

Case study

Selecting legal structures and registration

Thames Valley Farmers Market Co-operative

Social aim

To operate farmers markets so that members can sell good quality locally produced food direct to the public.

Trading activity

The co-operative runs farmers markets across the Thames Valley area.

Ownership

A co-operative consortium owned and run by local producers.



How Co-operative Futures helped

Co-operative Futures facilitated a number of business planning sessions with the management committee of the organisation. One of the issues which came up was the need to incorporate the association. The committee favoured incorporation as a co-operative and called a meeting of the full membership to discuss this. Co-operative Futures attended the members meeting to explain how co-operatives operate.

With the principle of registering as a co-operative agreed by the members, Co-operative Futures guided the committee through the process of registration using model rules tailored to their needs. Co-operative Futures has also helped the co-operative to produce secondary rules.

Thames Valley Farmers' Market now has a clear identity as a co-operative backed up by a legal structure which ensures members are actively engaged in the running of the business but with the assurance of limited liability.

"Becoming a co-operative has given us a clear sense of direction. Our membership has grown to 150, we are running more markets and are now in a much stronger position for the future."

Read more about selecting legal structures and registration here...

Visit their website at www.tvfm.org.uk