



Mission

We exist to meet a very real community need. We are 40 miles away from the nearest shops, along mainly single-track B roads.

Is there a link with Transition?

No.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?

We are a community owned shop on the far west coast of the Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides. We provide lifeline services of fuel, fresh foods and post office to a fragile and remote community.

Employees

9 employees. 3 full time and 6 part time all paid. There is a voluntary Management Committee of 7 people from the membership, which are voluntary posts.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?

£600,000 excluding VAT. We were not in profit in 2012 but anticipate turning this round for 2013. We have been trading for 9.5 years.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?

Industrial & Provident Society limited company. This model was chosen as we registered to become corporate members of The Co-operative Group Limited and it fitted their criteria.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?

We had grant funding from the Scottish Land Fund of approx. £70,000 to purchase the building and the community had to show their support by raising £4,500 through Share Purchases of £25 each. We raised £13,000 through Share Purchases.

We had community voluntary involvement at the beginning, including painting and re-designing the interior, in addition to stocking help prior to opening in March 2004.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?

We are looking to 'wash our faces', to be sustainable and keep the £70,000 of wages currently paid to staff within the community. We don't anticipate profit sharing for the foreseeable future as the shares have been purchased more as a gesture of goodwill than with a view to earning profits for the Shareholder.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?

We endeavor to support local enterprises by purchasing their products although on their own these wouldn't sustain our business. We deliver twice weekly within the community to people who are housebound or have no transport in addition to the Council Care Unit and Primary School.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?

Neutral.

