

Case study

Being an effective Board

Oxford Fairtrade Co-operative trading as fairtrade@stmichael's

Social aim

Promoting fairtrade and selling fairly traded goods and returning some of the profits to the producers in developing countries.

Trading activity

fairtrade@stmichael's operates a fairtrade shop in central Oxford.

Ownership

A community owned co-operative.

How Co-operative Futures helped

We facilitated a morning session at a directors' away day. The purpose of this was to make the directors aware of their legal duties and responsibilities as well as looking at ways of improving how the board worked. During the session, the directors gained knowledge of their legal roles and responsibilities. They also identified improvements for the running of board meetings and ways of communicating better in between meetings. The actions identified have since formed the basis of secondary rules for the better running of the co-operative.

We helped the directors of the organisation to have a hard look at the way they operated as a board and to agree an action plan for introducing changes to improve directors' meetings and governance within the organisation.

"The session led by Co-operative Futures was practical and helped us to focus on the issues we needed to address."



[Read more about being an effective Board here...](#)