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MEDIA RELEASE

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Local good causes set to receive over £180,000

£181,928 will be shared by **215 local good causes and charities** in Lincolnshire and the surrounding area, including children's sports clubs and community spaces, thanks to Lincolnshire Co-op's **Community Champions** scheme.

Between **September 2025** and **March 2026**, a donation was made each time a member shopped with their dividend card, colleagues organised fundraising, and customers donated spare change into collection pots in outlets.

Sutton on Trent Sports and Community Centre, supported by Lincolnshire Co-op's **Sutton on Trent Food Store**, will receive **£1,184**.

The centre promotes health and wellbeing and reduces social isolation by providing a space for the community to host events, including bingo sessions, exercise classes, and comedy shows, as well as serving as a training facility for local sports teams.

Arron Smith, Sutton on Trent Sports and Community Centre Chairman, said: *"Our charity is all about improving our communities, so this donation will be reinvested into providing more equipment and boosting the facilities for groups that use our centre."*

“As a small charity in a rural village, getting funding can be more of a challenge, so we can’t thank Lincolnshire Co-op enough for the support we’ve had over the last six months.”

Ermine Music in Lincoln, a community choir group, will receive **£674** from donations raised at Lincolnshire Co-op's **Queen Elizabeth Food Store and Trelawney Crescent Post Office**.

Annie Griffith, Musical Director of Ermine Music, said: *“Thank you so much to Lincolnshire Co-op and its customers for all the funding we’ve received, it will help us continue to pay for the hall where we meet every week.”*

Bourne RUFC, a rugby club in North Kesteven, was linked to Lincolnshire Co-op's **Morton Food Store** and will receive **£760**.

The club provides rugby training for a variety of ages, from its under-fives team, to men’s and women’s teams.

Matthew Bellringer, under 11’s Coach at Bourne RUFC, said: *“We currently have almost 200 players at our club in the junior and mini section and we will be using the money raised to feed these teams after training and games.*

“This also allows us to keep our membership fees low, so we can ensure rugby is an easily accessible sport for our local communities.”

Between **March 2026** and **September 2026**, Lincolnshire Co-op is supporting **42 local food banks** around Lincolnshire and the surrounding areas through its Community Champions scheme.

Danielle Lowther, Senior Community Co-ordinator, said: *“We know groups in rural areas can struggle to find funding, so it’s a privilege to provide support to so many of them, and play our part in making life better in our communities.*

“Thank you to our incredible members, customers and colleagues whose combined support will see these good causes continue to make a difference – this wouldn’t be possible without you.”

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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.