

# Share and Repair Network Project

Outputs from the Online Survey  
& Development Workshops



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## Executive Summary

Circular Communities Scotland has been commissioned by the Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland to deliver a 'Share and Repair Network' project over the next three years. The aim is to significantly increase local share and repair activities and offer Scottish communities sustainable and affordable alternatives to buying new products.

To support development of the network and ensure that activities are prioritised to enable the share and repair sector to expand and flourish, an online survey and two workshops were held in March 2022.

A total of 37 organisations took part in the survey with a real mix between those whose operations are relatively new and those who are more established. Most who responded to the survey have an annual turnover of less than £10,000 per annum, operate from a fixed location, and have a small staff base with a reliance on volunteers. In general, the focus of activities tends to be the more conventional items associated with sharing libraries (e.g., DIY tools, sewing machines and craft equipment, gardening tools) and repair projects (e.g., IT, small electricals, clothing) although a broader range of activity areas was reported by some organisations.

With sharing libraries there was commonality in terms of stock control systems with the majority using MyTurn. In addition, whilst it appears to be very dependent on the items available for loan, the most typical lending period is 7 days.

With regard to charging structures in place, annual membership with free borrowing was identified by a number of respondents in terms of sharing libraries, although other models were also mentioned. For repair projects very few reported a charge to use the service, and those that did the charges were nominal.

The biggest reported costs and challenges to ongoing viability included premises and staffing for both sharing libraries and repair projects, and although a range of different funders and grant opportunities were mentioned the Climate Challenge Fund was the most reported.

In terms of support needs identified there were many commonalities including:

- Sharing learning and good practice
- Networking
- Funding opportunities
- Skills and training
- Promotion and community engagement
- Insurance
- Mentoring and peer to peer support

The two workshops built upon the findings from the survey and followed the same broad agenda, providing an opportunity to share expertise, raise common issues, identify areas of concern, and consider how the network can best support the share and repair sector.

A total of 17 stakeholders attended the Sharing Library Workshop, and 32 stakeholders attended the Repair Project Workshop. The main issues raised, and support needs identified had some commonalities across the two workshops and included the following topics:

#### Sharing Libraries

- building stock
- project management
- readiness for opening
- operating procedures
- logistics
- cost efficiency
- membership and charging
- sharing resources
- training and skills
- data capture

#### Repair Projects

- business model development
- insurance
- ethical banking
- operating procedures
- logistics
- engagement activities
- charging structures
- asset mapping
- training
- data capture.

The online survey and the workshops provided a wealth of data and information that can be used to prioritise activities for the network and there were some comments from both workshops and the survey that are pertinent to the network moving forward. These include the potential for standardising practices across the network, recognising the need to be flexible in terms of the support made available, building on the 'one voice' potential to lobby and advocate for change, and sharing opportunities to ensure financial viability for the sector moving forward.

# 1. Introduction

Circular Communities Scotland has been commissioned by the Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland to deliver a 'Share and Repair Network' project over the next three years. The aim is to significantly increase local sharing and repair activities and offer Scottish communities sustainable and affordable alternatives to buying new products.

A Network Coordinator is now in place, and to support the planning and prioritisation of activities to help those currently active or those planning to become active in the share and/or repair space, an online survey followed by two workshops have been delivered. To provide sector knowledge and expertise in the development of the survey and the workshops support was secured from the Edinburgh Tool Library and Edinburgh Remakery.

The outcomes of these activities will provide further insight into the expectations and needs of the share and repair sector and identify where there are opportunities for the network to support growth and deliver positive benefit to the sector. This report summarises the data and information obtained.

## 2. Share and Repair Mapping Survey

### 2.1 Purpose of the survey

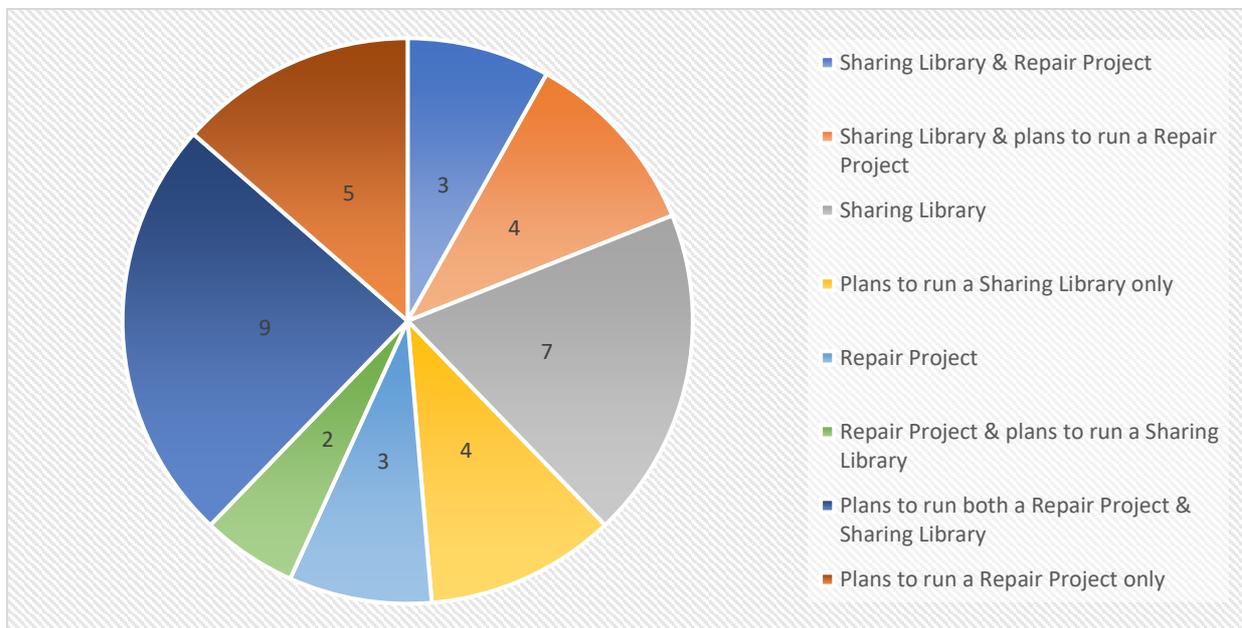
The share and repair mapping survey aimed to capture and collate baseline information and data on the activities of existing and planned sharing libraries and repair projects in Scotland. An open invite to complete the online survey was issued in early March, using existing databases within Circular Communities Scotland, and promoted on social media channels, requesting organisations active or planning to become active in this space to respond.

Questions covered a wide range of issues including status, location, operating details, pricing structures, resourcing (including staffing), and monitoring. The data obtained will be used to help ensure the network delivers the most appropriate support, meeting the needs of the sector and maximising on the opportunities available. Data and information obtained was also used to help inform the focus of the development workshops which were undertaken later in March.

## 2.2 Profile of responses

A total of **37** responses were received from discrete organisations (multiple responses from the same organisation were combined), and a range of activities were represented (refer to Figure 1). It is evident from the responses received that a significant number of organisations are considering running or planning to run both a sharing library and repair project (rather than one or the other).

**Figure 1: Survey Responses by Organisation Type**



## 2.3 Active organisations

In total **14** organisations who responded are currently operating a **sharing library** and **8** organisations are currently operating a **repair project**. The survey was designed to take respondents through a series of questions relating to their sharing library and their repair project as applicable; where they operated both, they responded to both series of questions. Those not yet active but planning to run a sharing library or repair project were directed to a separate part of the survey (they are considered later in the report). The active responses were characterised as follows (Table 1):

**Table 1: Profile of Active Organisations**

Active Organisation Type	Sharing Library Responses	Repair Project Responses
Sharing Library	7	
Repair Project		3
Sharing Library and plans to run a Repair Project	4	
Repair Project and plans to run a Sharing Library		2
Sharing Library and Repair Project		3
<b>Total responses of active organisations</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>

The vast majority of both sharing libraries and repair projects who responded, run other community events, workshops, training, and other engagement activities.

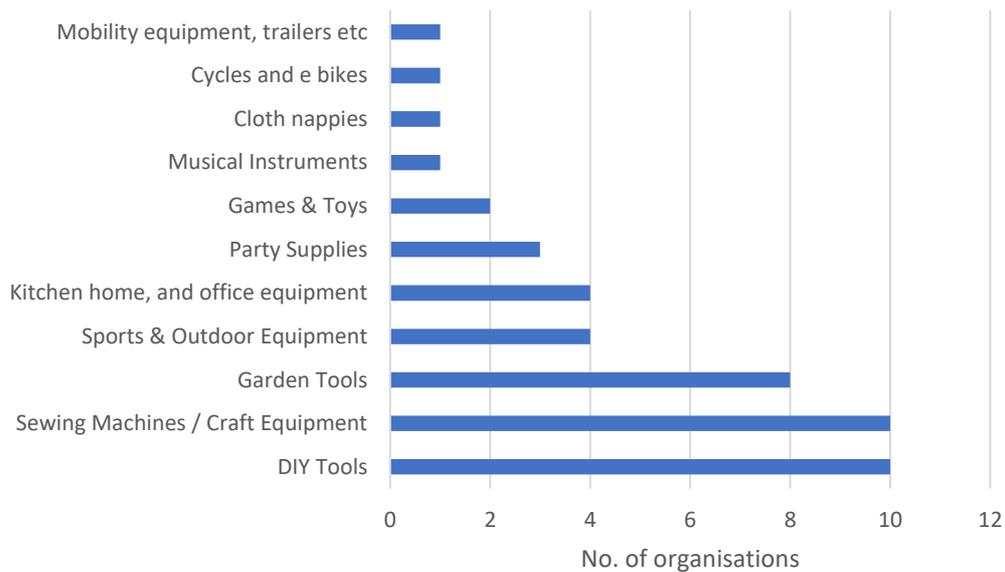
In terms of length of time organisations have been active, it is fairly evenly split for **sharing libraries** between those who have been active for less than a year (6 organisations), and those who have been active for 1 to 5 years (7 organisations). Only one organisation reported that they have been running a sharing library for more than 5 years.

For **repair projects** it was a similar story, with a fairly even split between those active for less than a year (4 organisations), those active for 1 to 5 years (3 organisations), and only 1 organisation has been running a Repair Project for more than 5 years.

## 2.4 Focus of activities

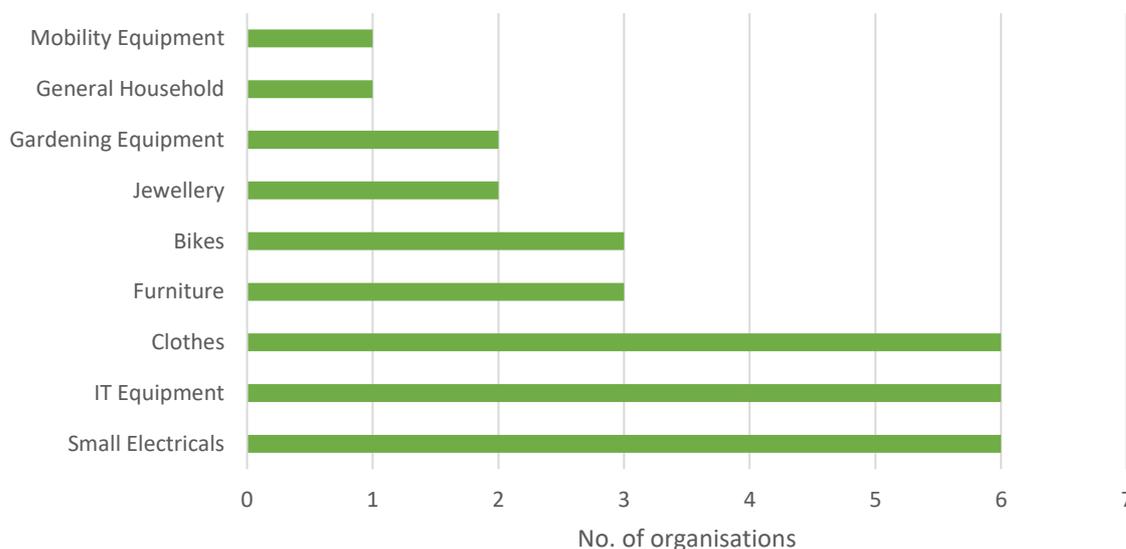
For **sharing libraries**, whilst the more conventional shared items such as DIY tools, garden tools, and sewing and craft equipment dominated the responses, a real range was reported in terms of what is available (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Stock available the Sharing Libraries**



For **repair projects**, again whilst the more standard items such as electrical, IT equipment and clothing dominated the responses, a range of other items were reported as being targeted for repair (Figure 3).

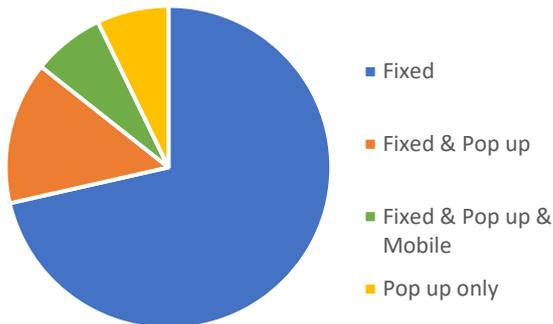
**Figure 3: Range of items repaired**



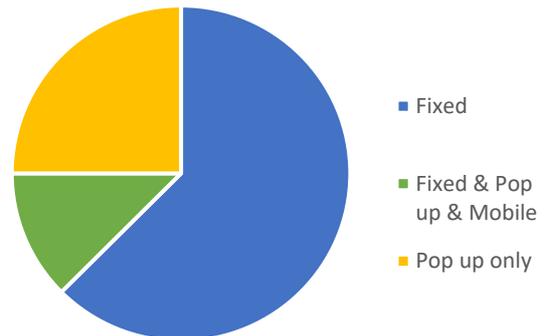
## 2.5 Location & operating practices

Most **sharing libraries** and **repair projects** stated that they operate from a fixed location (Figures 4 and 5) however a small number make use of pop up and mobile opportunities.

**Figure 4: Sharing Library Premises**



**Figure 5: Repair Projects Premises**



In terms of opening hours there was real variation for both **sharing libraries** and **repair projects**, however the **sharing libraries** tend to be more regularly accessible, with week days, evenings and weekends being available in different combinations. In addition, innovative ways are being employed to increase access without creating an additional resource requirement, for example the use of lockers. Repair Projects appear to be less regular or less consistent, depending on a number of factors including location, focus of activities, and access to volunteers.

With regard to stock control systems in use in **sharing libraries**, MyTurn was the most commonly reported (8 organisations use this method). Other, albeit less common systems included bespoke platform/content management software, spreadsheets or manual entry.

Typical loan periods for **sharing library** items varied, with 7 days proving to be the most popular followed by 14 days. However less than a day, and more than 14 days were also offered by some sharing libraires. The loan period is very much dependent in the items being loaned and their purpose.

## 2.6 Charging & membership structures

In terms of **sharing libraries**, the most common approach reported is an annual membership with free borrowing. Charges quoted included £20 - £25 per year with a low-income variant of £10 - £15 per year. Cost prices are typically charged for sundry items such as sanding paper. Some charge late fees and cleaning fees when items are returned. Some offer a 'pay it forward' option and a 'pay as you feel' approach.

Other approaches to charging and membership include a free membership and paid borrowing with prices quoted £5 to £15 per day/time allocation (depending very much on the item). Some organisations rely on donations and essentially offer a free to use service.

For **repair projects** very few reported a charge to use the service, and where reference is made to a charge the value is relatively low (examples given were £3 per repair or £3.50 to secure a booking for a repair). It is more common for parts to be charged for, but most operate on a free of charge or donation basis.

## 2.7 Resourcing

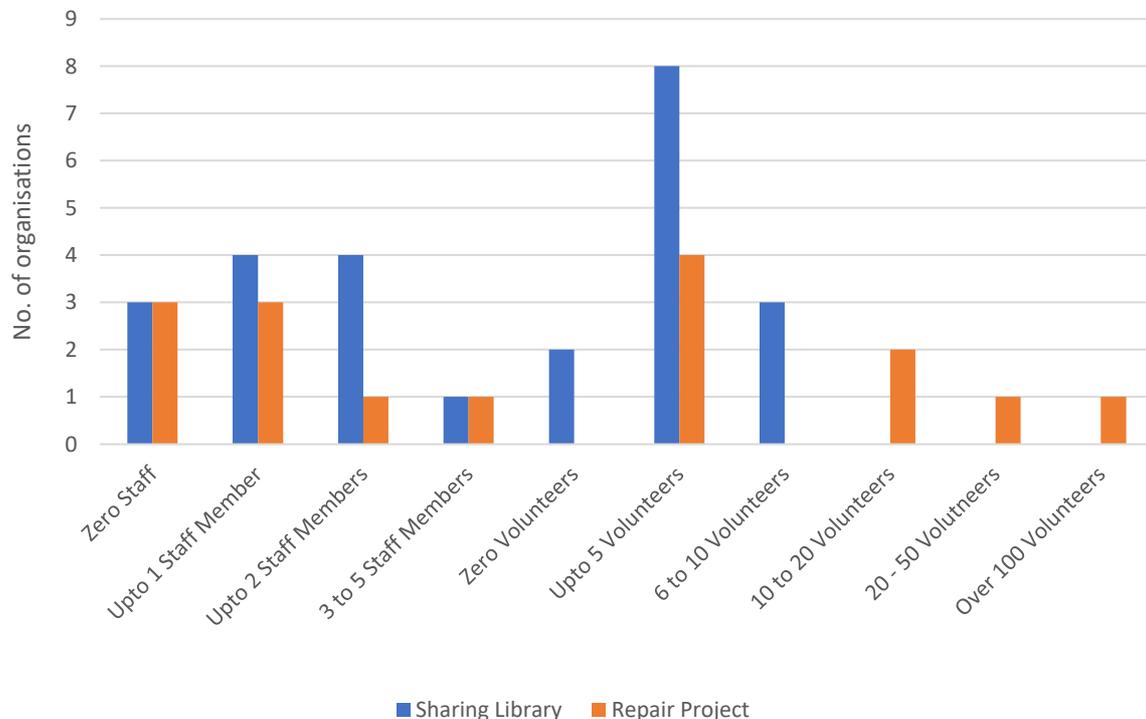
Virtually all **sharing libraries** and **repair projects** who responded reported a turnover of less than £10,000 per annum. Only one respondent in each case reported a turnover in the £10,000 to £100,000 range.

The numbers of staff employed in both types of organisations appear very low, with a significant reliance on volunteers, with repair projects identifying greater numbers of volunteers, reflecting the wide range in skills required to support their activities (refer to Figure 6).

The types of roles identified included:

- processing - check in/check out,
- systems updates - cataloguing, recording
- technical support - repairs, PAT testing
- promotions, engagement, and fundraising - awareness raising, campaigns etc.
- management - staffing and volunteers, training, and support
- monitoring - data collation and review

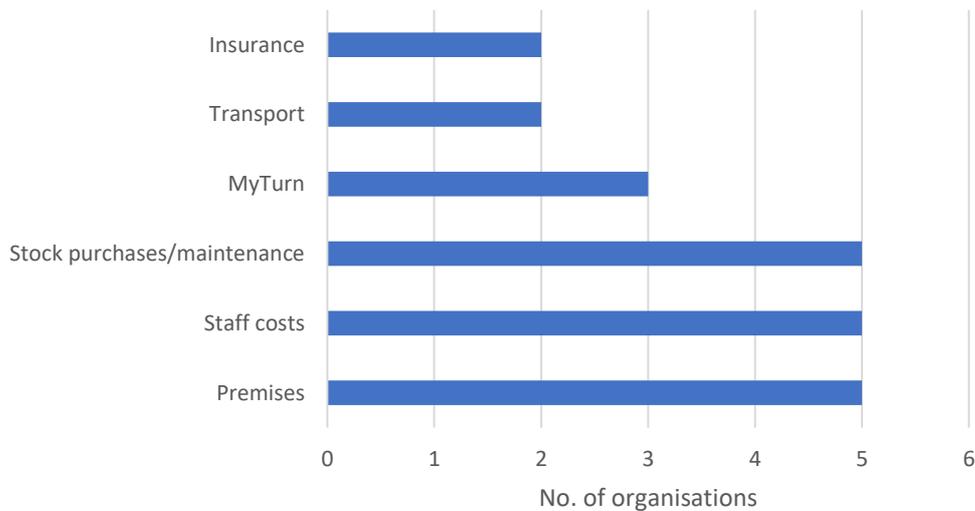
**Figure 6: Staff and Volunteer Numbers**



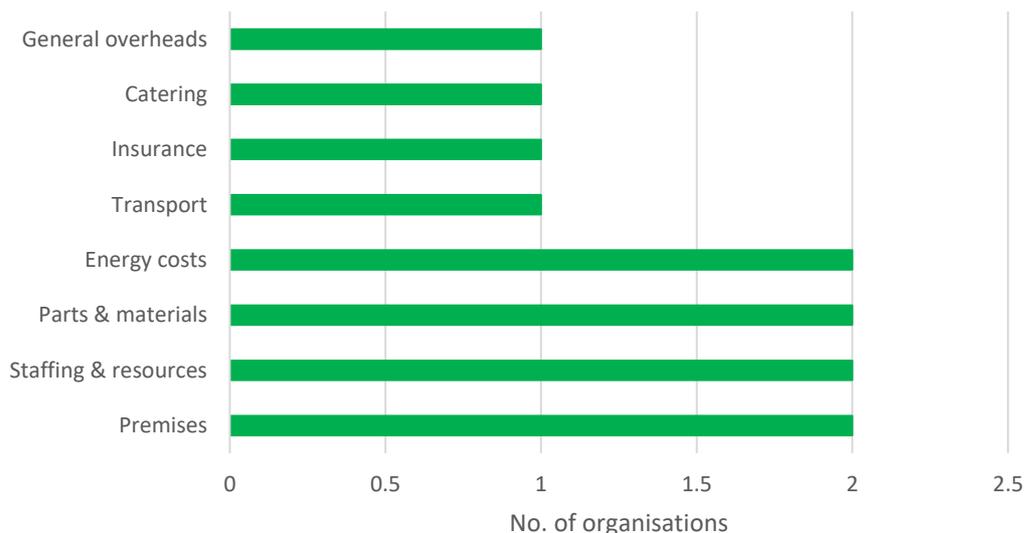
When asked what their biggest costs have been, for **sharing libraries** premises, staffing, and stock purchases were the area’s most organisations identified with, followed by costs

associated with MyTurn, transport and insurance (Figure 7). With **repair projects** responses were more split, with organisations identifying with different items. Premises, staffing, materials, and energy slightly dominated the responses, but transport, insurance, catering and general overheads were also mentioned (Figure 8).

**Figure 7: Sharing Libraries: Biggest Cost Considerations**



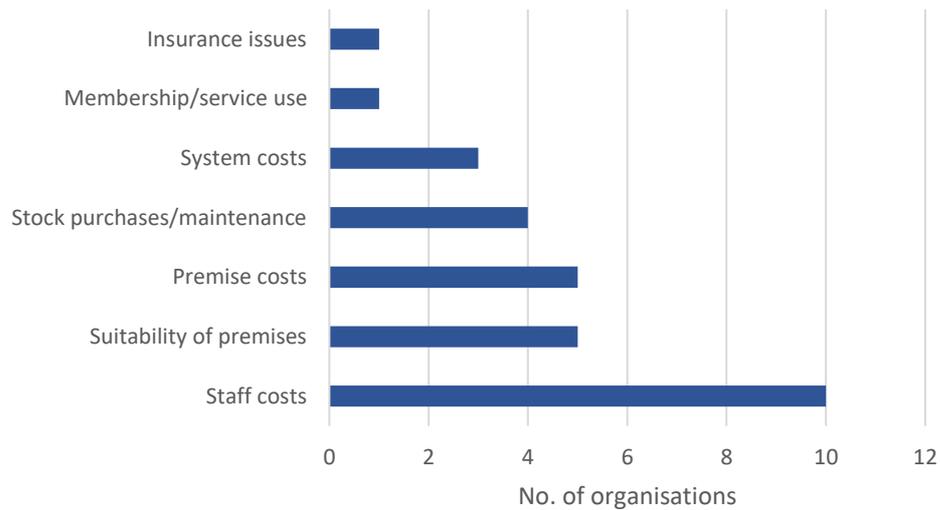
**Figure 8: Repair Projects: Biggest Cost Considerations**



With regard to challenges to ongoing viability, staff costs were identified by the majority of **sharing library** respondents. Premises, both in terms of their suitability and their costs were also identified as challenging areas, closely followed by stock purchases and maintenance.

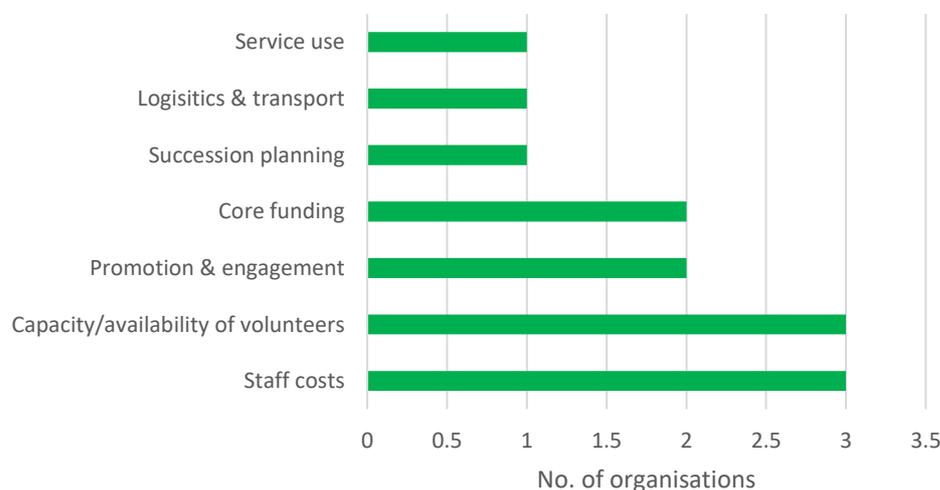
Systems costs, service users and insurance requirements were considered to be a challenge by a smaller number of respondents (Figure 9).

**Figure 9: Sharing Libraries - Biggest challenges to ongoing viability**



For **repair projects** staff costs were also identified as a challenge to ongoing viability, however the capacity of volunteers was given equal consideration; this reflects the significant reliance on the skills and expertise of volunteers to deliver repair projects. Promotion and engagement, and core funding were also raised, and individual organisations identified with service use, logistics and transport, and succession planning as their challenging areas (Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Repair Projects – Biggest challenges to ongoing viability**



Previous sources of grants and funding for **sharing libraries** varied across the responses, with the Climate Challenge Fund being the most reported. The list of funders identified were:

- Climate Challenge Fund
- Community Recovery Grant
- Housing Association
- National Lottery
- Cycling Scotland
- Paths For All
- Smarter Choices, Smarter Places.
- NHS Community Innovation Fund

For **repair projects**, the Climate Challenge Fund was also the one most reported, and the other commonality with sharing libraries is the National Lottery. The list of funders identified were:

- Climate Challenge Fund
- National Lottery
- Zero Waste Scotland
- Coop Local Communities Fund
- Local Authority Funding
- Lions
- Round Table
- Robertson Trust

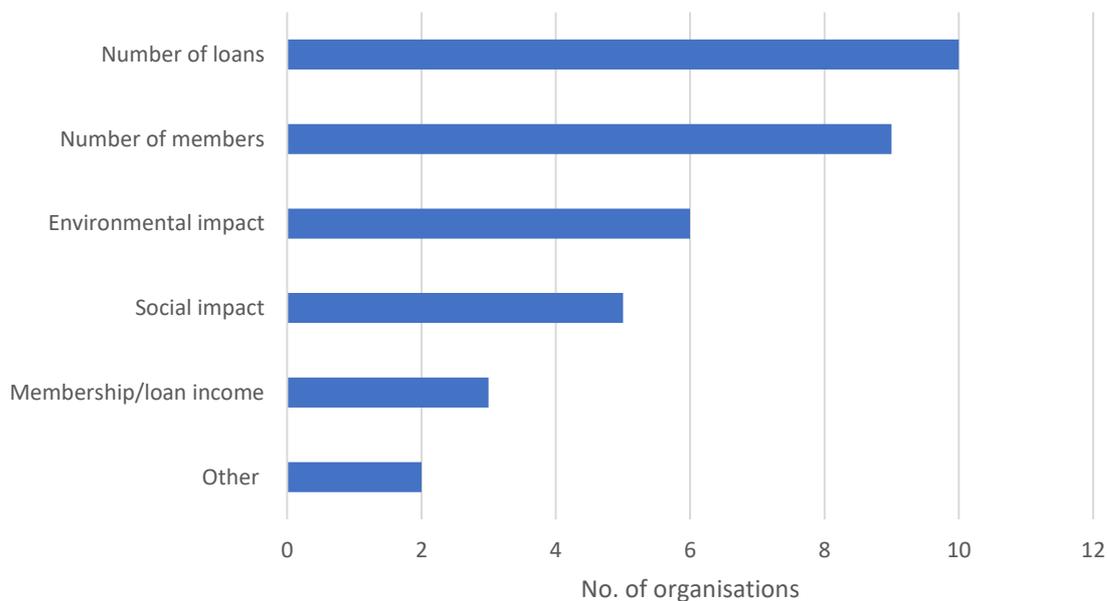
## 2.8 Monitoring

A range of different Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were identified for both sharing libraries and repair projects.

Perhaps unsurprisingly the 'number of loans' was the most popular KPI for **sharing libraries**, followed closely by the 'number of members' (refer to Figure 11). 'Environmental impact' and 'social impact' were also identified, but by a smaller number of organisations.

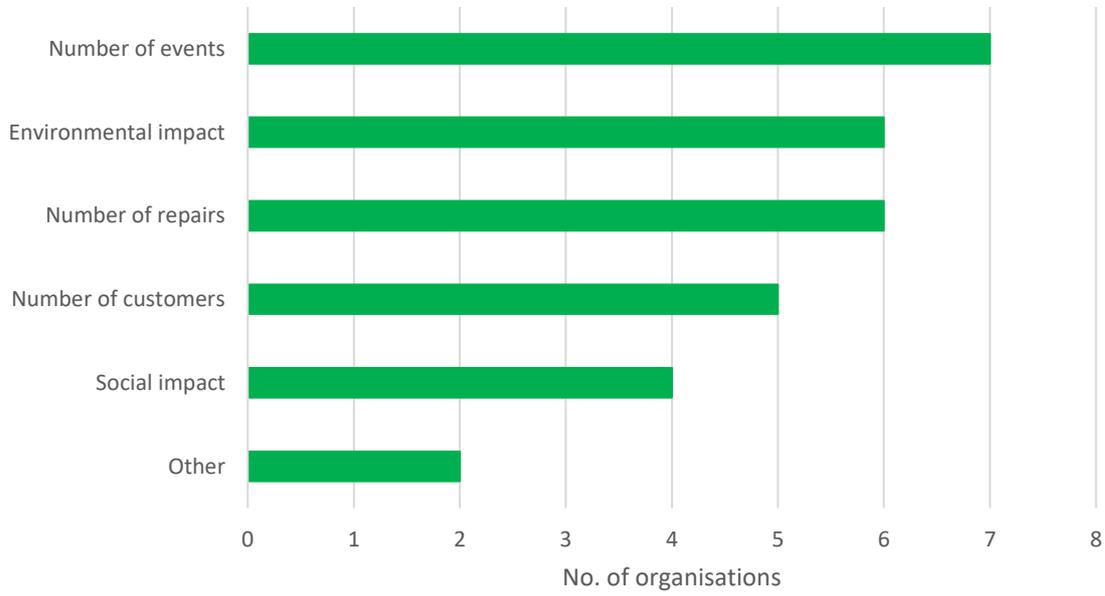
'Membership/loan income' was less popular as a KPI.

**Figure 11: Sharing Library KPIs**



With **repair projects** the picture is slightly different, with the 'number of events' almost being matched by 'environmental impact' as the most popular KPIs amongst organisations who responded, along with the 'number of repairs' (refer to Figure 12). The 'number of customers' and 'social impact' also featured as KPIs.

**Figure 12: Repair Projects KPIs**



## 2.9 Future plans

In total **15** organisations responded to the survey to state that they have plans to run a **sharing library**; the vast majority are in the early stages, seeking funding or confirmation of a venue. This was slightly exceeded by those who have plans to run a **repair project**, with **18** organisations responding to the survey; again, a significant proportion are in the early stages, seeking funding and support in setting up.

In terms of whether the organisations are stand alone or are part of another offer can be seen in Table 2.

**Table 2: Planned Organisation Type and Number of Responses**

Planned Organisation Type	Sharing Library Responses	Repair Project Responses
Plans to run a Sharing Library	4	
Plans to run a Repair Project		5
Sharing Library and plans to run a Repair Project		4
Repair Project and plans to run a Sharing Library	2	
Plans to run both a Sharing Library & Repair Project	9	
<b>Total responses - planned organisations</b>	15	18

## 2.10 Support needs

When asked about support needs there were many commonalities across the share and repair sector; the responses have been grouped together and can be seen in the yellow box in Figure 13. Specific needs identified by sharing libraries or repair projects can be seen in the blue and green boxes.

It is worth noting that there was little difference between established organisations and those planning to set up a sharing library or repair project in terms of needs identified.

**Figure 13: Common and Specific Needs Identified**



## 3. Workshops

### 3.1 Introduction

Two development workshops were held in March 2022. One specifically focused on the needs and opportunities in relation to sharing libraries and the other focused on repair projects.

The workshops followed the same broad agenda (Table 3), with a focus on open and honest discussions from those who have set, are currently planning to set up, or who have an interest in potentially setting up, a sharing library and/or repair project. The idea for the workshops was to provide an opportunity to share expertise, raise common issues, identify areas of concern, and consider how the network can best support the share and repair sector. The purpose was not to solve each other's issues and challenges but to provide an open forum to share experiences and consider how the network can help moving forward.

**Table 3: Structure of the workshops**

Agenda
Welcome & Introductions
Key findings from the survey
Support Needs & Requirements 1: Setting up a Sharing Library/Repair Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common challenges &amp; key considerations:</li> <li>• Network support opportunities</li> </ul>
Support Needs & Requirements 2: Operations & Logistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common challenges &amp; key considerations</li> <li>• Network support opportunities</li> </ul>
Support Needs & Requirements 3: Resourcing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common challenges &amp; key considerations</li> <li>• Network support opportunities</li> </ul>
Support Needs & Requirements 4: Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common challenges &amp; key considerations</li> <li>• Network support opportunities</li> </ul>
General discussion
Next steps for the Network

## 3.2 Sharing Library Workshop

A total of 17 people attended the workshop representing a wide range of organisations at various stages of delivery of sharing libraries. The main discussion points from each of the four specific sessions are summarised below.

### Setting up a Sharing Library

#### ➤ **Building stock**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Difficult to know what's going to be popular - can be challenging to make a judgement on the impact of local demographics in terms of items requested.
  - Understanding the items that need most maintenance and are most costly to house in the sharing library can be difficult.
  - Knowing or at least estimating how much resource is required to build up quality items can be a challenge.
  - Being aware of different routes of where and how stock can be accessed would be helpful.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Sharing expertise and knowledge across the network in terms of frequent requests, maintenance requirements, stock development etc.
  - Profiling of different sharing libraries to increase understanding of what works in different areas/demographics (will also help with sharing stock etc.).

#### ➤ **Project Management**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Range of tasks or requirements can seem never ending, but some are more important than others - knowing which ones to prioritise would be helpful.
  - Working with others could offer support and help community capacity building but its not clear how to initiate this.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Promote understanding how and what to prioritise and where to focus most attention when setting up a sharing library - knowing what the essential tasks are, timescales required etc. through 'How to' guidance for example.
  - Building alliances, partnerships, collaborations etc., across the network and also outside of the network to support the development and ongoing work of the organisations.

### ➤ **Readiness for opening**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Trying to get the 'perfect' set up can mean that opening is constantly delayed - overcoming this can be difficult.
  - Understanding what is needed as a minimum in order to open - for example, if premises are not secured, but stock and management systems are, is there another way?
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Lessons learnt from other organisations in terms of minimum requirements, with case studies and examples of good practice - include options for overcoming hurdles and barriers to opening.
  - Events, promotional activities and launch activities to raise profile across the community.

## **Operation and logistics**

### ➤ **Operating procedures**

- *Issues raised:*
  - It's not always clear what makes a good procedure, what steps need to be considered to deal with day-to-day issues such as broken items, maintenance, effective cataloguing.
  - Trial and error is often the way operating procedures are developed, which can be time consuming and resource intensive.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Examples of decision-making strategies - flow charts of processes to follow.
  - Sharing examples of good practice across the network.
  - Standardising processes across Scotland.

### ➤ **Logistics**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Ensuring accessibility can include delivery of items, and questions have been raised as to how this can be done sustainably.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Guidance on how to tap into existing infrastructure and finding out where journeys are already being made, e.g., using mobile libraries to deliver smaller items to those communities.
  - Experience across the network of use of alternative modes of transport such as e-cargo bikes to deliver items to the community.

## **Resourcing**

### ➤ **Cost efficiency**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Difficult to know what to focus on to be more cost effective in the running of a sharing library.
  - It's not always obvious what the quick wins are, or more fundamental changes to make to ensure that all resources are being maximised and where savings can be secured.
  - Understanding how to move into different market spaces.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Good practice guides on how to ensure operating systems and processes are efficient and effective.
  - Lessons learnt from different contexts/demographics/geographics.
  - Opportunities to provide a more commercial offer in other markets.

### ➤ **Membership and charging**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Knowing what is appropriate and fair in terms of membership and charging structures can be difficult to ascertain.
  - It's not always evident what factors are involved in setting appropriate price points - what should judgements take into consideration.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Sharing expertise and knowledge in terms of setting pricing structures - case studies of what has worked elsewhere.
  - Variable/flexible offers to include corporate users.

### ➤ **Sharing resources**

- *Issues raised:*
  - It's not always clear what options there are to work together to share resources, knowing what is appropriate/feasible, how can resource use be maximised etc.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Identifying opportunities across the network and beyond to work in partnership or collaborate with others and share resources such as URLs, stock management systems, stock, community engagement and communications.
  - Different means to share knowledge and intelligence.
  - Development of standardised practices - these make the potential for sharing resources much more viable.

### ➤ **Training & skills**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Training staff and volunteers can be time consuming and resource intensive.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Standard procedures to support induction and common training needs.
  - Access across the network and to other existing networks to utilise skills to support maintenance and repair requirements.
  - Explore the potential for a centralised hub for training and repair.

## **Monitoring**

### ➤ **Data capture**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Understanding what data sets are necessary or important can be a challenge.
  - Being clear on how to collect data, e.g., in what form and how regularly can be difficult to ascertain.
  - Agreeing definitions and approaches to monitoring environmental and social impacts would be really helpful to the sector as a whole.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Secure common agreements across the network, to include standardised measures and language/definitions, reporting periods etc.
  - Potential for collaboration on evaluating behaviour change.
  - Training and/or guidance to ensure full capabilities of MyTurn are being realised across the network - maximise/optimize the value of existing data across the network.

### 3.3 Repair Project Workshop

A total of 32 people attended the workshop representing a wide range of organisations at various stages of delivery of repair projects. The main discussion points from each of the four specific sessions are summarised below.

#### **Setting up a Repair Project**

##### ➤ **Business model development**

- *Issues raised:*
  - It can be challenging to turn an idea into a sustainable and viable operation - it can feel overwhelming.
  - Lack of understanding of the key stages involved - what steps needed to be completed and when.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Guidance and support in terms of developing a business plan - templates, examples, proforma's etc are all options.
  - Learning from others, sharing knowledge through case studies and good practice examples.

##### ➤ **Insurance**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Can be complicated to understand what the insurance requirements are in terms of minimum cover.
  - Can be time consuming and resource heavy to source appropriate policies.
  - Can be daunting for some projects to navigate policy content.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Potential for the network to broker a collective policy.
  - Guidance in terms of what to consider when insuring a project.

##### ➤ **Ethical banking**

- *Issues raised:*
  - There is a desire to ensure that any banking activities are ethical, but it can be hard to navigate and understand what is on offer.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Sharing knowledge and intelligence across the network in terms of ethical banking providers.

## **Operation and logistics**

### ➤ **Operating procedures**

- *Issues raised:*
  - It's not always clear what makes a good procedure, what steps need to be considered to deal with day-to-day issues such as triaging of items, tool log monitoring, data recording etc.
  - Trial and error can often be the way that operating procedures become established, which can be time consuming and resource intensive.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Examples of decision-making strategies - flow charts of processes to follow.
  - Sharing examples of good practice across the network.
  - Standardising processes across Scotland.

### ➤ **Logistics**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Awareness of the impact of transport and travel associated with individual repair projects and the need to ensure carbon emissions are reduced as much as possible.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Guidance on best models to use for transportation based on different locations and set up arrangements.
  - Experience across the network of use of alternative modes of transport.

### ➤ **Engagement activities**

- *Issues raised:*
  - It feels like there is a constant need for publicity and promotion but it's not always clear what works best and how to get the message out into the community.
  - Opportunities to secure volunteers through engagement activities are not always realised.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Development/sharing of proforma's and templates for posters, flyers, and social media promotions.
  - Collective campaigns across the network to support localised engagement.

## **Resourcing**

### ➤ **Charging structures**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Knowing what is appropriate and fair in terms of charging structures can be difficult to ascertain.
  - Balancing the need to generate income with the intentions of the project, and also not coming into conflict with commercial repair operations can be a challenge.
  - It is not always evident what factors are involved in setting appropriate price points - what should be taken into consideration.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Sharing expertise and knowledge in terms of setting pricing structures - case studies of what has worked elsewhere.
  - Understanding the potential for variable/flexible offers to include corporate users.
  - Signposting towards funding routes to support economic viability of the project.

### ➤ **Asset mapping**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Difficult to ensure that the repair project can meet need in terms of the skills available.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Capturing data and information on the skills across the network and mapping the assets to support potential to share and transfer those skills to other network members.

### ➤ **Training**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Can be difficult to have volunteers with sufficient proficiency to repair items that come through the project.
  - Training can be an ongoing challenge and time consuming/resource intensive to address.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Standard procedures/frameworks to support induction and common training needs.
  - Access across the network and to other existing networks (including for example local colleges, Criminal Justice Teams, local craft groups) to utilise skills to support training requirements.

- Develop guidance for effective training and nurturing to attract and retain volunteers.
- Explore the potential for a centralised hub for training and repair.

## **Monitoring**

### **➤ Data capture**

- *Issues raised:*
  - Understanding what data sets are necessary or important is crucial where time and resources are scarce.
  - Being clear on how to collect data, e.g., in what form and how regularly is essential.
  - Agreeing definitions and approaches to monitoring environmental and social impacts would be very helpful to optimise data use across the network.
- *Support needs identified:*
  - Secure common agreements across the network, to include standardised measures and language/definitions, reporting periods etc.
  - Potential for collaboration on evaluating behaviour change.
  - Supporting open data across the network.

## 4. Conclusion

The online survey and the workshops have provided a wealth of data and information that can be used to prioritise activities for the network. It should be noted that the purpose of this report is to present the outcomes from the survey and the workshops, and it is not the intention to draw any conclusions as to what should be taken forward by the network. This report simply provides a means of feeding the outcomes into the conversation that is already underway in terms of how the network can support the longer-term growth and viability of the sector moving forward. It should also be noted that not all of the support needs identified will fall under the remit of the network, but again making note of all needs will help to stimulate discussions and open up ideas of what could be possible.

There were some comments from both workshops and the survey that are pertinent to the network moving forward. These included:

- Potential for standardising practices

It was recognised that the share and repair sector is extremely varied, and the core purpose and intention of individual organisations can differ. However, the network represents an opportunity to bring the sector together and develop common standards and operating practices which could help ensure the longer-term viability of the sector and raise its profile.

- Need for flexibility

Following on from the above, the beauty of the sector is the variety in terms of scale, offer, and purpose, and it is important that the network recognises the 'rainbow of needs' and responds accordingly in terms of the support provided.

- One voice potential

Providing a unified voice for the share and repair sector through the network will ensure that common positions can be taken and there is an opportunity to lobby policy makers and manufacturers and advocate for better standards, provisions and practices which will support the intention and direction of travel for sharing libraries and repair projects.

- Financing the sector

Financial viability for the sector is crucial therefore where lessons can be learnt from others in terms of means to generate income or attract funding, these should be fully exploited where possible.