

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Function:</u>	Operations, Waste & Recycling Service
<u>Date:</u>	9 August 2023
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Hazlehead Household Waste & Recycling Centre: Re-use Facility Update
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Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to provide an update on the Re-use Shop project at Hazlehead Household Waste & Recycling Centre (HWRC). This project involved the upgrade of the existing re-use facility - which was a simple drop-off point - to open an on-site shop which could accept more materials and enable distribution of those goods locally within Aberdeen.

1.0 Background

The re-use facility at Hazlehead HWRC was upgraded last year (2022), following a successful bid to the Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund. This involved the installation of containers which were fitted out as an on-site shop.

"The Reuse Shop" was formally opened in July 2022 and is operated by our waste management contractor, SUEZ, who also operate the HWRCs at across the city.

The main objective of this facility is to intercept goods otherwise destined for the waste or recycling skips at the HWRC and send them for reuse instead, thus supporting circular economy goals by moving these goods up the waste hierarchy and keeping them out of the waste processing systems. Goods suitable for reuse are also collected at the city's other HWRCs (East Tullis,

Bucksburn and Bridge of Don – where space allows) and transported to the Reuse Shop at Hazlehead.

The site is not charity run and any income made simply covers the running and development costs (staffing, equipment, point of sale system, etc). Those wishing to donate their goods to charity are encouraged to continue to do so directly.

2.0 The Story so Far

The Reuse Shop has proven popular, with positive feedback, high footfall and steady donations. The shop was initially only open 4 days per week (Friday to Monday 11 am – 4 pm), however, due to its popularity the opening hours have been extended and the shop is now open 7 days, 10 am-5 pm.

A total of 16,137 items have been sold through the storefront for the period May 2022 – March 2023. Many of these items would otherwise have been disposed of as waste. A breakdown of the categories of these items is provided below for information:

Bric-a-Brac/Misc	6889
Childrens	1242
Electrical	611
Fixtures & Fittings	271
Furniture Bedroom	94
Furniture Lounge	115
Furniture Office	23
Furniture Other	666
Garden/DIY	742
Kitchenware	1917
Spares & Repairs	946
Sports	623
Textiles	1998

3.0 New Development – the DIY Hub

A recent further expansion has now been added. A “free to uplift” paint shelf was part of the new Re-Use Shop and was intended to help reduce the high volume of leftover paint that was being deposited at the site (and which has a high cost of disposal/recycling). However, the team quickly recognised the potential to expand and include other DIY materials such as leftover wallpaper, flooring, fittings, etc, and also unwanted or refurbished DIY and gardening tools. Therefore, an additional container was added to the site for

these items. Paint continues to be given away free of charge, and a reasonable charge is made for the other materials.

Communication activity is planned in the near future to publicise this new addition and a press release will be issued shortly.

3.0 Potential Future Developments

The team continues to consider further opportunities to develop this facility with the goal of increasing waste diversion and awareness raising of the value of reuse. Some of these potential opportunities include the possibility of making links with other Council services internally (for example the Housing Service with a view to increasing the availability of goods to those moving into new properties), and also third sector partners who may be able to add value by providing other services which complement the service such as bicycle repair and refurbishment.

In the longer term, the vision is to provide reuse facilities similar to Hazlehead at all HWRCs in the city. However, at this time the other sites are unable to accommodate such a facility due to space constraints. In the meantime, goods will continue to be collected where possible at the other sites and taken to the Hazlehead shop for distribution. The intention is to include this type of provision in any new or refurbished sites in the future.

APPENDIX A – The Reuse Shop photographs



Exterior



New DIY Hub



External Area



Shop interior



Shop interior – furniture area