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**MEDIA RELEASE**

[25/09/2025]

**Teams honoured with national awards**

Colleagues at Lincolnshire Co-op are celebrating a successful night after winning in **two categories** at the prestigious **People in Retail Awards**.

The People in Retail Awards, presented at the **London Marriott Hotel**, celebrate individuals making a significant impact in retail operations from **national and international organisations** like Adidas, Waitrose and American Golf.

Lincolnshire Co-op’s Chief Transformation Officer, **Andy Warman**, was awarded **Executive Leader of the Year** after being recognised for how he’s supported the society’s key strategic projects.

Andy joined the co-operative in 2023 as Head of Strategy and Transformation. Since then, he’s co-created the society’s **Purpose Beyond Profit 2030 strategy**, developed a programme plan to support **30 projects** and introduced a **Project Management Office**.

Colleagues describe Andy as an ‘inspirational leader who is generous with his time when sharing his knowledge and expertise’ and is ‘a champion for Lincolnshire Co-op’s purpose and strategy’.

In recognition of his significant contributions in supporting the society’s transformational journey, he was promoted to Chief Transformation Officer during **June 2025**.

Andy said: *“It’s a privilege to be recognised in a category amongst so many talented executives who are making a difference.*

*“Seeing nominations from Lincolnshire Co-op highlights the extraordinary dedication within our society and it’s a testament to the incredible people I have the honour of working with every day.”*

**Erika Stainton**, Lincolnshire Co-op’s Careers Development Lead, was **awarded Rising Spark** for her active role in transforming apprenticeships across the business.

Apprenticeships have significantly evolved since Erika’s enrolment, with **uptake increasing by 20%.** She’s strengthened line manager confidence, directly worked with apprentices between onboarding to completion and built relationships with training providers.

Erika said: *“I joined the business in November 2024, so to not only be nominated but to have won this award is a massive shock.*

*“I’m extremely grateful for my wonderful colleagues who have supported me throughout my time at Lincolnshire Co-op so far; I love working with our apprentices and this recognition is hugely appreciated.”*

**Bob Blake**, Funeral Operative from Lincolnshire Co-op’s Tritton Road Funeral Home in Lincoln, was highly commended in the **Employee of the Year** category.

During a funeral, Bob went above and beyond to support a bereaved family, enabling them all to mourn in a way that was meaningful to them.

Bob said: *“To be highly commended in the Employee of the Year category is exceptional to say the least, and I couldn’t be prouder of myself.*

*“This was a fantastic night with a great group of colleagues, and it was incredible to share a room with such inspiring people.”*

Karen Bennett, Lincolnshire Co-op Chief People Officer said*: “We’ve had a fantastic evening celebrating our amazing award winners and brilliant nominees who all go above and beyond to deliver our purpose.*

*“Andy is an exceptional leader, Erika truly is a shining star, and we’re so proud of Bob for his commendation. Their recognition couldn’t be more deserved.”*

**Ends**

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**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.