

## **John Sandford, FCA**



John trained as a chartered accountant with KPMG and from 1988 to 2010 he was an Audit Partner/Director with KPMG in Manchester. One of his specialisations was Co-operatives, primarily retail Co-operatives, but he was also responsible for the Audits of other Not for Profit organisations and Charities. Between 2000 and 2010 John headed up KPMG's 'Co-operative Centre of Excellence' and acted as the technical advisor to Co-op UK's 'Co-operative Performance Committee'. The Co-operative Centre of Excellence had three main purposes to brief and train the KPMG teams working on Co-operatives in the Co-operative difference and separate legislation, to act as a first point of call and liaison with KPMG's technical department on Co-operative accounting issues and to hold the KPMG client relationship at a movement level (as opposed to an individual Co-operative level).

Since leaving KPMG in 2010 John has been doing Non-Executive and consultancy work in the mutual sector. He currently has 3 Non Executive roles: Johnnie Johnson Housing Association (Chair of Audit Committee); Chorley Building Society (Chair of the Board); he also Chairs the Council of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the Board of its subsidiary Epworth Investment Ltd, which are investment managers for Methodist Church money and Charity money respectively. In June 2018 he retired after 7 years as a Non Executive Director of Stockport NHS Foundation Trust where he chaired the Audit and Risk committee.

In 2016 John was appointed the Independent Chair of Co-op UK's Co-operative performance committee, mentioned above. CPC has 3 functions, to help co-operatives understand and apply accounting standards, within this is responding to consultations etc., to identify and promulgate best practice in co-operative reporting and to act as a discussion forum for senior finance professionals within the co-operative movement.