

## Pioneer share offer

### Who we are

The Lordship Hub Co-op is a group of local residents who set up a social enterprise in October 2013 to run a cafe and community centre in Lordship Recreation Ground. We want the Eco-Hub to be a community-owned and sustainable social space for local people to benefit from and enjoy.

The Lordship Hub Co-op already has over 100 members, each of whom has invested between £1 and £10,000 to get the building open. Local people are volunteering hundreds of hours on everything from cooking to carpentry and delivering leaflets. All members have an equal role in decision-making and our monthly meetings are open to all.

### Become a Pioneer Share-holder

We are offering local people the unique opportunity to become Pioneer share-holders in the Co-op. We would like pioneer share-holders to invest a minimum of £500 to help us reach our target in time. **Whatever amount you can invest though you will be making an invaluable contribution to the local community.**

An investment, unlike a donation, means that in the future you can have your money back. You invest in the Co-op to enable it to become a self-sustaining community asset and when it is secure and profitable you can take your money back with interest. The Co-op will aim to pay annual interest to shareholders at the



Bank of England base rate (which is similar to or better than most banks).

To give the Co-op a chance to get established, shares must be held for a minimum of three years, after which time you may withdraw them if the Co-op has a surplus. No more than 10% of the total Society shares can be withdrawn each year.

As with all investments, the outcomes cannot be guaranteed and there is a risk you could lose your money.

### Why the Co-op needs you

Investing in the Hub makes you a member and provides us with capital for start-up costs, including employing our two initial members of staff and kitting out the building. Members have already invested over £17,000 and over 150 people donated £8,000 but we need to raise at least a further £20,000 to finish off kitting out the Hub and help with cash flow in these early months.

The Co-op needs an active, vibrant and diverse membership to achieve its vision for the Eco-Hub, Lordship Rec and the

community in general. We believe that the Eco-Hub project is an opportunity to harness the positive energy and enthusiasm in the local community, and fully realise the potential of Lordship Rec.

## Democratic membership

Shareholders and members are one and the same thing. All members need to have at least one share (£1). It doesn't matter how many shares you have though, you still have the same say in decision-making: one member, one vote.

## Our plans for the Eco-Hub

We have been running the Eco-Hub since July 2014 providing:

- A cafe providing hot and cold drinks and nutritious food at reasonable prices
- A range of rooms for hire for events, community activities and meetings
- A well-maintained public toilet facility for park users
- A home for the various Lordship Rec user groups and their activities

We plan to extend our opening hours, offer more courses and training and improve our kitchen and dining space. To do this we need to employ additional staff.

## Our values

The Hub Co-op has the following core values:

- **Being inclusive** - we are stronger and can achieve more positive change for the local area by involving more people, embracing diversity and valuing difference

- **Protecting our local environment** - being responsible about our impact on the environment and actively promoting environmental sustainability
- **Respecting co-operative principles** e.g. democratic and equal participation - all members have an equal say in decisions (one member: one vote), and membership is open to all without discrimination
- **Promoting community empowerment** - enriching the lives of the community through access to information and education, ownership of a shared resource and opportunities for social interaction

This means we:

- Pay staff a decent living wage
- Minimise waste
- Provide healthy food with alternatives for those with restricted diets
- Train staff, volunteers and members
- Shop locally
- Buy ethical, fair trade products
- Involve the community in all of our decision-making

Doing this takes time and investment, so we need your support and involvement.

For more information please email [hello@lordshiphub.org.uk](mailto:hello@lordshiphub.org.uk) or visit [www.lordshiphub.org.uk](http://www.lordshiphub.org.uk).