# Share Issues

Luke Fletcher 4 November 2014





#### Energy4All

- BWB has advised Energy4All since its early days
  - helping E4All design its approach
  - advice on legal structure and co-op law
  - advice on corporate and commercial issues
  - advice on offer documents and financial promotion
    - verification
    - compliance with COBS rules
    - formal approval
  - prospectuses and adverts



#### A Collaborative Engagement

- BWB provided templates and guidance
- Energy4All has honed and fine-tuned its approach
- An efficient, well-worked engagement
- Transferable shares
  - Require approval by an FCA authorised person
  - Conform to expectations of best practice
  - A high degree of trust
- A large network of good investor relationships
- A little known success story



#### FCA Consultation – CP 14/22

- On its 'registration function' under CCBS Act 2014
- Applies to co-operatives and bencoms
  - Business, industry or trade
  - Motivation for joining
  - Interest rates
- Bona fide co-operative
  - Active member participation



### Public limited companies

- Will we see more co-operative company offers?
- Community shares mostly non-transferable and exempt
- BWB
  - a co-operative PLC set of Articles
  - a CIC co-operative PLC set of Articles
- More triple bottom line social enterprises?
  - Ethical Property Company
  - Café Direct
  - Traidcraft
  - Centre for Alternative Technology



## Sister Society/Company Option

- Where there is a venture with retail appeal
- Set up a capital raising sister entity
  - Allows for separate risk management
  - Not a controlled entity
  - Not a subsidiary or group company
- Democratically owned
  - Overlapping governance
  - Management agreement
  - Lease agreement / memorandum of understanding
- Influence and symbiotic relationship



# **Subsidiary Company Option**

- Where there is a venture with retail appeal
- Set up a subsidiary company
  - Allows control to be maintained
  - Allows investors to participate
- Share classes
  - Charity holds voting shares
  - Retail investors hold non-voting shares
- Raise patient capital and retain control



#### Bond / Debt Issuance

- More attractive and relatively simple for non-profits
- Usually asset backed / certainty about revenue streams
- Legal structure and issues
  - Contractual relationships
  - Loan documentation
  - Security documentation
  - Intercreditor documentation
  - Financial promotions
  - Crowdfunding rules
- SITR may present new opportunities



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