

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Function:</u>	Operations, Waste & Recycling Service
<u>Date:</u>	14/12/22
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Recycling Improvement Fund Update
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UPDATE

The purpose of this update is to provide a briefing on the projects that Aberdeen City Council has secured funding for from the Recycling Improvement Fund.

1.0 Background

In 2021 Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) launched the Recycling Improvement Fund (RIF) with a value of £70 million over 5 years, this fund is intended to allow local authorities, through capital funding grants, to improve recycling infrastructure and services. Of the £70m, a total of £21.8m has been awarded to date.

Aberdeen City Council's Waste & Recycling Service identified a number of projects that could deliver improvements and has been successful in securing funding for 3 projects that are at various stages.

These 3 projects amount to £937,515 of grant funds:

Hazlehead Recycling Centre Reuse Shop - £36,450
Radio Frequency Identity tags for communal bins - £220,000
Sclattie Sorting Bays - £681,065

2.0 The Projects

2.2 Hazlehead Recycling Centre Re-use Shop.

This project was to upgrade the existing reuse facilities in Hazlehead HWRC. Previously this facility was a simple container where people could deposit re-usable items that were then taken offsite by a third party for distribution

elsewhere. This funding has enabled the development of an on-site shop where residents can purchase and donate goods directly on-site.

This project allows the redistribution of goods more locally in Aberdeen, whilst aiding Aberdeen City Council in its commitment to the circular economy by diverting material that would otherwise have been disposed of. It also reduces the miles these goods have to travel and thereby contributes to reducing the carbon footprint of this service.

Any funds generated are to cover the cost of running the shop (staffing, equipment, etc). The facility continues to develop and the service is exploring potential links with others, such as bike re-use and investigating opportunities with colleagues in Housing & Social Services, to help increase the amount of material diverted from waste.

In terms of the funding, this project is complete and the shop is fully installed and operational. An official opening ceremony was held on 5th July 2022.

2.3 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags for communal bins.

This project encompasses the installation of RFID tags to all communal bins across the city.

Managing communal collections is much more challenging than individual bins as collections are much more sporadic and variable. These tags will be used to monitor the usage of communal bins by unique data tags. The tags will record where the bin is, the type of waste inside it (recycling or waste) and when it was emptied. This will allow us to monitor bin usage and identify areas that require to be targeted to increase participation and reduce volume of waste. These will also allow better capture of collection information to help identify routing and resource efficiencies.

The procurement phase of this project is complete and the installation phase has recently commenced. Installation is expected to be complete by 31 March and data will begin to be gathered for review thereafter.

2.4 Sclattie Sorting Bays.

This project allows for the development of a concrete pad and a set of covered storage bays in the old quarry area at Sclattie Waste Transfer Station to allow for the separation of recyclable/recoverable materials that otherwise would have been disposed of as waste.

This will allow for segregation of materials from the bulky uplift service and from the Household Waste & Recycling Centres which are currently landfilled. Some of these items may also potentially be able to feed into the Re-use Shop depending on quality. This includes bulky items such as furniture, rigid plastics, plasterboard, rubble, wood, carpets, and mattresses. This is anticipated to result in an estimated yearly increase of 1727 tonnes diverted from landfill for recycling or reuse.

This project has commenced and initial ground investigations and design work are underway alongside planning application preparation. It is hoped that this project will be completed by summer 2023.

Pam Walker
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