 2012.**

**Chelmsford Star -
the Co-operative
at the heart of essex**

“Help make a difference within your local community and become a Director of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society.”

Tony Gudgeon, Chief Executive Officer

Meet the Directors'



To find out more,
join us in the
Brambles Restaurant,
quadrant,
220 Moulsham Street,
Chelmsford - 7pm

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