Green Recovery Circular Economy Fund 2020-21 Covid Reconstruction: Repair and Re-use Activities in Welsh Town Centres

APPLICATION FORM

In October 2020, the Welsh Government published Covid Reconstruction: Challenges and Priorities, our approach to reconstruction. It highlights priority areas where we will focus resources and efforts to maximise the benefits to Wales. It announced £13.2m additional funding to support repair and re-use activities in town centres.

We are now inviting local authorities to bid for this funding, which will support our aims to transition to a circular economy in Wales where we keep resources in use and avoid waste as well as providing timely support to our town centres.

A key aspect our reconstruction is a commitment to embrace greener and just initiatives, which support our places in Wales to reconstruct in a sustainable way.

There are already important initiatives taking place in our towns and communities in this field. Repair cafes and libraries of things are becoming more commonplace as are facilities to share and repair items from food to electrical items. During the pandemic many citizens have reconnected with their local communities and considered the resources we use. This funding is designed to support this and spark new innovation in our towns.

Many local authorities have created re-use shops and workshops often in partnership with local stakeholders and community groups. We know that an estimated 40% of all items at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) are suitable for re-use and they provide a real opportunity for Local Authorities and re-use organisations to repair and refurbish products for re-use.

We are looking to support 'exemplar developments' which not only promote community cohesion through repair and re-use initiatives; they will provide an opportunity for joined-up interventions to rejuvenate town centres – such as a community hub offering repair cafes, sharing libraries and zero waste shops. We would encourage partnership approaches to maximise impact.

To provide you with a flavour of possible initiatives, we have identified the following examples from Wales and beyond, which are looking to support repair and re-use initiatives in town centres. However, your bids should not be restricted to these:

- Facilities for community repair
- Food surplus redistribution and sharing
- Re-use hubs and shops
- Library of things
- High street facilities which combine repair and re-use
- Working with social enterprises to create volunteering and skills partnerships around repair and re-use
- High street hubs for recycling, for example premises to return small electrical items

This is a one-off additional Circular Economy Fund round specifically for repair and re-use in town centres. The funding can be split between revenue and capital funding and bids should consider the likely sustainability of the proposed project.

Key dates:

- The closing date is 1 December 2020.
- We aim to inform applicants of the outcome by 1 January 2021.
- Claims, including evidence of expenditure, are required to be submitted to the Welsh Government by 15 March 2021 at the very latest.
- Please only submit an application if you are able to meet these deadlines.
- Funds must be spent this financial year.

Please note:

- The project activity must be located in Wales*.
- As a *guide*, but not limited to £0.25m Revenue and £0.35 capital per LA.
- Complete one application form per project.
- Local Authorities may submit more than one application.

Email: <u>CircularEconomyFund@gov.wales</u>

*Eligible Bodies

Local Authorities

Town councils

Village councils

Community councils

Local authorities will need to be a partner, as a minimum, for all projects.

Organisation Name	Bid maker is Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council (N<C). Lead delivery partner is social enterprise Circular Economy Mid Wales (CEMW) Ltd
Project Title	Newtown as a pioneer reuse and repair economy in Wales
Location of Activity	Newtown, Powys
Funding requested for 2020-21	Capital 550050 Revenue 125500 Total 675550
Project Contact Name, telephone and email address	E J Humphreys (Town Clerk) T: 01686-625544 T: 01686-639174 (direct) M: 07494-170677 E: townclerk@newtown.org.uk
Bid authorised by	
*In authorising this application you are confirming that the information given is correct to the best of your knowledge. You are also confirming that any match funding identified is in place	Name: Edward Humphreys Job Title: Town Clerk and Head of Business Signature: REDACTED

Project Description and alignment to circular economy actions (Score 10)

Provide a brief description of the project including how it aligns to repair and re-use activity in town centres and our circular economy aim to keep resources in use and avoid waste. If your application is for a project that will take longer than a financial year to complete, please provide a description of the whole project and of the specific outputs to be delivered in this financial year. (Maximum 500 words)

A PROJECT BROCHURE IS PROVIDED AS SUPPLMENTARY INFORMATION We wish to establish Newtown as an exemplar market town with a vibrant reuse and repair economy.

N<C is applying to this fund with main partner Circular Economy Mid Wales (CEMW), our local reuse and repair social enterprise. In turn there are a range of ten social, private and public sector bodies (including the LA) supporting this proposal. There is a rich twenty-year heritage of reuse and repair enterprises emanating from our area; Wales' first communities to organise food waste collections, kerbside sorting and a class leading zero waste community for WG.

This project draws from this and builds on solid foundations for a reuse and repair circular economy recently laid here in Powys' largest town.

- Over the last three years an Enterprise Hub / MakerSpace has been established on NPTC** land.
- Since early 2020 CEMW have partnered with Potters Waste (who operate the LA's HWRC) to develop a Salvage Shed operation, intercepting "waste" and rescuing and re-selling goods that can be returned to use before they end up in landfill.

Both operations have sufficient potential to show a sustainable future and a demonstration of the theory and practice of the Circular Economy, in a way similar to the well-established Centre of Alternative Technology, for the delivery and promotion of reuse and repair in major town centre developments like the forthcoming Riverside Venue visitor centre.

We have an opportunity to tie all this work together, invest in the missing components and enable Newtown to be an exemplar town for sustainable development in Wales.

We have two prime town centre opportunities to make reuse and repair a permanent part of the town's 'offering'. The first, a re-use and repair retail hub, involves upgrading our retail offering to create a new dynamic town centre venue incorporating not just a retail outlet for re-use goods, but also to create space for complementary circular economy enterprises such as a tool library, Repair Café's*, community fridge and plastic free shop. Purchasing 3-4 Broad Street gives us this permanent shop window in an ideal central location.

The second is to showcase re-use of materials in a highly public context that makes a bold and very public statement about this being the more sustainable – and financially cheaper - way of commercial and public fit outs. This isn't about a display case or two but the wholesale fit out of a brand-new building, so everything you sit on and eat from tells the story of re-use and repair. Riverside Venue are offering CEMW this important opportunity.

Each can be considered separately but together they demonstrably shift the culture of Newtown toward a reuse and repair economy. In support of the town centre investments we also need to strengthen our existing supply chain with four interventions:

- To establish online sales / click-and-collect services;
- Storage and triage space (specifically WEEE) within the Salvage Shed;
- Storage and Men-In-Shed upcycling workshops (plus we need a new toilet!)
- Electric van / cargo bike as advertising hoarding and delivery mechanism

We believe this combination of two major town centre opportunities plus astute investment in their support systems all combine to make Newtown a pioneering reuse and repair economy town for Wales.
An itemised budget is given below.
*A repair café is a public event where people bring along broken things, and a team of volunteer "fixperts" repair them within a friendly atmosphere of chat and cups of tea. ** NPTC, Neath Port Talbot College, the parent body of the FE college in Newtown

2. Ways of working (Score 10)

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to think more about the long-term, to work better with people, communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, places a duty on public bodies to seek to achieve the well-being goals and objectives in everything they do.

Please describe how you have followed the five ways of working in the development and delivery of your proposal.

The Five Ways of Working			
Long Term – please describe how you have considered long term needs. What are the impacts of your proposal on future generations? (Maximum 100 words)	The project is focussed on creating a culture of re-use rather than single use, of repair rather than buying new. We aim to normalise the concept of a circular economy where resources continually circulate rather than relying on virgin material that is continually mined or extracted. This sustainable management of natural resources is key for an ecologically sustainable future. By investing in a range of 'components' we establish reuse and repair as a financially viable – and thus long term – part of the local economy able to support future generations with skills and for some, employment.		
Prevention – please describe how you considered options to prevent the problem from getting worse or occurring in the first place. (Maximum 100 words)	A use and dispose culture is now endemic in our culture but most commentators now recognise that this habit cannot continue. It requires a new social norm to be established, which can only happen if projects like this can be high profile within the community. We have already built some preventative foundations. This project goes on to give us a town wide reach and impact. With it comes the new behaviours such as 'borrow don't buy' and recognition of the weight of material we have prevented from being extracted and thrown away.		
Integration – please describe how you have considered the well-being objectives of other public bodies. (Maximum 100 words)	This project is supported by PCC as both a means of town centre regeneration and of waste minimisation. For N<C it supports our core mission, delivers against our Business Plan and meets some of the objectives of the soon to be published Place Plan (and Supplementary Planning Guidance). The potential for skills development is supported by NPTC Group of Colleges. This project integrates well with many other social objectives as can		

be seen from the list of partners that this connects to, from tourism to commerce, car clubs to Men In Sheds etc **Collaboration** – please describe who This project contains several collaborations. you collaborated with and how, in the Principally it sees N&TLT supporting the reuse and repair development and appraisal your social enterprise CEMW, backed by POWYS COUNTY proposal. COUNCIL. (Maximum 100 words) All have informed this bid. CEMW bring with them established collaborations in the field that feed in to this project. The Salvage Shed brings in the private sector POTTERS GROUP and the MakerSpace@PD brings NPTC GROUP OF COLLEGES into the project. CEMW also collaborates with other enterprises (social and start up) in delivering this project such as BIKE TO THE FUTURE and MEN IN SHEDS plus GREENER STEPS zero plastic shop and OPEN NEWTOWN who lead the Riverside Venue. All have helped shape it. We have also shared the project for their input with neighbouring LLANDRINDOD WELLS (SWEA) and with umbrella bodies including CIRCULAR ECONOMY WALES plus REPAIR CAFES WALES / BENTHYG. **Involvement** – please describe who CEMW have developed many of the project proposals you have involved and how, in the and have published these in a series of iterative 'versions' that partners have informed. CEMW has drawn on the development and appraisal of your pro bono support of architect and interior designers for proposal some of this. N<C has taken the principle idea to their (Maximum 100 words) Full Council and gained support for the Clerk and Mayor to actively progress it through to submission. The proposal also meets the aspects of their Place Plan, based on substantive community consultation. The directors and staff of CEMW have drawn upon their experience of operating the Salvage Shed and MakerSpace and the many comments received from the public. This in itself has drawn from the initial entrepreneurs in Newtown who started this nearly twenty years ago. This breadth and depth of involvement has informed this propo

3. Contribution to Well-being Goals and impact assessment (Score 10)

Projects must seek to maximise their contribution to the well-being goals. Please provide a summary of the impacts of the project to the well-being goals and statutory description of each goal.

Well-being Goal	Impact (select one for each goal)
A prosperous Wales	Positive / neutral / negative
	Summary (Maximum 100 words):
	Re-use and repair has the potential to form a modest but important part of any local economy, offering additional employment with high job satisfaction to the local population through new roles in salvage, upcycling / repair and skills sharing.
	For Wales as a whole, with its Zero Waste and Sustainable Development ambitions, prosperity will be dependent upon smart and well-integrated initiatives such as this. Without a doubt access to reused and repair items, to borrow not buy tool libraries etc. all keep costs low for families. And as circular economy it stems the flow of money out of the region by reducing the need for more manufactured stuff being purchased from abroad and from outside the region
A resilient Wales	Positive / neutral / negative
	Summary (Maximum 100 words):
	Greater re-use will make the region less dependent on supply chains to manufacturers in far countries. Developing and delivering practical skills helps people (and communities) to solve their own problems without needing to resort to bought in solutions.
	Newtown, being a rural town with poor transport links, is potentially more vulnerable to fragile supply chains than better connected communities. We will also be less dependent on access to virgin material which will become increasing expensive and scarce as natural resources continue to be over exploite
A healthier Wales	Positive / neutral / negative
	Summary (Maximum 100 words):
	Possible benefits to mental health by connecting people more to their community and giving them more control over their lives and environment. Being resilient and prosperous helps people's health. Taking a unit that previously traded as a Betting Shop

	makes a clear statement about a healthier future. Denois sefer
	makes a clear statement about a healthier future. Repair cafes in particular have the potential for significant well-being
	benefits by giving people a sense of value and an opportunity to
	use their practical skills to help others in their community.
	ase their products sains to help others in their community.
A more equal Wales	Positive / neutral / negative
	Summary (Maximum 100 words):
	Accessing skills and the opportunity to learn – and with it to
	repair and retain valued items – is a great leveller, not
	dependent upon wealth of background. This project helps
	achieves that. This project will help low income families in the
	town by helping to provide access to cheaper goods without the
	stigma associated with "second hand". Two wards of Newtown
	are among the bottom 30% of areas of deprivation in Wales*
	*From PTHB Director of Public Health Annual Report 12-13 St
	John (Brecon), Newtown South, Welshpool Castle, Newtown
	Central and Llandrindod East / Llandrindod West are among the
	worst 30% [area of deprivation in Powys by Lower Super Output
	Areas].
A Wales of cohesive	Positive / neutral / negative
communities	Summary (Maximum 100 words):
	Summary (Maximum 100 Words).
	Elsewhere above we have outlined how ten partners are named
	within this proposal, all coming together to help their
	community. We have already experienced the effect of
	community cohesion around the project with the groundswell of
	people and volunteers that feel inspired by this project and wish
	to support. Repair Cafés fulfil a valuable social function as well
	as the practical repair aspect. This project also cuts across the
	public / private / third sector divides as all are involved in its
	creation and will be involved in its delivery. We have also sought
	to build this project in full disclosure with neighbouring town
	Llandrindod Wells and have connected the Newtown
	communities to communities elsewhere in Wales through
	linking it to Circular Economy Wales and to Repair Café Wales /
	Benhtyg. We feel we are one member of a family of communities all working together.
A Wales of vibrant culture and	Positive / neutral / negative
thriving Welsh language	Company (Maniput 12 400 constals)
	Summary (Maximum 100 words):
	This project re-connects us with our past. The disposable age is
	relatively recent; our grandparents would have mended things
	and would be horrified to see what gets thrown away in the 21st
	century. The culture of reuse and repair that our predecessors

knew so well can be returned. We have lost much of this culture in just two generations and encouraging repair and re-use revives some of the values of the past that have been lost. The project would comply with public sector bilingual standards in our delivery and public engagement, but we can go further, we can place Welsh language branding front and centre, we can operate workshops that teach in Welsh etc.

Positive / neutral / negative

A globally responsible Wales

Summary (Maximum 100 words):

Wales has committed to – and indeed is a global leader for – sustainable development. It is a defining feature of our nation; playing its part as a globally responsible Wales. Zero Waste and the circular economy form important parts of this ambition.

Over-exploitation of natural resources and over-reliance on landfill is recognised as behaviour that has to be changed the world over. This project demonstrates that Wales is playing its part in solving planetary problems.

This project directly helps Wales achieve those ambitions, and Newtown has been pioneering this work in wales for twenty years. Much of the pilot work that gave rise to kerbside collections, to separated food waste collections and to zero waste communities came from Newtown (see Brochure). Newtown has the experience and the desire to be a globally responsible town.

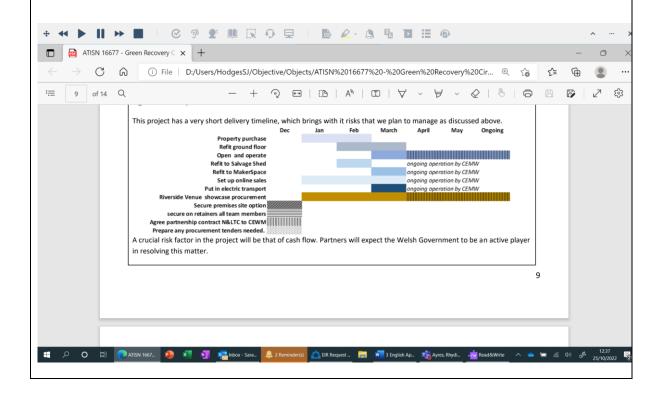
4. Project management (Score 10)

Please provide information on the project plan identifying timelines for activities appropriate to the scale of the project. Include information on any risks, statutory processes/planning consent, land acquisition, procurement, construction, project opening and completion as applicable. (Maximum 500 words)

Overall, the project is structured so that N<C perform the role of bid maker and oversight of the disbursement of public funds. The Council has charged the Clerk and Mayor with overseeing this bid and they in turn will allocate a senior staff member as their project manager. NLTC has experience of working with the third sector to achieve projects such as this. A single lead partner in the form of CEMW ensures communications and accountability are kept simple. CEMW as a young organisation will appoint its short-term project manager (already identified), buying back office financial support from a fellow social enterprise with an in-house AAT Financial Manager. The project is also broken into manageable components (discussed below) for which CEMW has already identified key delivery roles / partners, delivery dates, and allocated budgets. There are no planning permissions required but the following permissions will be needed and which we can demonstrate a track record of securing.

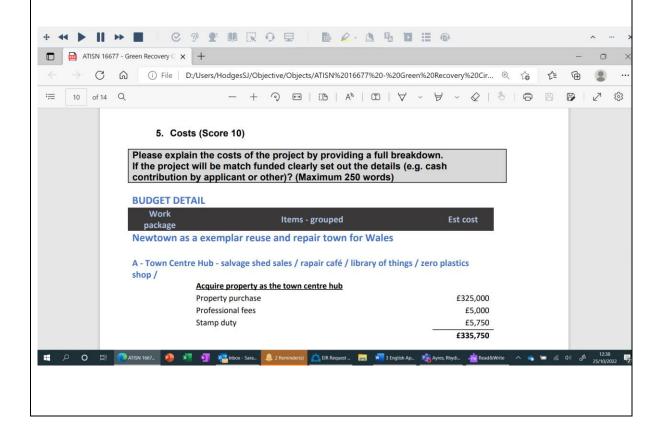
- 1. Acquire and fit out a town centre building already with planning status for retail (so no further permissions needed) we have in principle secured the following professional support team:
- 1.1. A local property agent and solicitor to secure it in the timeframe available; Jan Feb
- 1.2. An experienced architect / project manager to oversee this (already done the initial designs). We have allocated support from Repair Café Wales /Benthyg etc. to help guarantee best practice. Feb Mar
- 2. Reuse & Repair fit out acquisitions for the Riverside Venue. CEMW is already recruiting for a Commercial Services Manager against another contract it holds but here, because of the time frame, it has also secured the services of an architect / interior designer. Jan Mar The contractual permission of Open Newtown has been agreed in principle.
- 3. Prepare for reuse components to our existing 'supply chain' itself has four components for which we have identified the delivery team;
- 3.1. Establish online sales / click-and-collect services an in-house member of staff will be deployed. Jan Mar
- 3.2. Salvage Shed upgrade undertaken by its project manager. Feb. Will require the permission of Potters Group who operate the site.
- 3.3. MakerSpace upgrade – undertaken by its project manager. Mar. Will require the permission of the landlord for alterations (previously secured) 3.4. Electric transport local Car Club will help source. Mar

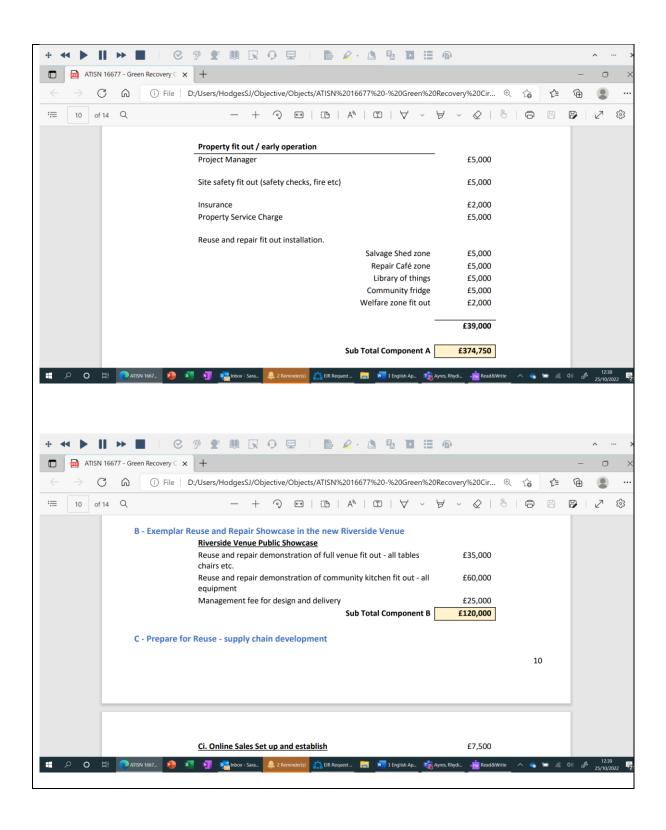
Once open CEMW runs the retail hub as an everyday part of its operations, funded by the income it earns. This is a permanent enterprise for the high street, for which there is a business plan available. Easter 2021 onwards, as a sustainable high street enterprise.

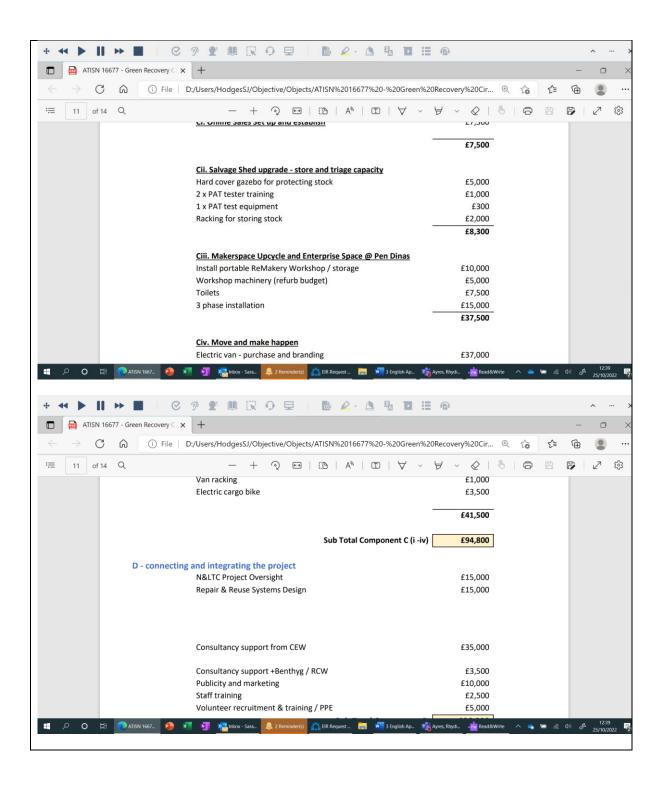


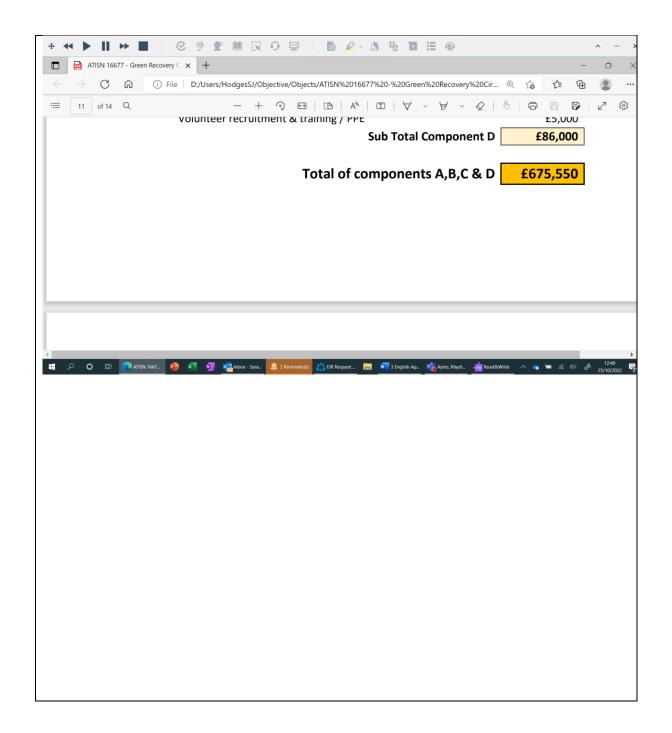
5. Costs (Score 10)

Please explain the costs of the project by providing a full breakdown. If the project will be match funded clearly set out the details (e.g. cash contribution by applicant or other)? (Maximum 250 words)









6. Value for Money (Score 10)

Please explain what steps have been taken to ensure costs have been kept as low as possible and to quantify if the funding requested will represent overall value for money. (Maximum 250 words)

Keeping costs low

We will engage the services of professionals to assist with valuation and negotiation for the property purchase. In keeping with the "re-use" ethos of our mission, second hand purchase would be used wherever practical. The fitting out of the shop would equally use salvaged material where this could be achieved.

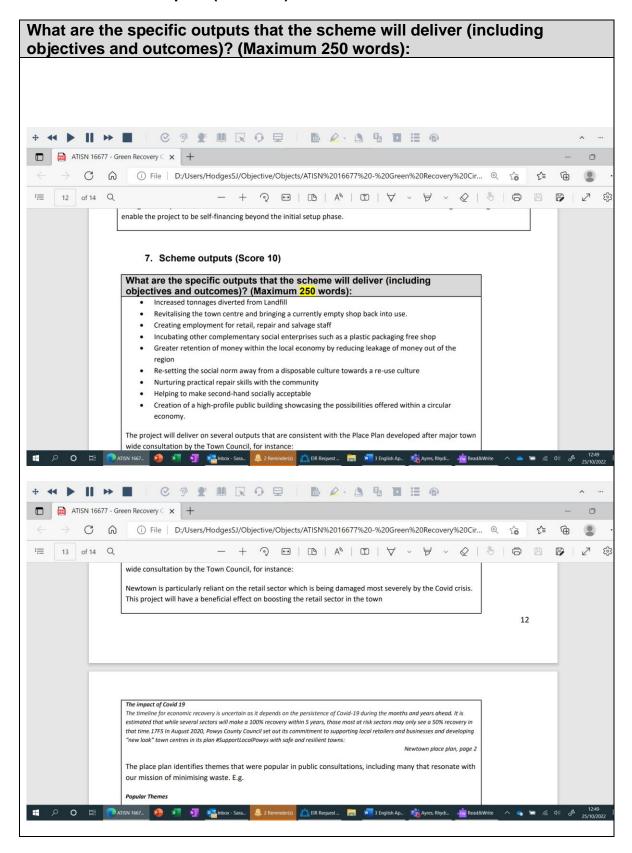
Value for money

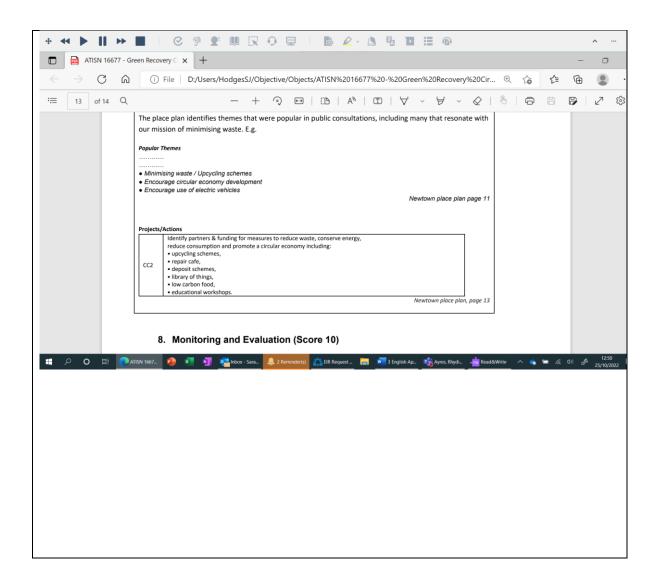
The main value for money that this project achieves is in terms of the multiple benefits that result. The project addresses a serious environmental crisis at the same time as helping local people to save money, boosting the local economy by creating jobs, helping to regenerate the town centre and reducing the drain of money out of the town from our purchases from out of the region. The redevelopment of the shop in the town centre will make the town centre a more attractive place for people to visit, having a positive effect on the neighbouring shops and cafes. We do not compete directly with other businesses (charity shops deal in very different merchandise).

Financial sustainability

Our existing pilot is demonstrating that even with the modest retail opportunity we have at the moment that we can generate revenue from sales to cover running costs, (predominantly staff costs), but cannot cover capital costs. We are confident that with greater exposure and better location our revenue from sales will increase to enable us to cover higher running costs and enable the project to be self-financing beyond the initial setup phase.

7. Scheme outputs (Score 10)





8. Monitoring and Evaluation (Score 10)

How and when will you measure if the project has been successful? Please provide details of your post-delivery monitoring plan, data collection, and relevant targets (Maximum 250 words):

