

Report on	Reusable Nappy Scheme
Date of Meeting	8 September 2020
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval for the introduction of a Council Reusable Nappy Scheme.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>The UK disposes of around 3 billion disposable nappies each year, representing an estimated 2% to 3% of all household waste. Disposable nappies are not recyclable and so must be placed in the household black bin. They will subsequently be sent to landfill or for energy recovery. In a household with a child wearing disposable nappies, the discarded nappies can make up to one third of the contents of the black bin. A number of queries have been received in recent months from members of the public about a potential reusable nappy scheme.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Disposable nappies contribute significantly to black bin weight and volume:</p> <p>Each child wearing disposable nappies will require approximately 4,000-6,000 disposable nappies over a 2.5-year period. This is enough to fill approximately 160 black bags and results in approximately 1.5 to 2 tonnes of black bin waste.</p> <p>WRAP estimates that by using reusable nappies, the average household waste of families with babies can be halved, avoiding an average of 750kg/household/year.</p> <p>Disposable Nappies are more costly financially than reusable nappies:</p> <p>The cost to parents of disposable nappies is on average between £800 and £900 over the duration of that period.</p> <p>In comparison, a child only requires around 20 to 30 modern real nappies and these can also be used by any siblings that come along. Although real nappies are of a higher cost initially and need to be laundered, real nappies can save parents £200 to £500 over 2.5 years for their first baby and even more if re-used for subsequent children.</p> <p>Council would obviously make cost savings per household where the use of reusable nappies results in reduced weight of the household black bin. Based on 50 households participating in this scheme each year, this would result in savings</p>

	<p>of £8,500 in black bin waste disposal charges. Should parents go on to use their reusable nappies for subsequent children, the savings would be even greater.</p> <p>Meeting future recycling targets and landfill reduction allowances:</p> <p>Households with children of nappy wearing age who switch to reusable nappies are helping Council in achieving a reduction of waste to landfill/recovery.</p> <p>Providing a Reusable Nappy Scheme shows that Council is encouraging those households who are taking steps to help us meet future landfill diversion targets</p> <p>Many Councils have introduced reusable nappy schemes:</p> <p>Many Councils across the UK and in NI have a reusable nappy scheme in place, e.g. Fermanagh & Omagh, Derry City & Strabane, Newry Mourne & Down, Lisburn & Castlereagh, Belfast City. These have been well received as a way for Councils to demonstrate their support for households that reduce the waste they generate.</p> <p>It is therefore proposed that Mid Ulster District Council introduce a Reusable Nappy Scheme to reduce the number of disposable nappies currently being placed in the black bin in the district.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Reusable Nappy Scheme process:</p> <p>Similar to what other Councils have in place, it is proposed that under the terms of the scheme, Council would reimburse £30 to those who spend £50 or more on the purchase of reusable cloth nappies.</p> <p>Participation in the scheme would require the completion and submission of a simple form, (which would be made available on the Council website as per draft attached at appendix) along with proof of purchase to the Recycling Team.</p> <p>An initial budget allocation of £1,500 per annum is suggested, which would allow up to 50 households to be reimbursed this year (this can be reviewed annually).</p>
	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>A budget allocation of £1,500 has been proposed. This cost can be met from the annual Recycling Education Fund (funded under the Residual Waste Treatment Contract).</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>Some Recycling officer time will be required in the promotion and administration of this scheme. The Finance department will be required to support the processing of payments to successful applicants.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>None</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None

	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to approve the introduction of a Mid Ulster Reusable Nappy Scheme.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Draft application form