

Co-operative Education Trust Scotland Ltd.	
Award Title: Certificate in Co-operative Studies	
Unit Title: Researching Co-operative Enterprise (SCQF level 6)	
<p>Unit summary and entry requirements: In this unit candidates investigate an existing co-operative Enterprise and how it puts the co-operative values and principles into practice. They then research how the co-operative business model can help to address a current issue such as Climate Change or the Financial Crisis.</p> <p>There are no entry requirements but knowledge and understanding of the co-operative values and principles and the co-operative business model are required.</p>	
Learning outcome 1: Investigate an existing co-operative business.	Evidence
Performance Criteria: 1.1 Present details of the co-operative business, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name, sector and location of the business • the nature of the business 	The same evidence should be used for Learning Outcomes 1 and 2. Written or oral evidence in the form of a report which satisfies all the Performance Criteria in both Learning Outcomes 1 and 2. .
1.2 Report on the governance or 'rules' of the co-operative.	
1.3 Analyse the decision making process within your chosen co-operative, identifying the key roles within the organisation.	
1.4 Identify the members' responsibilities and benefits.	
1.5 Comment on the scale and diversity of the business, using appropriate statistical information to support your comments.	
1.6 Identify the co-operative's competitors and comment critically on its 'co-operative advantage.'	
1.7 Carry out a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis (SWOT analysis) of the co-operative.	
1.8 Assess the 'success' of the co-operative, based on your analysis. Give reasons for conclusions reached.	
Learning outcome 2: Analyse how effectively an existing co-operative puts the co-operative values and principles into practice.	Evidence
Performance Criteria: 2.1 Consider how the co-operative puts each of the co-operative values into practice.	See above.

2.2 Comment critically on the ethics of the business.	
2.3 Assess how the co-operative implements the co-operative principles.	
2.4 Give a reasoned justification for conclusions drawn from the analysis.	
Learning outcome 3: Plan and organise practical research into how the co-operative business model can help to address a current issue such as Climate Change or the Financial Crisis.	Evidence
Performance Criteria: 3.1 The plan identifies appropriate aims and methodology, taking into account the issue to be addressed. 3.2 The issue is adequately researched. 3.3 A wide range of sources are identified and used. 3.4 Reference is made in the plan to the co-operative values and principles. 3.5 Examples of co-operative enterprises relevant to the issue are adequately researched and identified. 3.6 The information obtained demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the issue. 3.7 The information obtained is organised and presented in an appropriate manner, which allows an evaluation to be made.	The same evidence may be used for all Performance Criteria in this Learning Outcome. A portfolio of written or oral evidence which satisfies all Performance Criteria containing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a checklist, completed by the candidate and confirmed by the assessor through observation and discussion • a plan • evidence of and results of research, including list of sources used.
Learning outcome 4: Evaluate the extent to which the co-operative business model can help to address a current issue such as Climate Change or the Financial Crisis.	Evidence
Performance Criteria 4.1 The information gathered is analysed accurately and critically with reference to the co-operative values and principles. 4.2 The conclusions drawn are valid, relevant and supported by evidence presented. 4.3 Opinions expressed are justified. 4.4 Relevant opportunities to grow and strengthen the co-operative sector are identified. 4.5 Opportunities for co-operatives to contribute to the 'solution' to the issue are identified.	The same evidence may be used for all Performance Criteria in this Learning Outcome. Written or oral evidence in the form of a report which satisfies all the Performance Criteria in this Learning Outcome.