

**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD**  
**7<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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**REUSE AND REPAIR STRATEGY REPORT**  
**Report of the re3 Project Director**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief the re3 Joint Waste Disposal Board on the production of a reuse and repair strategy for the re3 Partnership.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.**

**2.2 That Members approve the recommendation at 5.10 (a), for re3 to work with charity partners on reuse initiatives, where possible.**

**2.3 That Members approve the recommendation at 5.10 (b), for re3 to undertake reuse activities both at the re3 facilities and within the local communities.**

**2.4 That Members agree the list of principles set out at 5.11.**

**3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1 None for this report.

**4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 The purpose of this report is to brief Members in relation to the production of a reuse and repair strategy for the re3 Partnership.

**5 PROGRESS IN RELATION TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**Background**

5.1 The Waste Framework Directive defines reuse as: “any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived”.

5.2 There are financial, environmental and social benefits to reuse. Reuse can save consumers from needing to buy new products, save taxpayer money through reduced waste disposal costs, generate new jobs and deliver income. It can also save energy and conserve raw resources; thereby helping to sustain the environment for future generations. On the waste hierarchy, reuse is second only to waste prevention.

5.3 Despite the benefits of reuse, there are a number of challenges. For instance, items are not always designed for repair, and it is often easier and cheaper to replace broken items with new. Repair skills are more common in older generations and rapidly changing fashions and trends can result in usable items being discarded.

5.4 At re3, reuse currently occurs in the recycling centres where waste types reused include: Textiles, books, bikes, bric a brac, DVDs and CDs, small electrical appliances, gas bottles and ink cartridges. In 2022/23 reuse tonnages equated to 3% of all recycling centre waste (which increases to 9% with the inclusion of soil and rubble).

- 5.5 Despite this, there remains scope for more reuse. In the last compositional analysis of recycling centre residual ('black bag') waste (from 2019), over 11% of waste was identified as potentially being suitable for reuse.
- 5.6 The Circular Economy Package sets a target to reuse and recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035. In 2022/23 the re3 Partnership had a household waste recycling rate of 52%.
- 5.7 As reuse can make an important contribution to performance, Officers have started to formulate a 'reuse and repair strategy' for re3 which can guide our activities, and contribute to our learning, over the next couple of years.

### **Activities and Recommendations**

- 5.8 Officers have identified a number of areas under which re3 activities could be undertaken. These priority areas are as follows:
- Gathering stakeholder feedback
  - Waste prevention activities
  - Delaying items from entering the waste stream
  - Reviewing and optimising collection routes for reusable items
  - Developing outlets for items received at the Recycling Centre
  - Increasing knowledge and skills
- 5.9 A table has been included at Appendix One, which sets out proposed activities under each of these areas; alongside groups that would likely wish to be involved and indicative timescales.
- 5.10 As part of the first activity (on stakeholder feedback), and in recognition that resources will need to be prioritised to certain areas, Officers wish to seek agreement from Members on the following areas.
- a) Officers recommend that the re3 Partnership should seek to encourage resident engagement through working with charity and volunteer partners and supporting their causes. Officers consider that this is a viable way to maximise exposure and commitment to reuse.
  - b) Officers recommend that the re3 Partnership should undertake activities both at the re3 facilities (where we are most likely to be able to obtain tonnage data to add towards our recycling rate and can benefit from use of our existing infrastructure) and in the community (where we can seek to minimise social exclusion and target hard to reach groups).
- 5.11 In putting the strategy together, Officers also intend to reflect the following principles, subject to Member agreement:
- We will work in partnership, to maximise our impacts.
  - We will promote wide stakeholder engagement.
  - We will ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and re3 policies.
  - We will be innovative.
  - We will help to create opportunities for local people.
  - We will reuse items locally where possible; in order to enable local people to benefit and to minimise carbon emissions.

- 5.12 The decisions of the Members will be fed into the final version of the strategy; to be presented at the meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board in June. This version will also reflect the priorities of residents, which Officers plan to ascertain via an online survey.
- 5.13 Officers will consider the content of the respective impact assessments, below, as part of the process of planning and design for the individual reuse and repair projects (described within the final Strategy).

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY**

### Head of Legal Services

- 6.1 None for this report.

### Corporate Finance Business Partner

- 6.2 None for this report.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 None.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 None

### Climate Impact Assessment

- 6.5 None.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Principal Groups Consulted

Not applicable.

- 7.2 Method of Consultation

Not applicable.

- 7.3 Representations Received

Not applicable.

### Background Papers

JWDB Reports – January 2024

### Contacts for further information

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## **Appendix One – Draft Strategy Objectives**

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
To identify the most feasible and beneficial activities and ensure they are measurable	June 2024	<p>Liase with stakeholders.</p> <p>Undertake a resident’s survey.</p> <p>Consider ways to measure the impact of reuse and repair activity.</p>	<p>Re3 Team</p> <p>FCC Environment Council Waste Teams</p> <p>Repair Cafes</p> <p>Re3 Residents</p>
To organise and promote events that can delay items from entering the waste stream	June 2024	Set up a schedule for pop-up Reuse Shops events.	<p>Re3 Team</p> <p>FCC Environment Council Comms Team</p>
To promote services and initiatives that prevent the creation of waste.	April 2025	<p>Promote local Repair Cafes activities and offer support.</p> <p>Promote existing and new reuse channels – at the recycling centre and in the community.</p>	<p>Re3 Team</p> <p>FCC Environment Council Waste Teams</p> <p>Council Comms Teams</p> <p>Repair Cafes</p> <p>Re3 Residents</p>
To ensure that the method of waste collection is not a barrier to reuse.	September 2025	<p>Review and investigate options for door-step and/or mobile collections for certain reusable items.</p> <p>Install more textiles banks across the re3 area.</p>	<p>Council Waste Teams</p> <p>Re3 Team</p>
To divert more items for reuse at the Recycling Centres by identifying suitable outlets.	September 2025	<p>Expand the range of items accepted under the current arrangements.</p> <p>Explore ways for re3 residents to benefit from more of the items received by re3.</p> <p>Explore options to separate useful components which could be used as parts by repair organisations.</p>	<p>Re3 Team</p> <p>FCC Environment</p> <p>Re3 Residents</p>
To develop the knowledge and skills of re3 residents	April 2026	Explore opportunities to organise educational and promotional activities to raise awareness, train volunteers and increase reuse	Re3 Team

such: online workshops, course or  
webinars.