



Subject:	Pre-loved Toys scheme
Date:	8 th November 2022
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Matthews, Director Resources and Fleet
Contact Officer:	John McConnell, City Services Manager (Resources and Fleet)

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to appraise Members of the proposal to operate a pilot, pre-loved toys scheme in the run up to Christmas, in an attempt to ease the burden on families during the current cost of living crisis and reduce waste sent to landfill during this period.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant delegated authority to the Director of Resources & Fleet to operate a pre-loved toys scheme in line with the proposal set out in this report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	In early October 2022, Council officers met with Councillor Groogan to explore the idea of launching a pre-loved toys scheme (previously raised as a Members motion) aimed at easing the financial burden on families in these challenging times. Following this meeting, officers explored the idea and this report presents the proposal for a pilot scheme this year and

	<p>subject to approval, the learning from this year's scheme can be embedded in any future initiatives. It is important to note that given the tight time scales involved, delegated authority is required to allow collections to take place in November for distribution in December.</p>
3.2	<p>Officers discussed the scheme with their counterparts in neighbouring Councils which have operated similar initiatives in recent years, in order to establish good practice and fast-track the project. See Appendix 1.</p>
3.3	<p>The pilot will accept a range of pre-loved toys at the Council's four recycling centres over a 3-4 week period in November. These toys will be stored in the re-use containers and East Belfast Mission (EBM), the organisation which currently collects re-use materials from these containers, has agreed to include the pre-loved toys in their collection round.</p>
3.4	<p>The social media campaign will inform the public as to which pre-loved toys are suitable for the scheme and EBM will assess the toys for acceptability for sale and/or onward gifting. EBM will store the toys and distribute to the distribution partners/charities. The toys will then be sold at a reduced rate by the distribution partners to members of the public and dependent upon uptake they may also be gifted by these parties. Distribution partners which have indicated a willingness to participate have established outlets located on main arterial routes such as; Newtownards Road (East), Park Centre off Falls Road (West), Antrim Road (North) and Botanic Avenue (South).</p>
3.5	<p>In discussion with neighbouring councils it was evident that they viewed such schemes as valuable contributors to assisting families at a time of year when financial constraints are at play and from a waste perspective the initiative also places a positive emphasis on re-use and landfill diversion. At the end of the pilot the scheme will be evaluated to determine its success and any learning points will be captured and considered in any similar future schemes.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p>
3.7	<p>There are no Good Relations or Equality implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Pre-loved toy schemes operated by neighbouring Councils</p>