



What is the Food Hive?

Spearheaded by the Green & Blue Space, the environmental arm of the University of Stirling Student's Union, this co-operative was originally funded by the Climate Challenge Fund. Our goal is to sustain a student-led, democratically run food co-operative that champions healthy, environmentally sustainable and ethically responsible foodstuffs and products.

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

1. Name

The name of the group shall be The Food Hive.

2. Objects

- To buy, store, process, package, distribute and sell healthy, environmentally sustainable and ethically responsible foodstuffs and other products.
- To facilitate the creation of a thriving community surrounding healthy, environmentally sustainable and ethically responsible food.
- To exist as a student-led, democratically-run co-operative food model
- To raise funds and receive contributions where appropriate to finance the food co-operative.
- To organise meetings, training courses and events surrounding sustainable food.
- To work with similar groups and exchange information and advice with them.
- To take any action that is lawful which would help fulfil co-operative aims.
- To implement and uphold reasonable rules and regulations, for the safe and effective operation of the co-operative.

3. Membership

- a. Membership of the Food Hive shall be open to any community member who is interested in helping the group to achieve its aim and willing to abide by the rules of the group.
- b. Membership fees are currently set at £5 per academic year and shall be reviewed at the AGM.
- c. Every member shall have one vote at general meetings.
- d. The Steering Committee shall have the power to refuse membership to an applicant, where it is considered such membership would be detrimental to the aims, or activities of the group.
- e. Registration and termination of membership:
 - Any member of the association may resign his/her membership and any representative of a member organisation or section may resign such position, by giving to the secretary of the association written notice to that effect.
 - The Steering Committee may, by resolution passed at a meeting thereof, terminate or suspend the membership of any member, if in its opinion his/her conduct is prejudicial to the interests and objects of the association, PROVIDED THAT the individual member or representative of the member

organisation (as the case may be) shall have the right to be heard by the Steering Committee before the final decision is made. There shall be a right of appeal to an independent arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement.

4. Management

- a. The Food Hive shall be administered by a Steering Committee of not less than three (3) and not more than fifteen (15) members elected at the group's Annual General Meeting. Committee Members must be at least 18 years old.
- b. The officers of the Steering Committee shall include:
 - The Chairperson
 - The Treasurer
 - The SecretaryAnd such other officers the group shall deem necessary at the meeting.
- c. Voting at Steering Committee meetings shall be by show of hands on a majority basis. If there is a tied vote then the chairperson shall have a second vote.
- d. Power to set up sub-groups and working parties as deemed necessary who shall be accountable to the committee.

5. Finance

- Price mark-ups are set at 20% for non-members. Members receive a discount of 10% of final prices and direct orders over £100 are discounted by 15%. Prices will be reviewed at the AGM.
- Any money obtained by the group shall be used only for the group.
- Any bank accounts opened for the group shall be in the name of the group.
- The Steering Committee will ensure that the group stays within the budget.

6. Committee Meetings

- The committee shall meet at least four (4) times each semester.
- The quorum (minimum number of people required) for a meeting shall be five (5).
- The committee shall be accountable to the members at all times.
- All meetings must be minuted and available to any interested party.
- All committee members shall be given at least seven (7) days' notice of a meeting unless it is deemed an emergency meeting.

7. Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting shall be held within six months of the close of the financial year of the Food Co-op, the business of which shall include:

- (i) the receipt of the accounts and balance sheet,
- (ii) the election of Committee Members, if it has been decided to have such a Committee.

The quorum for Annual General Meeting shall be at least eight (8) persons of which no more than four (4) shall be committee members.

8. Application of surplus

The Food Co-op shall not trade for profit. Any surplus of the Food Co-op shall be used as a general reserve for the continuation and development of the Food Co-op.

9. Alteration of the Constitution

- Proposals for amendments to this constitution or dissolution must be delivered to the secretary in writing. The secretary in conjunction with all other officers shall then decide on the date of a meeting to discuss such proposals, giving at least four weeks (28 days) clear notice.
- Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by at least two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting.

10. Dissolution

The group may be dissolved at any time if agreed by two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting. Any assets shall be returned to their providers, if they require it, or shall be passed to another group with similar aims.

11. Adoption of the Constitution

This constitution was adopted by the members present at the AGM held on.....

Signed	(Chair)
.....	(Secretary)
.....	(Treasurer)