

THE PHONE CO-OP WINS CHELMSFORD STAR CO-OP TELECOMS CONTRACT

Essex-based Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society has appointed The Phone Co-op as its telecommunications supplier.

The contract, which is valued at around £70,000 per annum, encompasses line rental, all outbound calls and broadband services for the Society's 29 convenience food stores, two department stores, three travel agencies, and six funeral branches. In all, The Phone Co-op's services will be supporting over 600 members of staff.

Chelmsford Star appointed The Phone Co-op following a detailed tendering process involving several potential suppliers.

Barry Wood, deputy chief executive of Chelmsford Star, commented, "We are delighted that by choosing The Phone Co-op we have been able to choose not only the most commercially advantageous option, but also to support another co-operative with similar values and principles to our own."

Guy Ohlenschlager, business sales manager of The Phone Co-op, added, "We have been serving a number of regional co-operative societies and other organisations within the co-operative movement for many years. We are committed to working with other co-operatives where possible, both as suppliers and customers, and are delighted that Chelmsford Star Co-op has awarded us this contract, which enables us to extend our penetration of the consumer co-operative sector, something we hope to continue in the year ahead."

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Notes to editors:

Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society was formed in 1867 and now has a membership in excess of 50 000, who receive dividend via the Starcard. The society has an annual turnover of £58 million and trades in Braintree, Chelmsford, Ingatestone, Danbury, Writtle, Hockley, Canvey Island, South Benfleet and Shoeburyness. Chelmsford Star employs over 600 staff across four trading divisions consisting of:

- 29 convenience food stores called 'Altogether Fresher' and 'the Co-operative'
- 2 department stores called 'quadrant'
- 3 travel departments called 'Travel Centre'
- 6 funeral branches called 'Co-operative Funeral Services'

For more information, visit www.chelmsfordstar.coop

The Phone Co-op is the UK's only telecommunications co-operative, procuring telecommunications services on behalf of its customers, many of whom are co-operatives, charities and other not-for-profit organisations. The Phone Co-op's service has been taken up by over 15,000 customers, including Midcounties, Channel Islands, Southern, East of England, and Radstock Co-operative Societies, Suma Wholefoods, Christian Aid, Amnesty International, Triodos Bank, the Centre for Alternative Technology, Salford City Council and Unison. As a co-operative owned by its customer members, The Phone Co-op distributes any profits which are not re-invested back to members via a dividend based on each member's spend and through a loan fund which supports other co-operatives. For more information, visit www.thephone.coop

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