



# Community Chest Business Loans

Kevin Caley  
Chairman & Founder  
ThinCats.com

# My Background

- Engineer, MBA
- Small VC investments – ‘equity gap’
- Lancashire Enterprises - Economic Development
  - Investments – Rosebud Fund, Lancs CDA
- Birmingham Enterprise Fund, Creative Advantage Fund and CDFA conference
- Advantage Early Growth Fund – co-investment

# ThinCats

- Peer to peer lending for secured business loans
- Individual lenders take part in an auction to make loans directly to SMEs
- Launched in January 2011
- £2m of loans in its first year
- Now 715 loans, total £195m
- 5,502 lending members

# The idea for ThinCats

- Business angels looking for safe investments
- “Wouldn’t it be nice if we could get tax relief on loans?”
  - SISR means that now they can
- ThinCats is about secured loans
- Community Chest is about unsecured loans to CICs and charities
- Plan to set up a new p2p platform for CC

# Community Chest

- Independent company
- 'Incubated' by ThinCats
- Good marketing for ThinCats
  - Spreads the word about peer to peer finance
  - Community Chest hits the ground running
  - Access to ThinCats lenders and regulation
- Could be as big as ThinCats in 5 years

# Summary

- We are keen on social lending but from a commercial point of view
- We are looking for good investments rather than replacing soft loans and grants
- We bring an established funding platform but also have a community investment background
- Most other established funders do not understand community/social investment
- Just starting, learning what might be possible
- Keen to work with others in the sector
- This opportunity is big enough for us all



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