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MEDIA RELEASE

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New store in Coates welcomes shoppers for first time

A **£2.5m** Lincolnshire Co-op food store on **March Road in Coates** has opened its doors for the first time, creating **15 new jobs** locally.

This marks the co-operatives **100th food store** and is part of plans to expand its food business.

Inside, the shop offers a **range of goods and services**, including **daily essentials** like freshly baked bread, chilled meal options, groceries, fruit and veg, and a variety of meal options such as **COOK frozen meals**, plus **Costa Coffee Express** and **Tango Ice Blast** machines.

Local businesses are supported through the society's Love Local range, and items from producers like **Grasmere Farm**, based in Peterborough, and **Elgood's Brewery**, located in Wisbech, are available instore.

Environmental features have also been embedded into the store including **CO2 type refrigeration** like **fridge doors**, and **LED lighting** throughout the store. There is also **soft plastics and battery recycling** available instore.

Leading up to opening day, Lincolnshire Co-op Community Co-ordinator Rox Croot worked with **Coates Primary School** to teach the children about road safety with a **poster competition**.

The winners were invited to opening day to see their designs on display and participated in a **ribbon cutting ceremony**, alongside the Mayor of Whittlesey.

The co-operative's membership and community teams were also in attendance. To mark the opening of Lincolnshire Co-op's 100th store, they gave out **100 goodie bags** filled with Love Local products. They also handed out strawberries to members and those who signed up to become members on the day, helped with membership queries, and hosted a raffle with money raised going toward **Macmillan Cancer Support**.

Lincolnshire Co-op members get access to **exclusive offers and events**, they can **collect cashback** across all business areas, and a donation is made to support local groups through the society's **Community Champions** scheme when members shop with their dividend card.

Customers will support **Macmillan Cancer Support** until **6th September 2025** through Community Champions. From **7th September 2025 to March 2026**, customers will then support **Coates Primary School**.

A **£500 donation** from the society to celebrate the store opening will be equally shared by two local charities, **Coates Public Hall** and **The Eastrea Centre**.

Elizabeth Hammond, Coates Food Store Manager, said: *"We're thrilled to welcome our Coates customers and it's been an exciting day for the team, building connections with the community."*

"The opening of our food store brings many new services into the local area, and we can't wait to see the impact our fundraising will have on our Community Champions."

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CONTACT DETAILS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Notes to editors:

1. **Lincolnshire Co-op** is an independent co-operative society. Its purpose is to bring together ideas, energy and resources to make life better in communities. It has around 300,000 members and 2,900 local colleagues in Lincolnshire and the surrounding counties and an elected board of directors who oversee the business.

The society provides **valued services** and supports the **local economy** from outlets across its trading area including food stores, filling stations, post offices, travel branches, funeral homes, a florist, a crematorium and community libraries. It also cares for people's **health and wellbeing** through its pharmacies and support for a network of wellbeing walks. Local good causes benefit through its Community Champions scheme and together, colleagues and members also look after the **local environment** through volunteering.

As well as its trading outlets, Lincolnshire Co-op owns properties, from flats and houses to commercial premises. The society brings land and buildings back into use to create attractive environments. With Lincolnshire Co-op as landlord, rents stay local and are invested in schemes that benefit the community.