



Introducing ABCUL

ABCUL is the voice of the credit union movement throughout Britain. And we're the country's largest development, information and training network for new and existing credit unions.

Our aim is simple – to make credit unions the first-choice for low-cost, high quality and ethical financial services.

We're a democratic, not-for-profit organisation, and our member credit unions already serve more than a quarter of a million people in Britain.

Credit unions can offer good returns

Credit unions can offer good returns and low-cost loans - and are owned and controlled by their members. They're local and personal, there are no external shareholders and all profits come back to the members.

All credit unions are based on the 'common bond'. That means members have a link – it could be that they live or work in the same area, work for the same company or are members of the same organisation. That common bond is what makes a credit union so different from the big corporations.

All credit unions start with a group of people who want a better way of saving and borrowing. ABCUL helps new credit unions establish themselves – and provides a whole range of ongoing services.

Leading the credit union movement

ABCUL is improving day-to-day operations, legislation and regulation for all credit unions.

Here are just some of our successes:

- **Legislation**
We helped bring about changes in the Credit Unions Act 1979, and secured continued exemption from the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- **Central Services Organisation**
We worked with the Treasury, banks and building societies to produce proposals for a CSO, which will eventually allow credit unions to provide a wider range of financial services.
- **Media**
Journalists writing about credit unions call ABCUL before anyone else – for statistics, news and case studies from member credit unions. We promote credit unions nationally, and put members of the public in touch with their local credit union.
- **Research**
Research commissioned by ABCUL has had a major impact on national policy and has helped guide the future of credit unions in Britain. We've collaborated on research into adult financial literacy, the social fund, financial exclusion and credit unions in rural areas.
- **Regulation**
We regularly meet with the Financial Services Authority to push our case for appropriate credit union regulation.



- **Development**

We've pioneered innovative approaches to sustainable credit union development – new models based on demand and financial viability.

- **Information services**

For news, examples of best practice, in-depth information and discussion, we've launched www.abc.ul.org. We also produce guides to setting up and running credit unions, and hold regular conferences. By sending email to news@abc.ul.org, you can also get free news updates on developments in the credit unions movement.

ABCUL membership – get the benefits

Virtually all new credit unions choose to join ABCUL. It's easy to see why.

We provide all the information, support, promotional services and development tools you need to help your credit union grow and stay up-to-date with developments.

As a member, your credit union can influence ABCUL's direction and priorities. You'll be involved in consultations, elections, our annual meeting and membership surveys. You'll be able to nominate people to stand as ABCUL officers – and have lots of opportunities to share problems and experiences with other credit unions.

You'll be playing your part in changing financial services for the better.

- **www.abc.ul.org**

The latest credit union information – and your own page linked to a

search facility. As a member, your credit union's address, logo, 'phone number and opening hours are displayed along with an e-mail address – making it easy for potential members to contact you.

- **ABCUL Members database**

Contact details, opening hours and common bond information for all ABCUL credit unions. Yet another easy tool to help you recruit new members.

- **Publications**

Our monthly members' newsletter; Credit Union News – a quarterly journal on news in the credit union movement; the Technical Bulletin – our legal and technical guide.

- **Telephone helpline and enquiry service**

Staff on hand five days a week to answer all your questions about day-to-day credit union operations, legislation, training and more.

- **ABCUL Study Group Pack**

A full reference guide – part of our support package for anyone setting up a new credit union.

- **Registration**

ABCUL will guide you through the procedures for registration and rule changes.

- **Training**

Subsidised training, and the tailor-made Credit Union Directors' Training Programme and Credit Union Operations Training Programme.

- **Publicity**

Marketing leaflets and posters to help you promote your credit union.



Fax: 0161 832 3706

Email: info@abcuk.org

Website: www.abcuk.org

- **Best practice information from the international credit union movement**

As the only British member of the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), we share the best practice with credit unions in other countries.

- **ABCUL Chapters**

Local meetings, training and discussion groups for credit union representatives and volunteers.

- **CUNA Mutual insurance**

Including Fidelity Bond Insurance and life savings/loan protection insurance, from a mutually-owned insurer, which deals solely with credit unions.

- **INCUME – Information Network for Credit Union Managers and Employees**

An informal information network and support group for credit union staff, and a useful forum for sharing best practice and innovation.

- **Model Rulebook**

The legal constitution for ABCUL credit unions. Credit unions benefit from using a tried and trusted structure for their credit unions.

If you'd like more information about any of ABCUL's services or activities – or if you'd like to join us – please contact ABCUL Head Office.

ABCUL
Holyoake House
Hanover Street
Manchester
M60 0AS
Tel: 0161 832 3694