

Report on	School Uniform Reuse Pilot Scheme
Date of Meeting	12th September 2023
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Contact Officer	John Murtagh, Waste & Sustainability Officer

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 commencement of a school uniform reuse pilot scheme
2.0	Background
2.1	A school uniform whilst essential is an expensive purchase for all families with children of school age (especially for low income and larger families). In some cases, complete uniforms including PE kit can cost as much as £300 per child.
2.2	Some schools have set up their own type of school uniform reuse schemes e.g. through a PTA as a form of additional funding for the school whereby used uniforms are donated and then sold by the school/PTA at a fraction of the retail price. However, this would be the exception rather than the norm and many schools do not yet have own scheme. Many of the local charity shops also have uniform sections/rails where they provide good quality school uniforms for resale.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Currently in Mid Ulster many used school uniforms are discarded when a child grows out of them or leaves the school meaning they are at best recycled and at worst landfilled. Being very specific in nature even those uniforms that are collected through textile recycling banks are difficult to reuse and are typically shredded / flocked to be recycled into soundproofing and insulation products as it would be simply too labour intensive for the reprocessor to separate and sort them.
3.2	It was therefore decided to pilot a school uniform reuse scheme at the Council's three main recycling centres in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt to try and intercept these uniforms before they were deposited into the textile recycling banks or skips and were lost as a resource to both our local schools and communities.
3.3	Once collected the uniforms will be donated to three local cancer charities to sort and make available for resale to the local communities. For the purpose of this pilot three separate cancer charities in each of the three main towns were selected which already offered some school uniform recycling, namely Marie Currie in Cookstown, Cancer Research NI in Dungannon and NI Hospice in Magherafelt.

3.4	The pilot scheme was launched by the Chair of the Council on Friday 4 th August with the aim of capturing some of this year's uniforms before they are disposed of.												
3.5	The scheme will compliment any existing school reuse schemes and the team will continue to promote the School Uniform Reuse Toolkit (attached as appendix) to local schools. The Toolkit was developed by the Council in partnership with the Childrens & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). It is intended that the Councils reuse scheme will only intercept uniforms that would otherwise have been deposited in our textile banks and so will not divert uniforms from existing schemes. In addition, a directory of existing school uniform schemes will be included/promoted on the school uniform reuse page of the Council's website.												
4.0	Other Considerations												
	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Estimated costs of the school uniform reuse scheme are as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="225 837 1190 987"> <tr> <td>Supply of uniform boxes</td> <td>3 boxes @ £200 each</td> <td>£600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Signage</td> <td>3 signs @ £10 each</td> <td>£ 30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Launch and promotion</td> <td></td> <td>£ 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£690</td> </tr> </table> <p>Human: Some officer time will be required to oversee the monitoring of the pilot scheme.</p> <p>Risk Management: Site risk assessments/safe systems of work are in place at the recycling centres.</p>	Supply of uniform boxes	3 boxes @ £200 each	£600	Signage	3 signs @ £10 each	£ 30	Launch and promotion		£ 60		Total	£690
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4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments												
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A												
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A												
5.0	Recommendation(s)												
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report.												
6.0	Documents Attached & References												
6.1	Photo of launch of School Uniform Reuse Scheme on Friday 4 th August 2023												
6.2	Mid Ulster School Uniform Recycling Toolkit												

DrumCOO Recycling Centre

