

Report on	WEEE Reuse Project/Funding
Date of Meeting	6 th December 2021
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director – Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karl McGowan, Waste Disposal and Contracts Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform members of the Council's successful bid for funding under the Distributor Takeback Scheme and a new collaborative project with Refresh Appliances for the collection, repair and refurbishment of large domestic waste electrical appliances.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>The UK WEEE Regulations aim to address the environmental impacts of waste electrical and electronic equipment by reducing the amount going to landfill and encouraging separate collection and subsequent treatment, re-use, recovery, recycling and environmentally sound disposal.</p> <p>The Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS) was established as a means for retailers to discharge their obligations under the UK WEEE Regulations to ensure arrangements for customers to recycle unwanted waste electrical and electronic equipment.</p> <p>The WEEE Local Project Fund has more than £500,000 to allocate to projects for 2022. Accepted projects must be completed by 31st December 2022. Funding will be paid in advance of project start up.</p> <p>The funding is available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage reuse of whole appliances ○ Increase the tonnage of separately collected household WEEE for recycling, particularly small domestic appliances and ICT equipment, or increase the recycling rate of collected equipment, ○ Reduce the occurrence of fly tipping of WEEE through, for example, improved communication and availability of legitimate facilities.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The DTS Phase V Fund have made funding available to support local authorities and partner organisations. This funding is intended to support activities aimed at increasing the separate collection of household WEEE for reuse and recycling. An application for funding was submitted prior to the closing date of the 8 th October and this has been successful with funding of almost £20,000 offered.

3.2	Mid Ulster District Council currently collects WEEE at 10 recycling centres across the district for recycling only. The proposed project is designed to introduce the sorting of good quality large domestic appliances for repair and reuse by our sub-contractor Refresh Appliances, a social enterprise business specialising in this activity. It is proposed to start separating these materials at 4 of the larger sites following the establishment of appropriate storage areas and training of site staff.
3.3	Collections by Refresh Appliances have commenced via a small scale trial at Magherafelt and Maghera Recycling Centres on a fortnightly basis and will be expanding to other recycling centres as capacity allows. Site staff have been instructed to segregate any LDA in good condition i.e. free of dents, no obvious missing parts and good cosmetic condition. Once the funding has been received 4 no. storage containers will be purchased so that these items can be stored securely until it can be collected. Refresh Appliances then refurbish and repair these as necessary for subsequent sale through their physical and on-line stores.
3.4	Refresh Appliances is a Social Enterprise Company that works closely with a number of charities in Northern Ireland. The company plans to employ a further 5 permanent staff and 2 trainees over the next year. The majority of Refresh Appliances sales are to low income homes and charities, providing an economical appliance with a minimum 6 month guarantee, free delivery and collection of their old appliance. The company also donates free appliance to charities each year.
3.5	The project complements the Councils current WEEE recycling services by moving the emphasis from recycling to reuse where possible, while also supporting a local social enterprise company.
3.6	Running alongside the project will be a communications and marketing campaign to promote the recycling of WEEE across the district and to emphasis the reuse scheme for any good quality items. There will also be banners and signage at the Recycling Centres to direct site users where to deposit these items and to bring to the attention of site staff any items that are working, in good condition and may be suitable for reuse.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>The costs involved in the project are as follows:</p> <p>4 No. 20ft Shipping Containers - £14,800</p> <p>4 No. Promotional Banners - £520</p> <p>8 No. Information Signs - £560</p> <p>Advertising (Adshels / Billboards) - £1,800</p> <p>Advertising (Local Newspapers) - £2,000</p> <p>Total Cost - £19,680 (to be fully funded by WEEE Local Project Fund)</p>

	<p>Human:</p> <p>The project will involve Council staff for the operation of the project along with input from the Communications & Marketing Service to promote the scheme</p> <p>The project will involve the training of up to 10 HWRC site attendants on identifying and segregating high quality LDA that has the potential for repair / reuse. This will involve on-site training and a visit to the Refresh Appliances facility to see first-hand the process and its benefits.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>Suitable risk assessments will be in place for the collections under the scheme.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p>
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: None</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: None</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>Members are asked to note the content this report for information.</p>
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
6.1	<p>None</p>