

## Project Brief

### Document Overview

This project brief outlines the proposal to establish a Reuse, Remake & Repair hub within the ground floor of the vacant Woolworths Complex. This document includes the objectives, scope, and desired outcomes of the project and what the proposed solutions might look like.

### Project Background

A heightened risk of climate change, cost of living crises and social changes since the pandemic have resulted in a demand for new thinking on the part of communities to become more resource efficient.

We are at the edge of a sustainability revolution at a time of unprecedented opportunity and risk. Businesses and retail drove the industrial and digital revolutions, so business and retail will drive the sustainability revolution.

From fast fashion to built in obsolescence in small electricals, it's never been cheaper or more convenient to make, use then waste. This linear economy model is a major cause of the climate emergency we face today.

New producer responsibility legislation, landfill and incineration taxes, and critically public demand are pushing manufacturers and suppliers to design and produce with a circular economy model in mind.

Net-zero, climate change, global warming, rising sea levels, deforestation, unsustainable supply chains are all global pressures coming to bear on consumers. Locally however low cost, convenience and common sense are likely to be the catalyst for consumer change.

The Stay Resourceful Hub will be part retail, part workshop, part incubator for a more sustainable consumption model.

With a philosophy of make do and mend at the heart of what we do, the hub will act as a local catalyst for change. Fitted out to a high retail standard (reusing redundant commercial fit out materials) the hub will showcase the art of the possible in the reuse sector.

A professional repair and re-maker space to the rear of the unit will provide space for a repair café and incubator for local up-cyclers and repair specialists.

## **Project Objectives / Outcomes**

The main objective of the project is to create a unique retail experience that does not exist within Inverclyde. Creating a reuse department store complimented by a repair and upcycling facility as a gateway to Port Glasgow's historic core.

Post pandemic planning changes which came into effect 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 have injected much needed flexibility to the high street.

There is now a presumption in favour of class use changes between retail, office, small workshop and even hot food consent under the right conditions.

The resource hub would be created in the ground floor of the Woolworths complex which currently has class 1A consent. The hub would be created to fulfil the following outcomes and objectives:

- Create a substantial retail presence at the foot of Princes Street to facilitate footfall into the historic core of the town centre.
- Construct a professionally fitted retail space, fitted out to a high standard to compliment/extend the retail experience at the Gallagher Retail Park.
- The retail space would be a unique blend of customer returns, upcycled, repaired, pre-loved and hand crafted products.
- To the rear of the hub would be an upcycling and repair incubator. This would offer space, tools and collaboration space for up-cyclers and reuse groups.
- Seminars and working groups will be organised around sustainability and growing a local circular low carbon economy.
- Create links between Inverclyde Councils civic amenity sites and the Resource Hub. Initial discussions have taken place with Inverclyde Council to progress diversion of small electrical and bicycle waste streams.
- Provide recycling points for hard to recycle household items such as cosmetics, toiletries, pringles tubes, films and packets, etc.
- Providing through care opportunities for prisoners as they prepare for release, high level talks are ongoing with HMP Greenock and CVS Inverclyde around this.

The Resource Hub would operate in collaboration with other proposed projects for the Woolworths Complex to include:

- Venue and conference hire on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- Co-working space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for flexible working