



CABINET – 11TH DECEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY FURNITURE ENTERPRISE

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on existing and future funding and support provided by the authority to the Community Furniture Social Enterprise (CFE).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report summarises the existing financial support provided to the CFE through the bulk collection service and the trial undertaken at Penallta Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) for reusable items that would have previously been disposed of via Landfill.
- 2.2 The report also outlines a proposal to introduce a Community Repaint Reuse Project through collaborative working with the CFE.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The cleaner and greener agenda is a key corporate theme which runs through the Single Integrated Plan and Corporate Objectives.
- 3.2 To support this agenda the Community & Leisure Improvement Plan contains a number of objectives relating to: -
- Landfill diversion, re-use & recycling.
 - Collaborative work with the CFE to ensure that re-use initiatives are implemented which will support these landfill diversion objectives while also ensuring the CFE's long term viability.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Existing Bulky Collections - The authority has, for many years, paid the CFE to undertake bulk collections on its behalf. A sum of £14.00 is paid per collection of items suitable for reuse up to a maximum of 1,000 collections pa such that the payment is capped at £14,000 per annum. During the financial year 2012/13 a total of 83 tonnes was reused which contributes to the overall reuse and recycling achievements of the authority and most importantly diversion of these materials from landfill. In addition since April 2012 the CFE has collected all fridges and freezers suitable for reuse with no additional payment for this service. The Council undertakes bulk collections for items that are not fit for reuse.

- 4.2 Existing arrangements at Penallta HWRC - In April 2013 a container was placed at Penallta HWRC for the collection of bulky household items that are suitable for reuse. The CFE collect on a weekly basis and take the furniture to their unit where the items are cleaned and restored in preparation for sale. Initially the take up was slow however, since September, 0.2 tonnes (200kg) of furniture has been reused generating the CFE approximately £350.00 of income which contribute to their running costs. The CFE pay for the hire of the container on site, however, the authority covered the delivery cost (£70.00). If this continues to be successful the scheme may be introduced at other sites.
- 4.3 Community Repaint (Reuse) Proposal - The CFE have proposed to collect all water based paints deposited at HWRC's in order to run a Community Repaint Reuse Project where the paint collected will be offered for sale to the public at the CFE outlet. Resource Futures, the organisation behind Community Repaint suggest that nearly 60% of paint at HWRC is reusable. We are currently projecting a £35,000 spend on hazardous waste collection/disposal this financial year (with paint making up the majority of the material). Providing this estimate is accurate (and 60% of water based paints are reused) there is the potential to fund the costs of the repaint scheme while also making an additional (albeit small) financial saving.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The CFE bulk collection service costs (£14,000) are currently covered within the Waste Strategy & Operations revenue budget.
- 5.2 A sum of £6,000 per annum will need to be paid to the CFE for the Community re-paint scheme but it is anticipated that a sum greater than this (perhaps £7,000 - £10,000) will be realised in resultant hazardous waste disposal savings.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All of the Authority's collection services are offered with assistance for residents with disability or age related impairments.
- 6.2 The collaboration with the CFE is a key feature of the anti-poverty agenda as the enterprise is able to provide household items to the most needy in society and those residents with low incomes.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves:
- 8.1.1 The continued payment of £14,000 pa to the CFE for the collection of furniture for re-use.
- 8.1.2 The funding of the £6,000 required to run the community re-paint scheme in year 1 and the continued funding thereafter where the savings in hazardous waste disposal are equal to or greater than this amount.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To assist in the delivery of the objectives outlined in section 3 above and to support an important social enterprise in the Upper Rhymney Valley.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 Local Government & Housing Acts – This is a Cabinet Function.

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Hayley Evans, Principal Waste Management Officer
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