

WOOLDALE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

Local and Ethical Serving the Community

Investing in Wooldale Co-operative Society Ltd

The Society has provided a service to the communities of Wooldale, New Mill, and Thongsbridge for over 120 years and is one of the few remaining independent co-operative stores. We are owned by the local membership, and governed by a local, elected voluntary board. To provide our customers with a good value dependable range most of our products are supplied from The Co-op Group, whose policy is to offer ethically sourced goods. In addition our shops stock local products, our Yorkshire and Holme Valley specialities.

Policy is to employ local people and use local services whether this is accountancy or building maintenance. In addition we have a charitable fund which is used to support local charities, and where possible we support local complementary co-operative initiatives. Over the past years we have donated substantial amounts to The Forget-me-not Trust and we are providing support to The Home Valley Gardening Network and the fair trade outlet in Holmfirth 'Fair Traders'.

We are the only local convenience store to return profits, '*members' dividends,*' to customers.

Invest your money in Wooldale Co-op and you'll be putting it to good use.

By providing capital at a rate lower than we would otherwise have to pay, you'll be helping your local independent Co-op to grow and improve its service to customers and members.

How much to invest

The minimum investment to qualify for membership is £1.00. However, we would like to encourage members to consider investing more than that. Under current legislation, the maximum amount anyone can invest is £20,000.

WOOLDALE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

Local and Ethical Serving the Community

The risks of investing

Members should be aware that share capital in a co-operative is risk capital. Ultimately, if things were ever to go wrong for Wooldale Co-op, share capital would be at risk. We aim to build a strong and successful co-operative business, with more than enough assets to cover its members' share capital.

However, as an organisation committed to openness and transparency we feel it is only right that we should warn members that there is some risk. Please see the note below on the code of practice we adhere to in relation to share capital.

Investments and withdrawals

Investments and withdrawals of share capital can be made in person at any store, or by post. Withdrawals can be made at any time without penalty and will normally be processed within one week of receipt of a member's request.

The notice period for withdrawals is set by the Rules at one week. However the Board has the power to waive this and unless there are exceptional circumstances it would do so.**

Existing Members – forms for making investments and withdrawals can be found in the shops or on the shareholders accounts page of the website.

Payment of interest

Interest will be credited to your account once per year***. Interest is paid gross without deduction of tax, and it is the responsibility of members to declare the interest received on their tax returns, and to pay the tax due. The current rate of interest is displayed in the shops.

How do I invest?

If you are not already a member, please complete a membership application form and return it with your initial investment. If you are already a member, please send a cheque for the amount you wish to invest, together with your passbook, to:

The Secretary, Wooldale Co-operative Society, 50/52 Wooldale Road, Wooldale, Holmfirth, HD9 1QJ

WOOLDALE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

Local and Ethical Serving the Community

Alternatively hand the documents in at one of the shops.

Please make cheques payable to Wooldale Co-operative Society Ltd, you will then receive a share pass book, showing the value of your investment and of the interest and dividends credited.

Code of Practice

The Society, unlike banks and building societies, is not subject to prudential supervision by the Financial Services Authority. Wooldale Co-op abides by a code of practice which requires it to provide a statement to its shareholders of the nature of their investments and any change affecting it.

The position you occupy as a shareholder of Wooldale Co-op is no different from that of a shareholder in any other corporate body in the sense that, if Wooldale Co-op fails, you may not have all, or any of your investment returned to you.

Your liability, however, does not extend beyond your own investment. Your investment is withdrawable without penalty**.

If you have any questions regarding the code please address them to:

The Secretary, Wooldale Co-operative Society Ltd.,

50/52 Wooldale Road, Wooldale, Holmfirth, HD9 1QJ.

A full copy of the Code of Best Practice is available at the registered office.

What if I have any questions?

If you have any questions or would like further information, please call us on 01484 690720 or e-mail info@wooldale.coop

*** Wooldale Co-op's Rules provide for a notice period of one week for withdrawals, although the Board has discretion to waive this notice period (and in practice has done so until now). The Board also has the power to suspend withdrawals. If you make withdrawals leaving a balance of less than £1.00, you will cease to be a member.*

**** Subject to approval by members at the Annual General Meeting.*

WOOLDALE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

Local and Ethical Serving the Community

Member Dividend

Wooldale Co-op returns part of its profits each year to members in the form of a dividend payment. It is paid after the AGM, where members are asked to approve that year's dividend payment.

The dividend is split between the members in proportion to their spend with Wooldale Co-op during the year in question.

Profits are re-invested in the business to finance new developments, used to pay interest on members' share capital, and to contribute to the charitable fund which provides finance to support local charities.

Member benefits

Wooldale Co-op belongs to its members, and membership is open to every customer who opens a share account with us and invests a minimum of £1.00.

As a member you:

- Get a share of any profit, which is distributed through the Member Dividend. This takes the form of a percentage return on your spend* with us during the year.
- Can attend, vote at and put forward motions to our AGM.
- Can nominate candidates for Wooldale's Board, vote in elections and stand for election yourself.
- Earn interest on whatever share capital you choose to invest.
- Are expected to make purchases from the shops and participate in the business of the Society.

* The Board has discretion to exclude certain classes of purchase from the dividend calculation, currently dividend calculations exclude purchases of stamps, tobacco products, drycleaning, collections for third parties eg lottery and e-pay.