

Expansion of Reuse and Recycle Hubs

Tuesday, 14 March 2023
Council

Strategic Alignment - Environmental Leadership

Public

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Adelaide launched two Reuse and Recycle Hubs on 5 September 2022. One Hub is located at the City of Adelaide Customer Centre and the other Hub is located at the City Library.

The Hubs deliver on a Council decision on 12 April 2022 to install recycling stations for hard-to-recycle items. Ongoing marketing and communication to raise awareness and ensure correct usage have been delivered. Over 1.8m³ (1800 litres) of hard-to-recycle materials have been deposited and sorted for reuse and recycling.

On 13 December 2022, Council requested Administration report to the first March 2023 meeting of Council if, and when, it could extend the Reuse and Recycle Hub program to North Adelaide and the Central Market District.

Subject to confirmation through the 2023/24 budget process, the Reuse and Recycle Hubs construction and installation at the North Adelaide Library and the Central Market District could commence in the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the report.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	<p>Strategic Alignment – Environmental Leadership</p> <p>4.2 Implement improvements to city-wide waste and recycling services to support the transition to a circular economy.</p> <p>4.3 Educate and support our community to zero-waste, water sensitive, energy efficient and adaptive to climate change.</p> <p>4.4 Support our community to transition to a low carbon economy through education, incentives and appropriate infrastructure</p>
Policy	Resource Recovery (Organics, Recycling & Waste) Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2028: 3.1.4 Facilitate additional collection locations for hard-to-recycle items for residents to access (for example within City of Adelaide facilities and community centres).
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	An external organisation will be engaged to service the Hubs and ensure that the items deposited are safely sorted and transported for processing. The estimated time required to service four Hubs is 0.2 FTE.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Work, Health and Safety instructions will be prepared to ensure appropriate handling of the materials. Work, Health and Safety requirements will form part of external servicing agreements.
Opportunities	The external interest in the Hubs means there is opportunity to collaborate with other councils and sectors to increase awareness about hard-to-recycle items.
22/23 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 23/24 Budget Allocation	The cost of construction of the Hubs and external resource to be engaged to service the four Hubs will be funded by the 2023/2024 City Wide Waste and Recycling Strategic budget (if approved).
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Hubs should be fit for purpose for at least 5 years.
22/23 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report. The two hubs are proposed to be delivered through the Parks Lands, Policy and Sustainability operational budget for 2023/24.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	There are ongoing servicing costs for the hard to recycling Hubs (estimated 0.2 FTE). The financial cost associated with shipping and recycling of the collected items from the four Hubs is predicted to be \$7,500 per annum which can be covered by the City Wide Waste and Recycling Strategic Project budget in the short-term (if approved). An increase in the City Operations budget is required to service the Hubs ongoing.
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

1. The City of Adelaide launched two Reuse and Recycle Hubs on 5 September 2022. One Hub is located at the City of Adelaide Customer Centre and the other Hub is located at the City Library. The Hubs deliver a Council Decision on 12 April 2022 to install recycling stations for hard-to-recycle items.
2. Ongoing marketing and communication to raise awareness and ensure correct usage have been delivered. Over 1.8m³ (1800 litres) of hard-to-recycle materials have been deposited and sorted for reuse and recycling.
3. In addition to the environmental benefit of the increased diversion of materials from landfill, other social and environmental benefits of having the Hubs in the City of Adelaide include the following:
 - 3.1. Residents have expressed appreciation for convenient access to recycling deposit points through both informal and formal feedback.
 - 3.2. The choice of partners and recyclers has meant that the materials placed in the Hubs have benefited local organisations including the Lions Club of The City of Adelaide, Zoos SA, Electronic Recycling Australia and EcoCycle.
 - 3.3. Building the Hubs with locally supplied recycled materials and ensuring that the majority of materials placed in the Hubs are reused or recycled locally, demonstrates that City of Adelaide is actively working toward a more circular economy.
4. On 13 December 2022, Council resolved:
'That Council;
Asks the Administration to consider and to report to the first March 2023 meeting of Council if and when it could extend the recently announced City Reuse and Recycling Hub program to North Adelaide and where in North Adelaide that facility could be located.'
5. To determine appropriate locations, safety, accessibility, and functional customer and staff experience were considered to deliver Reuse and Recycling Hubs that are:
 - 5.1. Located within a staffed facility to support community use and discourage contamination
 - 5.2. Accessible for all users and in a convenient location
 - 5.3. Designed to complement, and not impede, the core business activities occurring in the selected locations.
6. Administration can progress installation of a Hub at the North Adelaide Library and a Hub in the Central Market District by September 2023. These projects would be delivered through the operational budget of the Park Lands, Policy & Sustainability area and is therefore subject to confirmation through the 2023/24 annual business plan and budget process.
7. The available space and accessibility differ at the potential sites compared with the current locations at the City of Adelaide Customer Centre and the City Library, therefore Hubs will be designed and installed to fit within the proposed sites.
8. The Financial cost associated with shipping and recycling of the collected items from the four Hubs is predicted to be \$7,500 per annum which can be covered by the City Wide Waste and Recycling Strategic Project budget in the short-term (if approved). An increase in the City Operations budget is required to service the Hubs ongoing.

North Adelaide Library

9. The North Adelaide Library and Community Centre was explored as a possible location for the initial Hubs. The Library and Community Centre site has limited space for the existing functions and whilst there is space for a Hub upstairs, it is not considered an accessible location.
10. Further investigations at the North Adelaide Library and Community Centre have identified a small hub can be placed in the library. This is a suitable location as the library is staffed and is not accessible after hours by private hire groups (unlike the Community Centre section of the building).

Central Market District

11. The Adelaide Central Market was considered as a location for the initial Hubs. The Market services a higher volume of visitors than the initial two sites identified for Hubs and is more akin to public place recycling with potential for higher rates of contamination.
12. A Hub at the Minor Works Building / South West Community Centre is also being considered.

13. Investigations will continue to determine a suitable location within the Central Market District, which is safe, accessible, and provides a customer centric experience. It is proposed that signage on the Hub for this District is provided in English and Mandarin.

Other options

14. Several other locations and options were considered and discounted at this time, including:
 - 14.1. Development of a mobile Hub: which could be designed to be weather-proof and towed by electric bicycles. Draft designs were created by University of South Australia Masters students. A mobile Hub could be deployed to any site on a temporary basis with local residents being informed about its availability and could also be made available for relevant events within the city (Link 1 view [here](#)).
 - 14.2. Development of alternative Hub models: which are smaller and potentially cheaper models using existing office cabinetry. This would see end-of-product-life office furniture reused rather than recycled or sent to landfill.

Next Steps

15. Planning for the design of the North Adelaide Library and Central Market District Reuse and Recycle Hubs is underway and construction and operation could be achieved within the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year.

City of Adelaide Strategic and Policy Opportunities

16. A review of City of Adelaide policy, guidelines, and by-laws related to resource recovery and the circular economy has commenced. The review will provide an opportunity for Council to consider changes to existing service models for waste. A workshop with Council is currently scheduled for 2 May 2023.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 - Mobile Hubs Draft Design

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -