

2022 AGM Questions and Answers

Although the AGM was a closed meeting, we wanted to ensure that Members still had the opportunity to ask the Board of Directors questions, and Members were asked to submit questions in advance of the meeting. Members questions were considered by the Board at the 2022 AGM and answers to the questions raised are published below. Thank you to all our Members who submitted questions.

Interest rates - Savings

Question: In view of the recent increase in the Bank of England base rate, can you see any rise in interest rate for our savings accounts in the near future?

Response: In his AGM speech the Chief Executive referred to the planned short-term increase in ISA rates and that fixed rate bonds have already been increased in returns to reflect the change in base rates. Any other changes to savers rates will follow changes to Society mortgage rates. We do plan to improve savers rates when we can.

Non-Executive Director experience

Question: To explain the relevance of experience in new banks whilst acting as a Non-Executive Director of a Building Society.

Response: There are some differences between the two types of business in relation to areas such as members vs shareholders and profit maximisation vs profit sufficiency. However, there are a number of common areas of knowledge and expertise. These include understanding and measuring risks faced by the Society, capital and liquidity management, the approach to governance and controls as well as matters such as technology development, margin management and succession planning.

When considering appointments the Nominations Committee considers a wide range of factors and for the reasons mentioned experience in banking is relevant to oversight of a building society.

The Society is better served by Non-Executive Directors who have experience in other institutions.