

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

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

### **Communities and Place**

#### **Aberdeen City Council – Denis Law Phase 2**

Aberdeen City Council is committed to delivering the Denis Law Trail, as outlined in the Working in Partnership Policy Statement. This funding will enable delivery of Phase 2 of the Trail, creative community consultation workshops and the development of large murals celebrating the legacy of Denis Law.

The Denis Law Legacy Trust have developed the concept of the Trail with the aim of motivating, inspiring and engaging the Printfield community, whilst also celebrating a local hero, Denis Law – the only Scottish footballer to win the Ballon d’Or.

Phase 1 of the Trail will see the creation of ten destinations and artworks to be erected in the Printfield area of the city. These installations will depict pivotal points of Denis Law’s career and will consist of two- and three-dimensional creative work, murals and appropriate signage all developed in consultation with the local community. The Trail will be enhanced through the inclusion of digital technology such as QR codes, which will enable visitors to visit a website where they can learn more about Denis Law.

Interactive community workshops will be held to ensure the Printfield community voice and ideas are incorporated into the narrative and visual look and feel of the Trail, which will also encourage the audience to uncover clues and information relating to Denis Law.

A marketing and events programme will complement the launch of the Trail. This will include ideas; such as walking tours, football practice sessions, talks, and creative engagement events – encouraging physical activity and championing local pride for locals and visitors alike.

The ultimate aim of the Trail is to develop a vibrant pocket of activity within the Printfield area of the city – a Priority Neighbourhood within the Locality Plan.

Phase 2 of the Trail will involve creative community consultation and workshops, also large murals depicting Denis Law’s iconic poses, in the local area; such as the walls of Clifton Court, a prominent residential building in the area and on a long wall forming the boundary of St Joseph’s Church.

These murals will add to Aberdeen’s recent recognition as a city embracing street art through projects like Nuart, and will not only raise awareness of Denis Laws connection to Printfield but inspire the community.

A tender process will be undertaken to secure an experienced mural artist/creative practitioner/organisation to deliver Phase 2 of the project, including all pre and post project creative consultation with the community through workshops. And, project management, mural development, preparation work on walls prior to painting, developing designs, risk assessments, procuring contractors, painting approved design and maintenance advice.

## **Aberdeen Performing Arts - Repointing and Exterior Restoration at His Majesty's Theatre**

The condition of the exterior walls of His Majesty's Theatre (HMT) has deteriorated significantly in recent years. HMT was built in 1906 and is a listed building, and the recent poor weather conditions in Aberdeen has had a huge effect on this iconic building. The area received several yellow and amber alerts for rain and wind in late 2023, and the increased exposure with less wind protection - as a result of the redevelopment of Union Terrace Gardens - has sped up the rate of deterioration. Therefore, the pointing – the material keeping the granite blocks together – needs to be redone.

A recent inspection from the plasterer has shown that intervention is required quickly to reduce the water ingress and, therefore, the damage on the interior plaster. The water ingress and heat loss due to this exterior damage can be reduced with the timely repair to the repointing and restoration of the exterior walls.

There is also a large amount of vegetation growing within areas of the pointing, which is causing more damage, so this needs to be removed and treated.

The exterior windows on the side and front of the theatre have been badly affected by the weather conditions as well and are also causing water to enter the building, so the frames need to be repaired and repainted to prevent this continuing and getting worse.

The extensive exterior works will ensure that the pointing is repaired/replaced where needed, creating a more solid barrier between the outside elements and the inside of the theatre, also allowing the interior to be repaired to a high standard without risk of repeat damage occurring.

Included in this quote and application is the need to inspect the damage to the decorative mouldings on the roof of HMT at the dome – one has been reported as rotted and damaged and further inspection is required to determine whether the other mouldings need repaired or replaced.

A preferred trusted contractor has been identified and will carry out the work.

Since coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic, like all businesses and charities, Aberdeen Performing Arts has experienced a difficult time with reduced availability of funding, a cost of living crisis and the increased cost of utilities. This doesn't leave the organisation in a position to fund this extensive work without sourcing external funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund.

These repairs will ensure that Aberdeen Performing Arts can continue to bring the arts to the people of the northeast within the beautiful setting of HMT, and therefore feel it would be a worthwhile investment for the Shared Prosperity Fund

## **Belmont Community Cinema – Belmont Community Cinema**

The Belmont Community Cinema Ltd formed following the sudden closure Aberdeen's only independent cinema.

The charity established to reopen The Belmont, as an accessible, not-for-profit, independent cinema. In September '23 Aberdeen City Council appointed the organisation as preferred operator of the cinema. A 25-year lease is being agreed with Aberdeen City Council.

Based in the city centre, the cinema will be operated and programmed from Aberdeen, reflecting the needs and interests of local communities. The organisation's aims are the advancement of Arts and Culture and in furtherance of this by:

- Procuring and operating for the public benefit the Belmont Cinema in the City of Aberdeen
- Promoting cinema screenings and other artistic events in the Belmont Cinema
- Promoting education, film making and training

To ensure The Belmont is fit for purpose and relaunched as a modern, welcoming, social space, essential refurbishments are needed.

These include a new reconfiguration for the café bar, space to increase space, light and ease of use, new cinema seating, improved acoustics and heating and ventilation. No planning permission is required.

The organisation is seeking a grant of £75,000 to cover partial costs of refurbishing the café bar area. Improvements to this area are essential to increasing audience numbers and providing excellent customer experience.

A lighter, brighter, more accessible space will encourage residents to come together socially, a place for events and for community groups to meet.

The café bar is integral to operations. It will generate income for the cinema, through the sale of a range of locally supplied food and drink and private hire, for conferences, meetings, and gatherings.

Costs for this vital element of the cinema are included under budget lines: walls, ceilings and floors substructure/decoration and other fixtures and fittings.

The cinema will screen a diverse range of films, not available anywhere else in Aberdeen. The Belmont will be a source of mainstream films, world and arts cinema, community focused content, historically important films and live event screenings. Regular captioned screenings, dementia friendly screenings, parent and baby screenings and autism friendly screenings will meet the needs of various community groups. Film Festivals will be programmed to enliven local cultural life and widen the region's cultural offering.

Through partnership with shmu (Station House Media Unit), training and education in film and film making will create new learning opportunities and career pathways.

Contributing to the local economy and supporting Aberdeen's regeneration, the cinema and café bar will employ local people, drive commercial activity in surrounding businesses and encourage visitors to the city centre.

Appealing to all ages and backgrounds, The Belmont will benefit all those who live and work in Aberdeen.

The project matches the purposes of the shared prosperity fund. The cinema will contribute to the welfare of local people and deliver significant and positive wider value. The Belmont will offer a place for people to come together and share positive, educational and cultural experiences. It will bring opportunities for community cohesion, contribute to the local economy and foster a pride in place

### **Cairncry Community Centre – Community Café Refurbishment**

Cairncry Community Centre is a community facility in the heart of the community, based in one of Aberdeen's most deprived areas, it is identified within Scotland's Index Multiple Deprivation

(SIMD) as falling within the worst 10%. The centre is 30 years old, and wear and tear is evident in the building, especially in the community kitchen. Our main services focus on food bank distribution and our free cafe which operate Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Our kitchen has not been refurbished in over 30 years and is now outdated, damaged and not fit for providing continuous delivery of tackling health issues within our community. The community kitchen is a fundamental part of the centre and to everyone in the community as it provides a safe and welcoming environment for people to come when they feel isolated or alone. This enables people to socialise in a warm, welcoming and friendly atmosphere where no one is singled out. The food and drinks are served free enabling people from all walks of life to take part in the centre's facilities. The funding we are seeking would help us replace kitchen appliances which includes the replacement of the cooker, dishwasher, undercounter fridge and freezer and a new display fridge for redistribution of food to reduce food waste and encourage healthier lifestyles. We hope the new appliances and refurbished kitchen will encourage people to cook healthy meals and increase health and wellbeing by offering cooking classes to families and their children. The investment from the shared prosperity fund would allow us to build and develop out facilities to ensure that we can improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our community and address food poverty and build on reducing social isolation of our community.

### **Granite City Taekwondo – Upgrade Tillydrone Community Centre**

Our registered charity secured a community asset transfer on the Old Tillydrone Community Centre. Our project/proposal is to save energy and reduce our carbon emissions. Business Energy Scotland have identified savings opportunities and can also support the implementation of the opportunities identified. This can include helping to identify suppliers, design and assess the results of quote or tender specifications and identify and secure funding. We plan to insulate the building to improve thermal integrity, upgrade the heating system and ventilation, upgrade the lighting to LED, and possibly then onto solar PV as a further energy efficiency opportunity as advised by Business Energy Scotland. The support for this will be provided through business Energy Scotland, to find further funding, contractors, find quotes, and support our best foot forwards with this project.

As per Business Energy Scotland Audit, our centre requires a new heating system, insulation and lighting. The report is thorough and we appreciate that prices would have changed and these are estimates. In the report we were recommended insulated roof tiles, since this quote I have spoken to another adviser through Business Energy Scotland and was advised to insulate with a new roof as the roof is leaking. Putting in floating insulated roof tiles would insulate, and drop the capacity of the space we are heating, but will get damp and stained from the roof leaks. I am awaiting further information on the new insulated roof idea. As per report, our 4 heating system is in the loft space and its air blowers up high in the roof. This takes a good length of time to heat our two halls and the rest of the building. The heating system and insulation is our priority, followed by the lighting.

We feel this is a good investment for the shared property fund as this building is still owned by ACC, our asset transfer is for lease, so the money would be invested back into the profit of the building. Also having a warm, inviting community building for local community in an area of deprivation to participate in our events, classes, and charity free sessions, would be more inviting, modern and also energy efficient. ACC owns the building, permission granted from the Asset Transfer team to upgrade their building verbally. Our plans will be sent in writing to confirm their permission for our plans.

## **Station House Media Unit (SHMU) – Redevelopment of Station House**

This project will enable Station House Media Unit (shmu) to complete the redevelopment of its main site in Woodside, Aberdeen, bringing the remainder of the building up to the standards, efficiency and quality of the relatively new extension of the organisation's HQ. It directly addresses the aims of the Shared Prosperity Fund: building pride in place in the most marginalised communities in Aberdeen, supporting high quality skills training for individuals who experience the greatest barriers, supporting employment and productivity growth, and increasing life chances.

shmu is the leading community media organisation in Scotland, supporting over 1,000 residents annually, of all ages, from the most marginalised communities in Aberdeen, to learn new skills, develop their creativity, raise their voices and tell their own stories through film, radio, music and technology. Our work focuses on the seven 'priority areas' of Aberdeen, and on other vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The organisation also delivers a range of employability and training programmes with adults and young people open to residents across the city. The organisation supports over 250 volunteers on a weekly basis, who contribute over 28,000 hours of volunteering annually.

In 2017, shmu added an extension to its building in Woodside, dramatically increasing the quality and scale of services we deliver. Unfortunately, this did not include the original 'community centre', which includes a section dating back to the 1850's (the railway Station Master's house) and an extension which was added in the 1970's. The original part of the building includes the main hall (our largest space), a kitchen and two offices. Although we can still use this space, it is hugely inefficient, with electric panel heaters, is not insulated, has single pane windows, and is generally in need of upgrading and better integration into the new extension.

Since the redevelopment, demand for activities at shmu has continued to rise, with over 300 people using the building each week, and activities seven days a week, from 9am until 10pm. Redeveloping the old part of the building will enable us to enhance and increase our creative programmes by completing the transformation, delivering fit-for-purpose facilities which our dedicated volunteers and participants deserve. This redevelopment will transform the oldest part of our building into a state-of-the art film and recording studio dedicated to community film, tv and music, with a lighting rig, new control room and soundproofing. It will enable us to introduce new accredited programmes and skills development opportunities for an increased number of local residents, who will have access to high quality equipment and facilities to tell their stories. It will provide a multifunctional space: a classroom for training programmes, and a screening space for community-made film projects and movie nights. It will also transform spaces on the first floor, improving efficiency, while increasing the flexibility and functionality of the facility.

The project will also enable us to improve shmu's environmental impact: the space is currently highly inefficient to run, and we plan to address this through improved insulation, low-energy lighting, linking the heating to the air-source heat pump that supports the rest of the building, solar PV and battery (subject to match funding from CARES).

### **Local Business Support**

### **Aberdeen City Council - Culture Aberdeen Network Coordination Service**

Evidence shows businesses in creative industry clusters grow faster than those located outside, generating economic spillovers for non-creative businesses, and contributing to pride in place for local communities. As a sector it also provides unique potential for cross-collaboration and added value, especially in place-based economy approach. The creative industries sector is critical to attracting people to the region and Aberdeen in particular, an important component of reinventing cities post-pandemic to continue attract people to live and work in. The local Creative Sector contributed £382m in GVA to the economy of NE Scotland in 2018 (the most recent available data), an increase of 58% on 2008. It also accounted for 6,120 jobs in 2019.

The sector now plays an important role in city's socioeconomic future through the Regional Economic Strategy, LOIP and City Centre regeneration plans. Key to coordinating and supporting creative economy growth is Culture Aberdeen, the City's primary network body for culture. The network has over 30 members ranging from large organisations such as Aberdeen Performing Arts through to emerging community-based organisations. The network is recognised with the Regional Economic Strategy and reflected in the 'Vibrant City' political priorities of the Council. Culture Aberdeen supports creative businesses in the following ways:

- Providing advocacy and a voice for the culture community, championing and creating opportunities for investment.
- Create the connections which grows the cultural economy through events, policy work, news platforms, research, training and best practice sharing.
- Promoting opportunities and facilitating collaboration, resource sharing and consortium led bids.
- Delivering the cultural strategy's programmes of change to make Aberdeen a more prosperous city to the benefit of its communities and visitors alike.

Culture Aberdeen is an unincorporated association, run voluntarily and undertaken by cultural professionals with senior roles and significant responsibilities for their own organisations. The network was supported by a coordinator employed by Aberdeen City Council until February 2024 when the post holder left the role, due to a Council recruitment freeze Culture Aberdeen remain without coordination support at a crucial time for the network as they seek to transition from being a volunteer body to becoming the development body for the North East Culture and Creative Industries. This work will be completed in 2025.

The provision of coordination support on a fixed term basis is intended to provide the organisation a period of transition, to support members to undertake the revision of the Culture Aberdeen model and Culture Strategy (as per Partnership Priorities), develop new programmes of sector business support, secure alternative income streams through collaboration and undertake scoping and consultation to identify a new sustainable long term operating model for Culture Aberdeen.

Coordination support would entail:

- Facilitate the organisation and delivery of Culture Aberdeen programme of network events, including programmes of best practice for knowledge, skills and learning.
- Coordinate the facilitation of working groups to take forward actions and activities of the Culture Aberdeen action plan to support business resilience and growth.
- Facilitating consortium/ collaborative activity and bids, making it easier for emerging, small and new cultural businesses to pull resources together to make successful bids.
- To attract and support new and emerging creative businesses to the network, connecting them to established member businesses, fostering pathways for resilience and sustainable practice.

- Monitor the delivery of actions against the Culture Aberdeen action plan against pre-agreed reporting framework, building evidence base for the impacts of culture and creative industries.
- Manage Culture Aberdeen's web resources and social media presence, promoting opportunities within and for the creative sector.
- Promote the Membership's activities and products to potential new customers and audiences.
- Undertake research, data collection and sector mapping to inform new support programmes for business resilience and sustainability.
- Connect and engage with the wider business sector and third sector to create new opportunities for collaboration and economic development.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange across the membership of Culture Aberdeen and beyond.
- Support for Culture Aberdeen led LOIP Improvement Projects (Aberdeen Prospers) for city centre regeneration and employability.

## **People and Skills**

### **ABZWorks - Entrepreneurship projects in partnership with North East Scotland College, Robert Gordon's University and Aberdeen University**

#### **Sparking Change: Aberdeen in partnership with Aberdeen University**

This pilot programme, run in autumn 2024 and spring 2025, is designed to ignite a passion for social change in residents of Aberdeen City, including students from the University of Aberdeen (UoA), Robert Gordon University (RGU) and North East Scotland College (NESCol).

Through a blend of interactive workshops, inspiring guest speakers, hands-on project development, and a final showcase event, participants will be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to become the next generation of social entrepreneurs. The programme is aimed at students and members of the local community with little to no experience of enterprise, innovation and entrepreneurship, but who wish to make a positive change in the world. As such, the programme will provide learning opportunities for participants to highlight the importance of mission-led organisations and businesses, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (a global framework for tackling pressing issues like poverty, inequality, and climate change).

Our aim is to run two series of events with one in Quarter 4 of 2024 (Autumn cohort) and then a repeat series in Quarter 1 of 2025 (Spring cohort).

Each of the Autumn and Spring events will follow the format of three 2-day events and a showcase event. Each of the 2-day events will aim to attract 30 participants and then all participants from those will come together in a showcase event. This will build two cohorts of 90 people from the city, so 180 local residents who have had the opportunity to develop their skills and networks.

The two events will be measured for success in a variety of ways:

- **Participant feedback:** Collect feedback during the events to get immediate reactions and suggestions from participants.

- **Post-event surveys:** Surveys after each event to gather more detailed feedback and insights from attendees.
- **Social media engagement:** Monitor social media activity related to each event, such as mentions, shares, and hashtags, to measure reach and engagement.
- **Press coverage:** Evaluate the level of press coverage in the region as an indicator of public interest and perception.

The requested funding will directly support Intervention S41 of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It will support partnership between cohorts of participants centred around project-based entrepreneurial learning and aim to develop a culture that celebrates entrepreneurship. It also gives us an opportunity to work collaboratively between UoA, RGU and NESCol to support entrepreneurship alongside delivery of other existing educational programmes. And finally, it gives us the opportunity to support local areas within the city by providing adult skills provision

### **Startup Accelerator Programme in partnership with Robert Gordon's University**

Startup Accelerator Programme - a programme to support new partnership and project-based entrepreneurial learning between business and education to develop a culture that celebrates entrepreneurship (S41).

The RGU Startup Accelerator Programme is a startup competition aimed at entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial teams who have an early-stage idea (or venture) and want to gain the skills and confidence to create sustainable and scalable business ventures located in the city region, that creates employment opportunities, investment and wealth across the region.

Selected teams will be invited onto the main programme which includes a three-month structured development programme, access to non-equity seed-funding, access to co-working space, mentorship and access to the wider support eco-system. The programme culminates in a celebration showcase event where teams will pitch to judges and investors to win prize money.

The startup competition, open to anyone who wants to develop a proposition which brings benefit to the City region, including students and recent graduates of RGU, NESCol and University of Aberdeen (UoA), aims to accelerate the growth of the overall start up ecosystem in the region by supporting start-ups at the earliest stages with resources, infrastructure, seed funding and guidance. Startups will be encouraged to start up in the Aberdeen city region and access support from the wider eco-system during and beyond the programme, including funding schemes like the Business Start Up Grant.

The Accelerator programme will be led by Chris Moule, Head of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at RGU and delivered by RGU's Entrepreneurship & Innovation Group team, building upon their experience of running six Accelerator programmes in the North East since 2018, attended by 248 participants who have gone on to create 128 businesses.

A key part of the programme will be the access to a mentor network drawn from local and international mentors, investors, as well as domain experts working in the universities and college.

There are 3 key objectives of the programme:

(1) To support entrepreneurship, accelerated business start-up, development, and growth across the region. The Start Up Accelerator Programme will focus directly on the acceleration of early-stage ideas to diversify the regional economy and create new businesses. The



programme is designed to assist in the validation of novel services or products that have the potential for rapid market adoption and high impact potential.

Through a structured Accelerator programme and dedicated mentor support, aspiring entrepreneurial teams will take their first steps to growing a start-up venture, offering the potential to create jobs, bring in new revenue and investment and enhance the reputation of the region. Furthermore, the collaborative design of the programme shall provide opportunities for co-founder teams to work together, increasing the likelihood of a venture developing.

(2) Upskill and reskill individuals to enter or remain in work

The Programme seeks to create entrepreneurial talent who have skills in creativity, innovation, problem solving, leadership and resilience – all highlighted as critical skills of the future. The training and mentoring provided throughout the Accelerator and the focus on personal development in the first instance, ensures that all participants are given valuable upskilling which they can apply either to their own venture or future employment.

(3) Support those further removed from the labour market or who may face additional barriers to self-employment, employment, training and education.

The Accelerator Programme provides a vehicle through which entrepreneurs of all backgrounds, genders and ages can develop skills, build confidence and knowledge, and work on validating their own innovative venture.