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## **The Purpose**

Established in the 18th century as a social function

Typically to benefit people of modest means excluded from other financial services options

Pooling peoples' small savings into a capital fund, to turn to during a time of monetary need

Serving its members, rather than providing shareholder profit

## **Sector Developments**

20<sup>th</sup> Century

Continually evolved, with a bloom following the end of World War II 1990s: c.50% of insurance market

21<sup>st</sup>
Century

e other countries a d

Unlike other countries a different story unfolds in the UK Now: c.10% of insurance market

A once large mutual sector has significantly shrunk

#### **Common Trends**

Demutualisation

Cost Pressures Lack of Competition

Acquisition

Economies of Scale

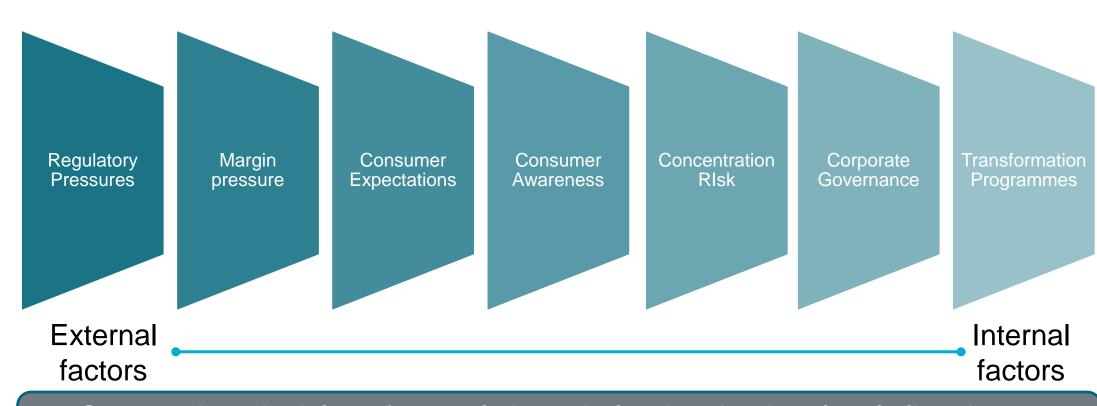
Decreased
Customer
Understanding

## 2 Questions to yourselves:

- 1) Do mutuals remain relevant today?
- < Yes>
- <No>
- <Unsure>
- 2) If yes to above, what is the role of the modern mutual?
- <As per original purpose>
- <Differs to original purpose>

## Key Challenges

The UK mutuals industry is facing a **plethora of challenges**. Whilst some are not unique to the mutual sector, there are **increased cost pressures**, due to the inability to raise equity capital



Community principles of mutuals have helped maintain a loyal client base, but the issues facing the industry are pushing firms to consider ways to improve the situation



Mutual Differentiation

Communicate benefits of mutuality to customers, future employees and the adviser population

Enhance Data Strategies Improve understanding of customer requirements to aid product design and create marketing strategies

Develop Digital Channels

Create user friendly platforms to enable active customer involvement and low-cost advice options

Mutual Sector Learning

Take learnings from the wider sector and more successful countries to review what can be embedded

New Mutual Creation Address market gaps, and in particular support sectors where it has been felt solutions from traditional sources are inadequate

High amount of **change** and ability to **adapt** is key. The mutual sector should welcome the opportunities to **work collaboratively** to confer genuine **competitive advantage** 



A real opportunity exists for mutual insurance firms to work together to:

- Reduce overall spend and operational burden; increasing competitiveness of the sector
- Push for change with governmental and regulatory bodies
- Improve awareness of mutuals
- Reap longer term benefits

Creating space for the industry to focus on differentiating customer offerings and sharpening key distribution channels to capture the minds and hearts of their customers

Loose alliances could occur in the first instance; building up trust and helping to identify opportunities, before advancing into partnerships

Loose Alliance Loose Partnership Strategic Partnership/ Joint Venture

The consideration of mutuality being reborn through a shared interest may feel extreme, however, to succeed in today's FS climate a coordinated and cohesive approach may be best

Working together to identify opportunities

### **Contact Details**

## **O**Alpha





Should you have any further questions on the information contained within this presentation, please contact:

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