

## **Appendix 1 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Application Summary**

\*These are extracts from the applications to provide additional information to Committee.

### **Communities and Place**

#### **Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations LTD (ACVO) – Aberdeen Third Sector Hub Feasibility Study**

We are seeking to commission a feasibility study on the establishment of a Third Sector Hub in Aberdeen.

The third sector in the city comprises non-profit organisations, community groups, voluntary organisations, faith groups, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives, community interest companies, mutuals, housing associations and self-help groups that work to address social, environmental, and community needs. This diverse group of organisations includes 892 charities registered in the city with a combined income of £802 million.

The third sector is experiencing unprecedented demand at a time of extreme pressure on resources. Our aim is to understand the opportunities and benefits of establishing a centralised, collaborative third sector space that can be a source of support and a catalyst for innovation and growth. It is envisaged that a hub would contribute to the long-term sustainability of the sector and increase resilience within organisations.

The key objectives of establishing a Hub in Aberdeen are to provide increased:

#### **Collaboration and networking**

Facilitate collaboration and networking among diverse third sector organisations, fostering cooperation and which enhance their collective impact on local communities.

#### **Resource sharing**

Provide a shared physical space for organisations, enabling the efficient sharing of resources, facilities, and services, thereby reducing operational costs and contributing to the long-term sustainability of the sector.

#### **Capacity building**

Offer opportunities for capacity building through bespoke training programmes, workshops, and knowledge-sharing sessions, enhancing the overall effectiveness and efficiency of participating organisations.

#### **Community engagement**

Strengthen community engagement by creating a visible and accessible hub where individuals can connect with a variety of services, programmes, opportunities and initiatives offered by third sector organisations.

#### **Advocacy and representation**

Serve as a unified platform for advocacy and representation, amplifying the collective voice of the third sector in addressing community challenges and influencing policy decisions.

#### Streamlining of services

Improve the coordination and delivery of services by providing a centralised resource through which organisations can easily access a range of business support functions at an affordable cost.

#### Innovation and learning

Foster a culture of innovation by providing a space where organisations can exchange ideas, share best practices, and collaborate on innovative solutions to community and societal issues.

#### Visibility and messaging

Enhance the visibility of the third sector and its contributions to the community, promoting a greater understanding of the sector's importance, influence and impact.

In establishing a Third Sector Hub, ACVO would develop a dynamic and supportive ecosystem that empowers organisations in the third sector to work more efficiently, effectively, and collectively for the benefit of the diverse communities (of people and place) in Aberdeen.

The goal of the feasibility study is to equip ACVO and other stakeholders with comprehensive information needed to make informed decisions about the viability and potential outcomes of establishing a Third Sector Hub in Aberdeen. The study would provide a thorough analysis of the project's feasibility from various perspectives to aid our planning and decision-making processes, and to provide potential funders with the information required to assess the deliverability and likely impact of the proposal.

### **Aberdeen City Council - Festival of the Seas 2024 and Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 – Cultural Programme**

The Tall Ships Races will return to Aberdeen's north harbour for four days in July 2025. An amazing spectacle of 40 to 50 sailing ships from around the world, it is the largest free family festival in Europe. The Aberdeen leg seeks to attract 400,000 visits, recruit a minimum of 100 youth sail trainees, and run a valuable volunteer programme for around 400 local people of all backgrounds.

The event presents a huge opportunity for all communities across Aberdeen to become involved, with widespread educational and wellbeing benefits, alongside improved life chances and career paths for those participating in the Races. The event will present Aberdeen as a great destination for people to visit and live, and enhance the city's reputation as the perfect stage for future major events.

This application will cover the FY24/25 costs of the cultural programme in commissioning, design of cultural product, and delivery of artwork, materials and performance.

There will be performances of all commissioned work in March 2025 in Union Terrace Gardens and Cowdray Hall. This will bring together trainees, volunteers and members of the public involved in, and excited about the project. It will be used as part of a press event to drive publicity across the city. Work will then be performed again on the Tall Ships site in July 2025.

A successful application will have the following strands:

- Maritime-themed sculpture trail with QR code for roll-out in advance of Tall Ships, legacy project after the event and future use during Festival of the Seas annually, where the QR codes will link to a new theme each year. These could include maritime heritage, ocean life, energy transition and working in the North Sea. By end-March 2025 this will be commissioned with full plans, layouts, and fabrication complete and all elements delivered. This will be similar in look to the CLAN trail with hares.
- Wall mural or street art work on Ship Row opposite the Maritime Museum to be completed by end-March 2025 – there will be a Tall Ships theme to the work which would be commissioned by open callout from an artist based in the North East of Scotland
- Commissioning of a local artist to develop a very large colouring wall for children and families to colour during the Tall Ships event. These will be completed by March 2025 and stored until needed.
- Schools packs – these will be small treasure boxes containing Tall Ships related materials, props and books for teachers in Aberdeen’s 48 state primary schools to include in lesson planning in advance of the Tall Ships arrival. Details of participating ships will be included alongside information about the Races in 2025. Materials or activity sheets themselves would be developed in conjunction with colleagues in Education with the intention that they are useful within the context of the existing curriculum. The adopt-a-ship idea in Hartlepool in 2024 was very popular and will be used here. All materials will be developed and rolled-out to schools by end-March 2025
- Big Noise Torry - A donation to create a new work to be performed at the Festival of the Sea in 2024, and again for Tall Ships 2025, both on the event site and during the Crew Parade. There will be a performance in Union Terrace Gardens in March 2025
- CityMoves - Commission of new work to be performed in Union Terrace Gardens in March 2025 and again on the Tall Ships event site
- Community Choirs - Commission of new work and performance from Aberdeen’s choirs to be jointly performed on the main stage each day at Tall Ships 2025. By end of March 2025 this would have the score, rehearsal and programme schedule. Target organisations are Aberdeen Choral Society, Aberdeen Chorus, Aberdeen Rock Choir, Aberdeen Vocal Ensemble, Aberdeen Youth Choir, Albacapella, Granite City Chorus. There will be a performance in Union Terrace Gardens in March 2025
- Granite City Brass – Commission to score a new work and perform it each day of the Tall Ships event. The work would be written and assessed at rehearsal by end-March 2025. There will be a performance in the Cowdray Hall in March 2025
- Aberdeen City Music Service – Commission of a new work to be performed at Festival of the Sea in 2024 and again during Tall Ships 2025 on the main event

stage. This will support pupils who have reached a level of proficiency to perform in the ensemble. There will be a performance in the Cowdray Hall in March 2025

### **Growing2gether – Growing2gether: strengthening Communities by building Local Skills, Wellbeing and Resilience**

Growing2gether is the only project in Scotland to build positive health and wellbeing, skills and life chances of disadvantaged young people by connecting them to their community as mentors to nursery children. This work experience, which leads to a personal development qualification, is unique because the mentoring also increases the skills of the nursery children, who have social/ personal/communication challenges.

We will deliver two Growing2gether programmes targeting 16-20 disadvantaged pupils from low attaining schools (Lochside Academy/Northfield Academy/or LA recommendation) mentoring 16-20 children from a local nursery. Young people (aged 13-16) are selected by Guidance using our 'at-risk' selection tool, which highlights poverty, educational disengagement, care experience and social/emotional issues. They make an informed choice to participate after a programme presentation. We also gather parental consent. The nursery children (aged 4-6) are selected by their nursery teachers as needing extra mentoring (play/reading/numbers).

Each 16-week programme, lead by two facilitators, involves 8 to 10 young people mentoring 8-10 children in a local nursery/primary (delivered in school term, Sept 2024 – Feb 2025).

- Young people mentor the child for 1.5 hours/week. The work experience as a volunteer mentor builds self-esteem/confidence as they see the children develop. Young people are valued members of the nursery team, increasing their sense of responsibility/well-being.
- After nursery, young people attend 1.5-hour group sessions on emotional skills (self-management/risky behaviour (e.g., crime/drugs)/relationships/barriers to achievement) applying lessons learnt in nursery to their own lives.
- The programme leads to an accredited SCQF Level 4 Qualification - Personal Development: (Self in Community/Self Awareness). This achievement helps young people re-engage in education and builds life/work skills, e.g., goal setting/accountability. The nursery can provide a reference for the young people, supporting their pathway to employment.

The programme ends with a Community Celebration (parents, friends, teachers/stakeholders to build pride. This helps the young people feel part of the community and the skills they have learnt improve their relationships with their family, friends and teachers.

We will train up to 12 local facilitators (school staff/Community Learning and Development teams) in our positive psychology approach and to deliver Growing2gether independently in future, with outcome evaluation/quality assurance provided by the charity. This supports capacity building, resilience and sustainability,

increasing staff skills and supporting the mental health of more young people in the school at lower cost, making it a good investment.

Growing2gether is a proven early intervention, which has been delivered in Highland since 2017 where we have reached over 1750 young people/children. We are now expanding to Aberdeen, starting with a September 2023 pilot at Lochside Academy. Growing2gether is proven by robust evaluation to improve mental health (25% improvement pre/post), increase engagement (81% felt the experience made them feel more connected to others) and build educational attainment (85% achieve a Level 4 qualification). According to long-term evaluation by our partner Highland Council, 93% reach a positive destination (further education/training/work) strengthening the local community.

As part of the project, we highlight climate change to make young people more aware of the environmental issues in their own community.

### **Look Again in partnership with Culture Aberdeen and North-east based freelancers - Aberdeen Independents**

Aberdeen Independents is an ambitious project designed to empower freelancers in Aberdeen's creative sector by establishing a self-led freelance network across various art forms. This initiative, scheduled to unfold over the next 12 months, will encompass a drop-in hub and a series of events to support freelancers. The driving force behind this endeavour is a peer-led group of individuals who nominated themselves after participating in freelancers' events in November.

The primary objective of this pilot project is to enhance accessibility to Aberdeen's distinctive cultural practices. By positioning freelancers at the forefront, Aberdeen Independents envisions not only the survival but the economic thriving of creative individuals. Beyond individual success, the project aims to cultivate a cultural environment that actively engages audiences and uplifts the entire community.

Aberdeen Independents addresses the multifaceted challenges faced by freelancers, seeking to create an environment conducive to sustainable careers and economic prosperity within the creative community. This approach aligns with the broader mission of contributing significantly to the overall vibrancy of Aberdeen, positioning the city as a flourishing hub for both creative expression and economic growth.

The project's adaptability to the unique circumstances of freelancers in Aberdeen is a key strength. Acknowledging historical challenges, such as high living costs, Aberdeen Independents seizes the opportunity for creative experimentation. Recent developments, including accessible studio options, signal a transformative shift in the local creative scene, setting the stage for the project's impact.

Operating as a holistic strategy, Aberdeen Independents recognises the diverse careers of freelancers. The initiative aims to establish a collaborative platform, fostering sustainable economic opportunities. Strategic partnerships with freelancers and key stakeholders, including Culture Aberdeen, are integral to creating an

environment where freelancers are not only encouraged to stay but also motivated to pursue lasting creative careers in Aberdeen.

Insights gleaned from workshops at Citymoves Studio in November 2023 were instrumental in forming Aberdeen Independents as a new self-led networking body for the city. With a focus on innovation and experimentation, the project leverages Aberdeen's unique cultural landscape, providing ample room for creative exploration and ground-breaking initiatives.

Aberdeen Independents stands out as a project poised to create a self-led freelance network bridging online and physical spaces. Its mission is to empower freelancers, enhance cultural accessibility, and significantly contribute to Aberdeen's cultural evolution and economic growth.

### **Soundfestival – Soundcommunities**

The soundfestival was set up in 2005 by local people engaged in Aberdeen's music sector. We now not only run an annual festival, but work throughout the year, supporting emerging composers, as well as working with local young musicians and composers, and local music groups.

Soundcommunities aims to consolidate and develop our work with local musicians. The project aims to nurture home-grown talent in Aberdeen, working with local young & adult musicians & composers to enable them to tap into their own creativity and gain skills that will benefit them going forward in their studies or careers. Many of these skills will also benefit a wider community in Aberdeen, as a number of the adults taking part are music or instrumental teachers, and will be able to enrich their practise with the experience gained in these activities. It will add vibrancy to Aberdeen's arts community, while giving children from a wide-range of backgrounds the opportunity to explore their creativity.

The four strands of the project are:

1). Get Creative, our youth programme, bringing together young people throughout the year in creative music making sessions and comprising:

- Get Creative Ensemble (11-18 year olds) – 6 sessions during the year.
- Get Creative Orchestra (8-11 year olds) – 7 sessions during the year.
- Go Compose, a 3-day composition course (13-18 year olds).
- One-off schools workshops for 10 primary schools (prioritising schools in regeneration areas);
- A composition project for 4 secondary schools (existing interest from

Lochside, Hazlehead, Northfield and Bucksburn): an initial workshop for

H/AH pupils, followed by pupils writing new work for members of our local

new music ensemble Any Enemy, who will do a follow-up workshop playing their pieces.

2). Any Enemy: Aberdeen's new music ensemble (set up in 2018, comprising 9 local musicians). We support their work, and in 24-25 this will include a co-creation project with composer/improviser Raymond MacDonald, a project developing emerging composers work and a performance of new work by John de Simone (lecturer at UofA).

3). ConAnima: Aberdeen's amateur Chamber Choir. We have been collaborating over the past 2 years & want to build on this in 2024 to support the development of 3 emerging composer in writing for chamber choir & marimba, with a performance of these & other works at soundfestival.

4). All three elements above will be brought together in a Community Day during the soundfestival where they will rehearse & perform a new work written especially for their combined forces (composer tbc).

The project is a good investment for the Shared Prosperity Fund as it targets the arts and creative activities within Aberdeen. It invests in both individuals and the community: providing employment for, as well as developing the skills of, local people; increasing access to musical leisure provision; giving young people (including in regeneration areas) the opportunity to develop skills; bringing our music community together to celebrate their achievements during the internationally renowned soundfestival and bringing visitors and media coverage to Aberdeen.

### **Saint George's Community Centre SCIO - Saint George's Community Centre SCIO**

We aim to establish a community centre within the heart of our community. Our purpose is to provide various services and classes which are either no longer available or have never been accessible to our community.

We have found that there is a need for educational classes, fitness classes, basic life skills classes (such as money management, cooking etc), pensioner groups, advice and support, hobby classes, afterschool clubs, creches, groups for disabled and vulnerable people, food bank etc. We would also like to offer warm spaces for people, not only due to the cost-of-living crisis, but because we know that there are many people struggling with loneliness.

We intend to provide these services within our newly acquired building – previously Saint George's Church, soon-to-be Saint George's Community Centre. These services will be available on various days, evenings, and weekends to suit our community members.

Depending on the specific activity, there will be different individuals (tutors, advisors etc..) delivering numerous classes, which will fall under various groups such as educational classes, physical activities, training, support groups and many more.

All activities will be delivered within our community, specifically within our community building, however, we also would like to encourage outdoor activities, in order that we can improve the environment and green spaces within Tillydrone and encourage our community members to take ownership of our community, our green spaces, our surroundings. This could include planting, growing food, clean ups, local walking groups etc.

Our goal is for every community member to feel welcomed and part of the community activities taking place. We want to be inclusive to all, with certain classes focused for those in minority groups.

### **Port of Aberdeen Trust – Tall Ships Community Promotion**

The Tall Ships Races will return to Aberdeen's north harbour for four days in July 2025. An amazing spectacle of 40 to 50 sailing ships from around the world, it is the largest free family festival in Europe. The Aberdeen leg seeks to attract 400,000 visits, recruit a minimum of 100 youth sail trainees, and run a valuable volunteer programme for around 400 local people of all backgrounds.

The event presents a huge opportunity for all communities across Aberdeen to become involved, with widespread educational and wellbeing benefits, alongside improved life chances and career paths for those participating in the Races. The event will present Aberdeen as a great destination for people to visit and live, and enhance the city's reputation as the perfect stage for future major events.

This application is to ensure that the event pre-planning between April 2024 and March 2025 will attract those trainees, volunteers and diverse audiences that are essential for successful longer-term outcomes and enable the delivery of events, workshops and related programmes before the end of March 2025. The application will make certain that the first phase of the event is marketed early and repeatedly to citizens of Aberdeen and visitors from further afield to achieve the highest possible number of visitor engagement over the lifetime of the project.

A successful application will have the following strands:

- Additional personnel to focus solely on the first phase of the event in 2024/25, line managed by the Head of Communications at Port of Aberdeen, supported by the Senior Project Manager at Aberdeen City Council, and supported by marketing and communications teams from Port of Aberdeen, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen Inspired.
- The contracted role will run from April 2024 to March 2025, for the purposes of early engagement in the first phase of the project. If successful in the role the

consultant may be retained under a separate contract for delivery of the second phase (to August 2025).

- Creation of a visual identity for the event to be used across all marketing activities including tourism campaign, print and online branding and city centre event sites
- Promotion of sail traineeships to young people, including materials required for advertising and outreach e.g. social media, pop-up banners at school/FE/community venues
- Promotion of the volunteer programme to ensure awareness of opportunities in all communities and to illustrate the value and breadth of the programme e.g. bus shelter ads, radio slots, pop-up stand for city centre and community locations
- Communities marketing budget to assist smaller event partners to advertise their related events and activities to local communities directly

This investment will create awareness in 2024/25 in order to extend the education, health, wellbeing, cultural and environmental benefits of the Tall Ships Races throughout Aberdeen's communities; broadening participation, increasing the duration of engagement, and boosting positive outcomes – particularly for young people and those in need of skills development.

Economically the city will benefit from the enhanced destination marketing activity that this funding will facilitate, bringing more visitors to the city and region, putting Aberdeen firmly on the map as a visitor destination and showing events rights holders that the city is a successful marketing partner for major events and festivals.

### **Avenue – Mental Health and Relationship Support for Families and Individuals in Aberdeen**

Avenue is an Aberdeen-based charity that supports families and individuals, with a focus on relationships and wellbeing. We provide a range of early intervention services aimed at improving positive mental health, strengthening relationships, promoting family wellbeing, supporting children and enabling healthy environments for all. Our core provision is therapeutic services (including Couple Counselling, Individual Counselling, Family Therapy, Young Person's Counselling and Play Therapy for younger children); Family Mediation; Child Contact Services; family support; and psycho-educational groups to increase skills and knowledge in the wider community. We are the only organisation delivering this range of services in Aberdeen. In 2022-23, Avenue received over 1,400 referrals from a range of sources, including from our partner agencies, GPs, schools and social care, from the individuals and families themselves, and from family courts and solicitors. We delivered over 4,300 hours of support during 2022-23.

Play Therapy aids primary-aged children in navigating emotions through play, enhancing mental health and relationships. Art Therapy, combining art expression and dialogue, assists young people and adults in articulating complex thoughts, enhancing social, emotional, or mental well-being. Recognising a growing need for early intervention, we aim to employ a Creative Engagement Officer to develop

psychoeducational materials, offering guidance and building resilience within Aberdeen's communities. This strategic addition aims to provide valuable resources, free training, and raise awareness, ensuring meaningful support for individuals, couples, children, and families.

Across Aberdeen the need for access to free mental health and wellbeing services is significant and ever increasing. The pandemic exerted immense pressure on local families and relationships, and we continue to witness its significant negative impact. Compounding these challenges, our communities now grapple with a devastating cost-of-living crisis, further straining mental health, well-being, and relationships. Avenue is committed to making our services accessible to all and we have introduced free services and concessionary fees, ensuring affordability. Notably, most of our therapeutic services are now provided free of charge at the point of delivery, including Couple Counselling, Play Therapy and Art Therapy. Critically to deliver free services and concessionary fees we rely on funding and so, Avenue is requesting funds from the UKSPF to support the work that we do in Aberdeen. This will help us to continue to deliver crucial high quality, accessible support, and reach as many people across Aberdeen as possible

## **Local Business Support**

### **Business Start-ups**

This proposal is to support new start-up businesses in Aberdeen city, and the creation of a Project Officer post to manage all aspects of the grant scheme.

The proposal is to provide seed capital to support new businesses to start-up, offering one-off grant awards of either £1,000 or £3,000 (where the new business is taking on a commercial room, premise or property). The proposal is inclusive, covering anyone setting up a new business with business address in the City boundaries. Co-ordination with ABZ Works' key workers will ensure awareness of the grant scheme is raised among target groups, and that support is offered to maximise uptake and create opportunities for these groups.

The grant funding will remove barriers to increased economic activity, providing all citizens with the financial means to enable them to progress their business idea, establish a start-up and grow their business more quickly than would otherwise be achieved. Expanding new businesses who are looking to take on commercial space will contribute to growing economic activity and development through job creation. The funding will also address the challenge of access to finance at a time when individual reserves may be minimal due to the cost-of-living crisis and borrowing is expensive due to rising interest rates.

Those that have registered a new business since 1 January 2024 will be eligible to apply, thereby supporting business sustainability and growth, by a financial provision that can help overcome some of the challenges of year 1 trading as outlined by British Business Bank - having a robust marketing strategy; managing cash flow; hiring first employees.

Highlighting the role of SMEs in stimulating economic activity, the Fraser of Allander Institute states that "SMEs account for 99.3% of all private sector firms. Together they employ around 60% of the Scottish workforce." Given the dominance of SMEs in the Scottish business population, support for establishing new businesses and sustaining and growing recently-

formed businesses is key in ensuring their survival and maintaining their positive impact on Scotland's future economic and societal welfare.

BankSearch Consultancy figures suggest the number of start-ups across Scotland is rising, and Aberdeen specifically has seen a 12% increase in start-ups during the first ten months of 2023 compared with last year, a figure which would further be boosted by the availability of a start-up grant. Aberdeenshire Council introduced a similar grant in September 2022, which was extended and then paused due to high demand.

The introduction of a start-up grant scheme in 2024 will also support the incorporation of the Business Gateway service coming in-house to the Aberdeenshire Council. Applicants will only be eligible for a grant award if engaging with, and assigned to, a dedicated Business Gateway officer. This will ensure the applicant is accessing business support, as well as the grant, and maximise likelihood of business success. Furthermore, collaboration between the grant scheme Project Officer and Business Gateway operations will assist with an enquiry pipeline, demand monitoring, promotion and management of the grant scheme.

The number of grant awards anticipated through the Scheme duration, based on Business Gateway figures for the city, is:

- 336 awards at £1000
- 84 awards at £3000 (where the new business is taking on a commercial room, premise or property).

## **AREG – Enhancing Offshore Wind Renewables through Digital Innovation**

This funding proposal by Aberdeen City Council in partnership with Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) unveils a forward-thinking approach to revolutionise the offshore wind renewables industry through state-of-the-art digital technologies. This initiative, leveraging AREG's extensive network and expertise in renewable energy, is poised to significantly deliver a positive impact on local businesses and the renewables industry as a whole.

Central to this initiative is AREG's collaboration with Aberdeen's ONE TECH Digital Incubator, fostering a series of specialised workshops and campaigns. These are designed to connect local technology innovators with key players in the renewable sector's supply chain, creating a vibrant ecosystem for exchanging innovative ideas and solutions. This initiative is set to propel the offshore wind energy sector into a new era of efficiency and sustainability.

The project is marked by several key milestones:

### 1). Communications and Marketing:

Develop & deliver tailored and targeted Interactive Communication Plan, to support the successful promotion and delivery of the project across the sector throughout its duration.

Generation of marketing assets for a solution-oriented platform to serve stakeholders, collaborators, and supply chain goals to support Project visibility & awareness.

### 2). Networking and Events:

Interactive Workshops and Webinars:

Collaborating with ONE TECH Digital Incubator, AREG will focus on integrating local digital technology firms into the expanding offshore wind sector. These events will highlight the latest digital technologies and their applications in the industry, fostering knowledge sharing, collaboration, and promotion of local content and technology providers.

**'Meet the Project Developers' Event:**

This event aims to build vital links between over 200 local digital technology firms and leading international offshore wind project developers. AREG's expertise in fostering collaborations will be leveraged to connect the dynamic local digital tech community with substantial collaborative and partnership opportunities.

**Structured Networking Incubator Sessions:** In partnership with ONE Tech Digital Incubator, AREG will organise structured networking events. These sessions are tailored for digital tech companies transitioning into the renewable energy sector, with AREG's leadership team focusing on industry challenges and trends.

**Hackathon "Digital Technologies Solving Offshore Wind Industry Challenges":** AREG will lead a unique Hackathon Event in collaboration with the University of Aberdeen and a leading media provider in renewables. This event will assemble a diverse group of talents, including data scientists, software experts, engineers, and designers, to address key challenges and issues within the sector.

**Digital Innovation Networking Group:**

AREG will launch a new networking group, titled the 'Digital Innovation Networking Group'. AREG will host structured networking events with a primary focus on digital innovation and assisting digital technology companies to transition into the renewable energy sector. At each networking event, an industry leader within the digital technology space will be invited to speak at the event and share their stories of how they helped accelerate digital innovation within the renewables sector. Each networking event targets to attract 35 people.

**3). Energy Futures Digital Dissemination Event and Call for Papers:**

**Communication of Case Studies via 'Call for Papers':**

AREG plans to orchestrate a series of case studies that will highlight the challenges and digital solutions within the offshore wind industry. This initiative is set to be a pivotal element in the forthcoming technical event, serving as a fundamental platform for presentation and participation. This call is strategically designed to bring forth a series of in-depth case studies, meticulously highlighting both the challenges encountered and the digital solutions applied within the offshore wind industry.

**Energy Futures Digital Dissemination Event with Technical Presentation:**

The Energy Futures Digital Dissemination Event represents the pinnacle of this initiative. It will convene crucial stakeholders from the offshore wind industry and the broader technology ecosystem. The event targets to attract more than 400 attendees across the supply chain, academia, corporate, leading project developers, government agencies, SME's, and community. This event will showcase the pivotal role of digital technology expertise and capabilities in renewable energy, emphasising local content knowledge and the thriving supply chain in the region.

## **Multiply**

### **ABZWORKS – Core Numeracy Project**

Development and delivery of a range of opportunities which supports improved skills, with a specific focus on the development of numeracy skills for 18+.

- To help transform the lives of adults across the City, by improving their functional numeracy skills through free personal tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses;
- Boost people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work through activities, such as costs of living skills;
- Enable adults to achieve formal qualifications that can open doors for them (such as career progression, or progression to further study)

Success Measures would include

1. More adults achieving maths qualifications / participating in numeracy courses (up to and including Level 2/ SCQF Level 5).
2. Improved labour market outcomes e.g. fewer numeracy skills gaps reported by employers, and an increase in the proportion of adults that progress into sustained employment and / or education;
3. Increased numeracy across the population – supporting learners to improve their understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work through activities which – and to feel more confident when doing so;
4. Enhancing parents' knowledge and awareness of STEM activities and subjects to support pupil outcomes at school