

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Operations, Waste & Recycling Service
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	22/03/22
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Hazlehead Household Waste & Recycling Centre: Re-use Facility Update
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### **UPDATE**

The purpose of this update is to provide a briefing on the upgrade to the re-use facility at Hazlehead Waste & Recycling Centre (HWRC). This project involves the expansion of the current re-use facility in order that it can accept a higher volume of materials and also enable those materials to be distributed locally within Aberdeen.

#### **1.0 Background**

The re-use facility at Hazlehead HWRC was opened in 2015 and residents could deposit their unwanted but usable goods for re-use. Since then, 553.4 tonnes of material has been sent for re-use and the facility has proven to be popular. Until now, the facility has been operated in partnership with a third sector partner, Blythswood Care. The charity would collect the goods from the HWRC and the goods would be distributed and sold via their network of outlets across Scotland. In addition to the main re-use site at Hazlehead there have been other smaller re-use projects trialled at both Bucksburn and East Tullos recycling centres in recent years partnering with local third sector providers including Instant Neighbour and Somebody Cares.

As part of its waste management strategy, the authority is committed to reducing waste and promoting re-use and the Hazlehead Re-use Facility plays a key role in this by both raising awareness of the value of re-using items and diverting materials from disposal. The facility has been successful since it opened and is popular with residents.

To this end, we are expanding and upgrading the facility to include an on-site shop. This means that the items being donated can be directly sold back to the people of Aberdeen from the site. This dramatically reduces the carbon

footprint of the operation by reducing (or eliminating) the miles travelled for these items to be re-used.

## **2.0 Upgrade and Re-use Shop**

The upgrade includes adding additional space to the re-use area to increase capacity and allow for the storage, preparation and sorting of re-usable goods. It will also provide a shop area where people can browse and purchase items at a reasonable price.

Initially, the following arrangements will be in place:

- The shop will be open Friday-Monday, 11 am-4 pm (these hours and days will be kept under review and may change to suit local and operational needs). 11 am opening avoids the sometimes busy time at 10 am.
- Items can be dropped off at anytime whilst the HWRC is open (7 days per week).
- The shop will be staffed by SUEZ (SUEZ operate the HWRCs on behalf of the Council as part of the wider waste management contract and are responsible for staffing the HWRCs). SUEZ will be responsible for sale of goods, returns, claims, etc.
- The current name for the shop is “The Re-Use Shop”, although there is discussion on this!
- There will be a dedicated parking area to avoid interference with the traffic flow of the HWRC.
- A record will be kept of the items donated for diversion tonnage purposes.
- The aim of the project is to increase the tonnage of materials diverted and redistribute the goods locally in Aberdeen.
- The shop will include a paint re-use area. Quality donated paint will be available free of charge.
- The shop will accept household goods, toys and games, bric-a-brac, electrical goods (PAT testing will be carried out), bicycles, books, etc.
- Re-usable goods will also be collected at other HWRCs in the city and brought to the re-use shop at Hazlehead.
- The operation will be reviewed after 12 months of operation.

## **3.0 Timeline**

The preparatory works are expected to be concluded on site by early-mid April. The proposal is to open the shop initially in a “commissioning phase” to trial the procedures and for staff training purposes on Friday 22nd April. It is proposed to have a formal launch and opening in May (tbc).

#### **4.0 Potential Future Developments**

There are a number of potential opportunities to further develop this facility and to link with other local initiatives. Once the facility is up and running we will continue to look for ways to add value to this, for example linking with Housing and Social Services to offer goods to those in need, or creating links with the third sector, offering volunteering opportunities, investigating the possibility of opening a tool library, etc.