FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FREE NORTH WEST ROADSHOW TO HELP SOCIAL ENTERPRISES PROSPER COMES TO MANCHESTER**

A free roadshow for social businesses across the North West will come to Manchester this month, geared towards helping community-driven organisations understand what funding is available to them to help them become more successful.

This follows a report independently commissioned by social business First Ark indicating that the North West social economy, much of which is centred around Manchester, is the strongest in the UK. The report, however, highlighted the urgent need for further investment to ensure that community organisations can become more sustainable.

In response to this, First Ark Social Investment have announced an event to discuss how community organisations can access funding and become stronger. The event, open to all local social enterprises and entrepreneurs, is set to be held at Friends Meeting House in Manchester city centre on 28th November, from 09:00 – 12:00.

They will also discuss their recently launched ‘Invest for Impact’ fund, a scheme specifically for social enterprises, that allows social organisations to access up to £150k in a blend of grant and loan.

Tony Cahill, executive director at First Ark, said:

“The launch of the Invest for Impact fund is the latest chapter in the unfolding story of the North West’s booming social economy. This fund is available to organisations across the region dedicated to making their communities a better place, who are ready to step up their operations and grow.

“Manchester is the epicentre of the North West’s social economy. There are plenty of great businesses doing amazing things, and we’re looking forward to helping them get the support they need to become sustainable, diversify and keep on growing.”

The First Ark Social Investment Manchester Roadshow takes place on Monday 28th November, 09:00-12:00, at Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, M2 5NS. It is free to attend and open to anyone with an interest in social enterprise or community-driven organisations. To register, head to [bit.ly/firstark-roadshow-manchester](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/first-ark-social-investment-manchester-roadshow-tickets-29370643385).

ENDS.

Editor’s Notes

First Ark is dedicated to creating success that changes people’s lives. Through the practice of successful and responsible business, First Ark provide support for positive initiatives across the North West.

First Ark work to regenerate and develop neighbourhoods, provide facilities management services to its customers and create life changing opportunities that inspire people and generate growth in the communities in which it works.

The First Ark Group provide a range of products and services including:

* Social investment finance packages to support and grow social impact businesses. Delivering social impact through creating and supporting partnerships
* Managing, attracting and providing charitable investment that creates life-changing. opportunities and stimulates economic growth in the local community.
* Homes for rent including lettings and supported living.
* Homes for sale including a range of purchase options.
* Business and Property services including facilities management, refurbishment and repairs.
* Home solutions including care products and services.

For press inquiries, interviews or further visuals, please contact Jacob Bolton on 0151 707 0427/ 07783 950 958, or email him at Jacob@agentmarketing.co.uk