





# Communities Taking Control

Democratic models of ownership of assets, businesses & services





An economic development co-operative using the power of democratic ownership to transform economic inequality, the climate emergency, and wider society.

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1. Democratic Models of Ownership
  2. Assets
  3. Businesses & Services
  4. Conclusion - Q&A



# 1. Democratic Models of Ownership

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# Democratic Ownership

## And why it matters

- Building a lasting legacy of community-led change
- Keeping assets and profits in the local community
- One member one vote - embedding principles in law
- A different kind of institution showing the economy we want



# Democratic Ownership

## In practice

### Co-operative societies

- Business trading for member benefit
- Membership often workers, consumers, others directly involved
- Profits can be distributed via dividends or reinvested
- Usually used to set up an ongoing enterprise or project

### Community Benefit Societies

- For the benefit of a specific (often geographic community)
- Members often the investors
- Can't distribute profits (but can pay interest on share capital)
- Usually used to acquire assets and social infrastructure







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# Case Study

## Stretford Public Hall

- **1878** built by John Ryland – “Cotton King”
- **2015** Friends of Stretford Public Hall secure freehold
- **2017** Community Share offer
- **2018** First renovation complete





# Case Study

## Stretford Public Hall - The model

- Charitable Community Benefit Society
- Asset lock
- Raised £255,000
- 797 investors
- Minimum investment of £100
- 2% interest from 2019, 7% interest from 2021
- Matchfunding from Power to Change – £100,000



# Case Study Investor Profiles

Individual investment amount (£)	Number of investors	Raised	% of community investment
90-190	656	£ 66,105	52%
200-250	80	£ 17,340	14%
300-499	10	£ 3,200	3%
500	22	£ 11,000	9%
1,000	18	£ 18,000	14%
2000-2,500	3	£ 6,500	5%
4,000	1	£ 4,000	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>£ 126,145</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Case Study

## Projects MCR



# Case Study

## Projects MCR

- Skatepark under the Mancunian Way Flyover
- Not-for-profit Community Benefit Society
- A Community Share Offer (CSO) in 2018 brought Projekts MCR into community ownership.
- Subsidised entry for Universal Credit and women-only nights





# Case Study

## Projects MCR

- Individuals can become members of the organisation. Members own the Society, can vote on Directorship posts.
- 8 Directors on its Board, and 74 members can vote at the AGM. You can join for £20.
- Raised £134K through their CSO 2018, with 50% matched from the Community Shares Booster Programme
- Also raised around £700K from charitable trusts and funding bodies, as well as £150K from social investment loans.
- Funded predominantly through trading, also entrance fees, café sales, school skateboarding classes, and facility hire.



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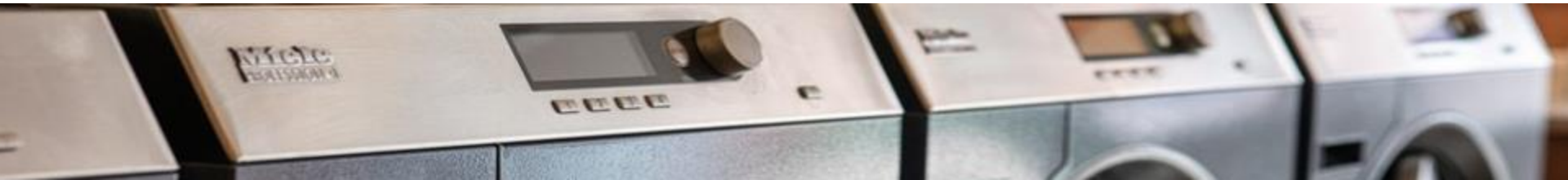




# Case Study

## Kitty's Laundrette, Liverpool

- A worker-led community co-operative
- Affordable washing and drying facilities
- Low-income neighbourhood
- Received grant funding for eco-laundry equipment
- Secured building in 2018, started trading in 2019



# Case Study

## Equal Care

- Digital care & support platform putting care receivers and caregivers at the centre of their service
- Multi-stakeholder membership model
- Minimum wage of £20,000 per annum for new care workers
- Funding mix through grants, crowdfunding, and a communityshare offer





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# The Opportunity

## What we can do

- Change to democratically own and finance the places that matter to you in your local community
- Community Shares - worth £200 million, being used by 100s of communities. Could you be next?
- Overall could build a new generation of lasting community assets across the country



# Conclusion

## Next Steps

- Any questions
- Where to find out more
- Contact details - [daniel.stanley@stirtoaction.com](mailto:daniel.stanley@stirtoaction.com)

