

“Credit Where It’s Due”

How Social Enterprises have Accessed Loan Finance in South West England

It is an acknowledged fact that social enterprises often experience difficulties in accessing finance that is open to other, more conventional businesses. This report enables social enterprises to learn from good practice. It gives social enterprises some key lessons in how to go about accessing loan finance and it can also be used as a tool by those that advise social enterprises.

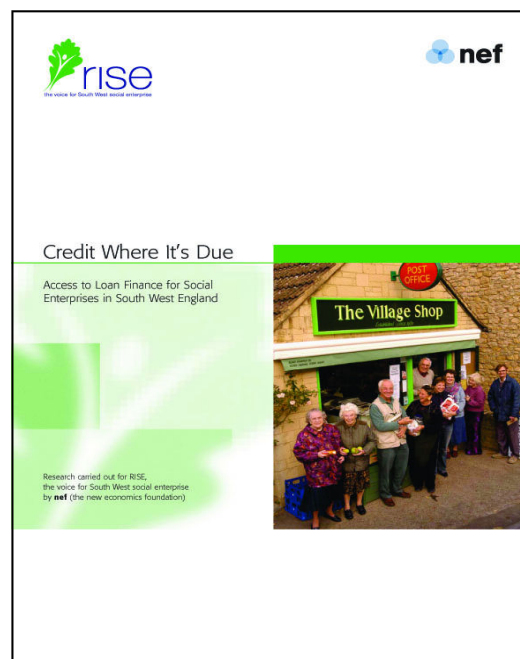
The report, based on a survey of social enterprises carried out by the New Economics Foundation, found that although ambition to develop the sector is ‘extremely healthy’, many do not know what finance is available, which lenders to approach or where to go for advice. “Many turn to their bank when they need a loan, but few are eligible due to a lack of understanding of social enterprise from high street banks and a lack of assets and trading history”, Lucy Findlay, Chief Executive of RISE.

You need to read this report if you are:

- * A social enterprise
- * An organisation considering social enterprise
- * An advisor to existing or new-start social enterprises

The ‘Credit Where It’s Due: Access to Loan Finance for Social Enterprises in South West England’ is priced at £10 including post and packing. There is a 25% discount for 20 or more copies. The report is free to RISE members, and social enterprises, as defined by the DTI:

‘Social enterprises are businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners.’ Social Enterprise: a strategy for success 2001



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the voice for South West social enterprise

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