



Courtesy of Headingley Development Trust

Community Shares

promoting enterprise, equity and engagement through community shares and bonds

The Government recognises the importance of developing a strong evidence base on key issues facing enterprises undertaking community share issues. This new two year action research project will create a more robust evidence base on the potential for community share and bonds issues to increase community empowerment, grow social enterprises and support wider Government objectives. It will support 10 enterprises raising equity in this way.

The work is funded by the Office of the Third Sector's Social Enterprise Action Learning Fund and will be led by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Development Trusts Association and in partnership with Co-operatives^{UK} and the Social Return on Investment Network. Visit: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/

The project is being delivered by Development Trusts Association (DTA) in partnership with Co-operatives UK and follows on from the publication commissioned by the DTA

Community Share and Bond Issues: The sharpest tool in the box author Chris Hill, Camberwell Project (2007)

<http://www.dta.org.uk/communityshares> and Co-operatives UK publication

Community Investment: Using Industrial and Provident Society Legislation by Jim Brown, Baker Brown Associates (2008)

<http://www.cooperatives-uk.coop/>



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transforming communities for good

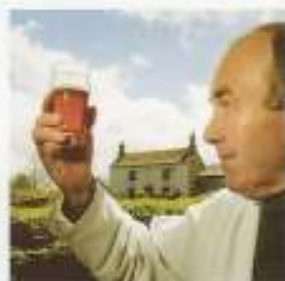


CabinetOffice
Office of the Third Sector

The Development Trusts Association (DTA) is the leading network of community enterprise practitioners. We help people set up development trusts and help existing trusts to learn from each other and to work effectively. Development trusts are community organisations using self-help, enterprise, and asset ownership, to find local solutions and transform their community for good. www.dta.org.uk

Co-operatives^{UK} is the national membership organisation for co-operatives of all kinds and is the apex body of the UK co-operative movement. It provides information and support on a wide variety of topics relating to the operational duties of IPSs, including those of secretaries and directors. It has a number of model rules for bodies wishing to register as IPSs, including community investment models. www.cooperatives-uk.coop

Recent estimates suggest there are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK, contributing £8.4 billion to the UK's GDP and employing at least 650,000 people (2005 Small Business Survey - BERR). The Office of the Third Sector is supporting other government departments to undertake action research to develop their understanding of the role social enterprise can play in helping meet their strategic objectives. The Community Shares action research project was suggested by Communities and Local Government to build a robust evidence base on how community share and bond issues can increase community empowerment, grow social enterprises and stimulate funding from non-governmental sources.



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Community owned enterprises will benefit from an exciting new Government-backed initiative which aims to stimulate investment through community share and bond issues.

Community investment is different. Instead of turning to the private sector and wealthy individuals for support, community investment is about engaging communities to invest in themselves.

By harnessing the collective investment powers of whole communities, large amounts of capital can be raised in small sums from members of the community.

Be it a small village shop or large scale housing development, a community recycling project or major renewable energy scheme, they all have one thing in common – actively committed and motivated members who recognise the wider benefits of communities investing and engaging in their own solutions.

To find out more about how your enterprise can benefit, there will be a number of awareness raising seminars held around the country led by Jim Brown, Baker Brown Associates including input by the Financial Services Authority.

Wednesday 22 April - London

Tuesday 28 April - Birmingham

Wednesday 29 April - Manchester

If you would like us to run a session at your event, please contact us. Full details are available on <http://www.communityshares.org.uk>

For more information and to register a place at a seminar contact:

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