

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 9th MARCH 2015

REPORT ON: RE-USE PROJECT AT BALDOVIE RECYCLING CENTRE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO: 113-2015

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Committee of the proposals to develop a Re-use Hub at the Baldovie Recycling Centre.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee note the content of this report and authorise the capital contribution to the project.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Director of Corporate Services advises that the overall costs of £65,500 associated with developing the infrastructure to support this project, can be met from the Zero Waste Scotland funding of £50,000 together with allowances of £15,500 from within the Capital Plan 2014/15 – Recycling Initiatives.

3.2 Through the Partnership Agreement it is intended that ongoing property costs associated with the hub will be the responsibility of the partner organisation.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 National evidence gathered from a number of Scottish based reports around re-use and repair indicates a substantial potential to increase re-use in Scotland. It is estimated that:

- Over 150,000 tonnes of reusable goods are still being presented for Bulky Waste Collections or arriving at Recycling Centres for disposal¹.
- Of all bulky waste collected in the UK, around 42% consists of furniture, 19% textiles and 19% WEEE. It also estimates that up to 32% of discarded goods collected or dropped off at Recycling Centres could be re-used and up to 51% with slight repairs².

4.2 As well as re-use activity helping to divert a large amount of waste from tonnage, a formal re-use system at a Recycling Centre can have a positive effect on recycling rates by reinforcing the impression that the site's primary focus is on the recovery of materials rather than the disposal. In sum, a formalised Re-use facility has many benefits from diverting waste from landfill to reinvesting in the community as well as contributing towards positively influencing behaviour and attitude changes towards recycling.

4.3 Following consultation with Zero Waste Scotland, an opportunity was identified to develop a Re-use Hub at the Baldovie Recycling Centre. The hub will accept goods from the general

¹ Scottish re-use mapping and sector analysis, Zero Waste Scotland, 2013

² Study into the re-use potential of household bulky waste, WRAP, 2012, accessible at [<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/study-re-use-potential-household-bulky-waste>]

public at the Recycling Centre and will store them temporarily on site prior to distribution within their network for re-use.

- 4.4 Upon arrival at the Recycling Centre, visitors can offload their reusable items before they go onto the recycling and disposal areas. A Portacabin with a pull-in layby will be located close to the entrance to maximise the potential for re-use. The partners responsible for managing the hub will be responsible for the acceptance and control of goods received. Goods which are found to be non-re-usable will be passed on to the Recycling Centre.
- 4.5 Explanatory signage will be displayed at the site entrance, on the Portacabin and at the recycling skips, detailing each partner, their social purpose and benefits to the community. Signage detailing acceptable re-usable items will also be displayed. Operational site staff will also direct site visitors to the hub and will assist with the movement of larger items as far as is practicably possible.
- 4.6 It is intended to develop a 'Public Social Partnership' (PSP) model for the operation and management of the re-use hub. The PSP is an innovative model which seeks to bring public bodies together with charities and social enterprise organisations as equal partners, to share responsibility for creating well-designed services that benefit the local community and meet service user needs. It is intended that social enterprise/third sector organisations apply either individually or in partnership with private sector organisations. A partnership arrangement with Dundee City Council will be sought to manage and undertake activities associated with the Re-use Hub on their behalf, including the:
- acceptance and sorting of bulky waste to maximise re-use and minimise the amount to be incinerated;
 - beneficial reuse of materials into reuse markets and outlets;
 - reporting of tonnages and types of materials put forward for re-use; and
 - creation and maximisation of community benefits, i.e. training places.
- 4.7 It is intended to develop the hub in partnership with the Dundee Social Enterprise Network who will assist in securing a partner or partners through the PSP model to operate and manage the hub. It is expected that this operating model will see partners becoming responsible for ongoing property costs associated with the hub, and any risk associated with handling/repair of reusable goods. Given the variety of goods that may be capable of being reused it is likely that there may be a consortium of partners that will operate the facility although a lead partner will be sought. The chosen partners must be "Revolve" accredited, or actively working towards this status. "Revolve" is the Zero Waste Scotland Quality Standard and will ensure a high level of professionalism and consistency of management of re-usable goods.
- 4.8 The pilot framework agreement will run for a trial period of 24 months with the option to extend the agreement by up to a further 12 months. A formal review will be built in after 12 months. Targets will be set throughout the trial period and performance will be constantly monitored and assessed through a partnership management group. Following this trial period, the service will be fully evaluated. Any future commissioning of the service may then be tendered in line with procurement legislative guidance.
- 4.9 It is proposed that the hub will be operational by May 2015 for the general public to drop off reusable goods.
- 4.10 The breakdown of costs associated with the project is as follows:

Supply and installation:	£39,463
Provision of access ramp:	£14,380
Electricity supply and building works:	£7,934
Professional fees:	£3,723
Total:	£65,500

- 4.11 A Zero Waste Scotland grant, 'Local authority Grant to improve Re-use facilities at HWRC Capital Grant Programme', of £50,000 has been awarded to Dundee City Council.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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18th February 2015