Overview of ReLondon's and UK Textile-based work

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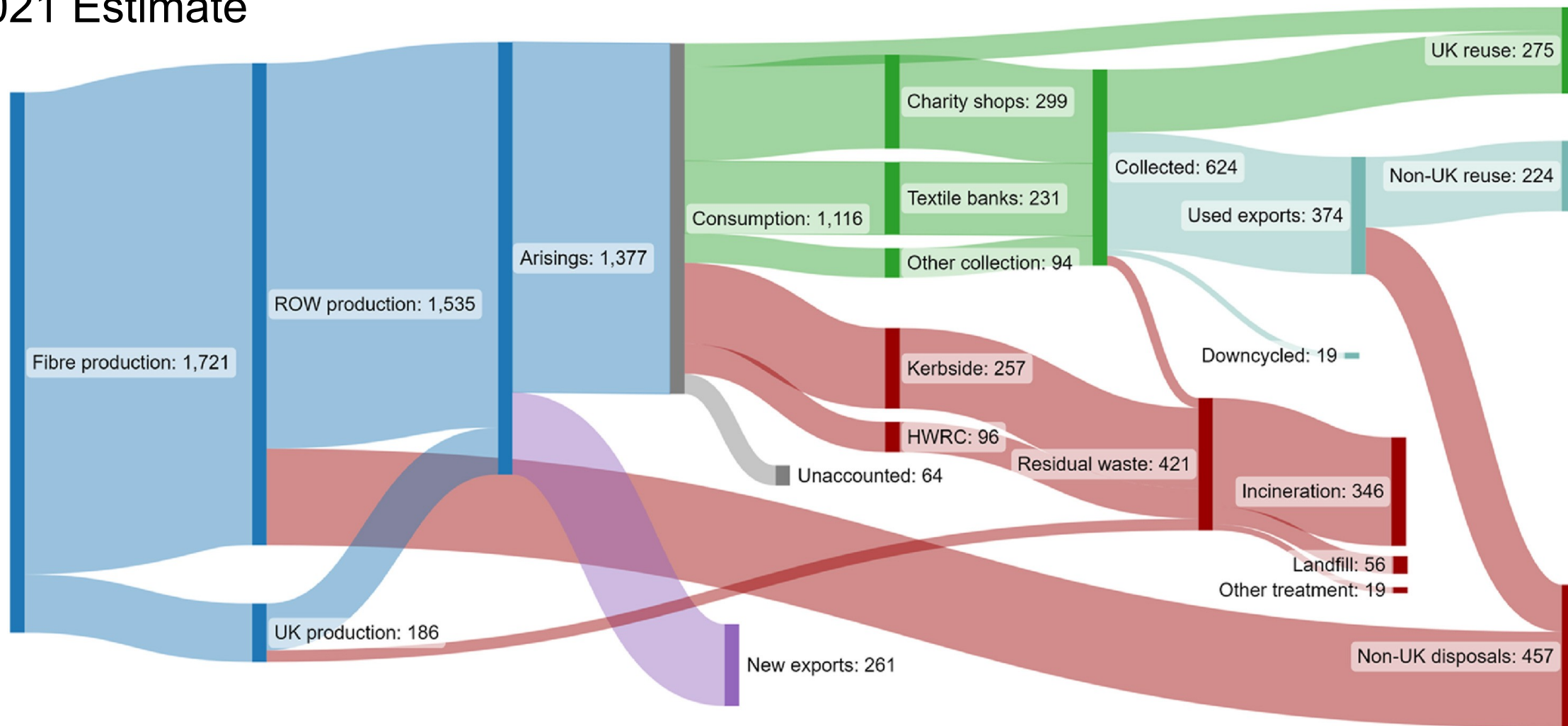Waste Arising and Destinations

NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY

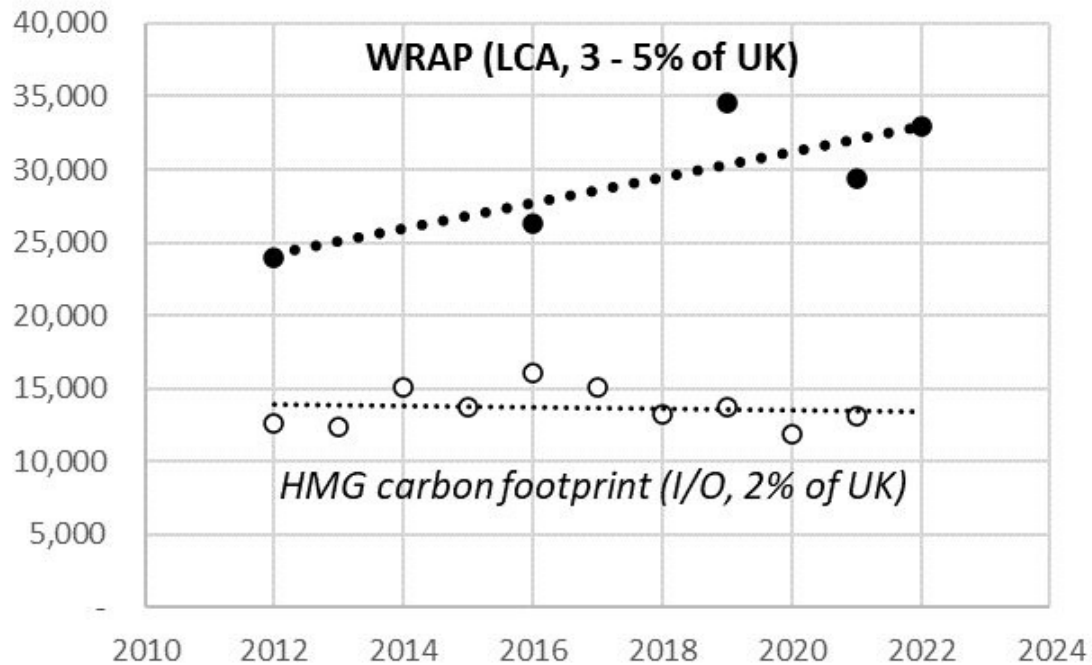Circular Economy Taskforce

2021 Estimate

Scenarios for reducing the environmental impacts of the UK clothing economy - ScienceDirect

Fibre production: 1,721
ROW production: 1,535
UK production: 186
Arisings: 1,377
Consumption: 1,116
New exports: 261
Unaccounted: 64
Charity shops: 299
Textile banks: 231
Other collection: 94
Kerbside: 257
HWRC: 96
Collected: 624
Used exports: 374
Residual waste: 421
UK reuse: 275
Non-UK reuse: 224
Downcycled: 19
Incineration: 346
Landfill: 56
Other treatment: 19
Non-UK disposals: 457

Rationale for addressing clothing and textiles

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Figure 1. UK Textile emissions (kt CO_2e)

WRAP (LCA, 3 - 5% of UK)

HMG carbon footprint (I/O, 2% of UK)

- *65:20:15 Clothes : textiles : shoes*
- *1:2 territorial : overseas (estimate)*
- *More water used to make UK-destined textiles than total extracted in the UK for all purposes [>5 Bn m3]*

Economic
- £62 Bn to GDP (1 in 34), £23 Bn tax (1 in 30)
- 1.3 Mn jobs (1 in 25)
- Value growth 1% - 2%; Volume growth 4% - 7%

Material flows
- 1.1 Mt consumption (and waste)
- 7% of UK household waste
- UK reuse 25%; export for "reuse" 33%; residual waste 38% (mostly EfW), addition to stock 4%.
- Minimal fibre-to-fibre recycling

Environmental
- Huge (but uncertain) CO_2 and water impacts
- No viable recycling route for unwearable clothing
- Ultimate disposal for exports after reuse via unmitigated landfill or open burning

Social
- Producer factory & labour conditions
- Income stream for poorest via used clothing export

Overview of ReLondon's activity areas

Evidence building

- London's fashion footprint research
- Future Fibre Fund: Post-consumer textiles research

Equipping local government

- Development of the Pan-London textiles action plan

Empowering businesses

- Business transformation programme
- Rewear grant programme
- Circular Fashion Fast Forward programme

**Encouraging Londoners**

- Love not Landfill
- Repair Week

Convene and connect

9. City-to-city dialogues
10. UK Circular Cities and Regions network

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London's fashion footprint

- **Date:** June 2023

- **Key partners:** University College London (UCL), Circle Economy

- **Aim:** Map the flows of new clothing across Londons's fashion supply chain to identify hotspots of waste and carbon in order to identify effective areas of action.

- **Highlights:**
  - The London's fashion footprint report revealed Londoners consume almost 155,000 tonnes of new clothing – 48 items per person.
  - Of clothing discarded by Londoners in 2019 (around 44 items of clothing per person), over 40% ended up in the bin.
  - Generation of over 2 million tonnes of carbon.
  - A third of London's fashion related emissions can be reduced through reuse and repair interventions.
  - There is a need for collaboration across the global supply chain
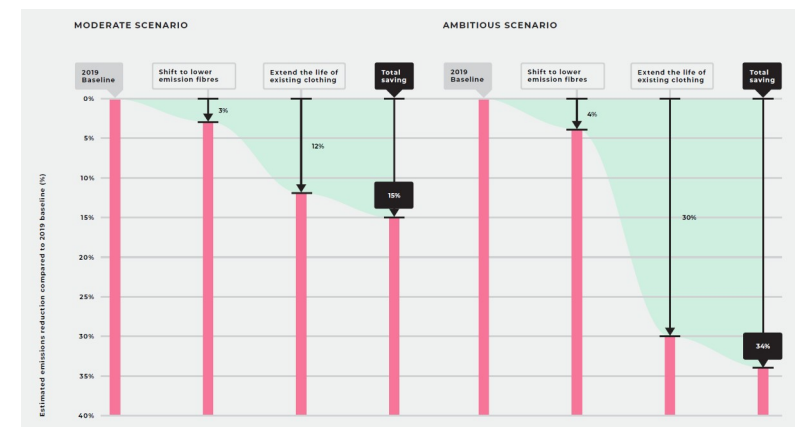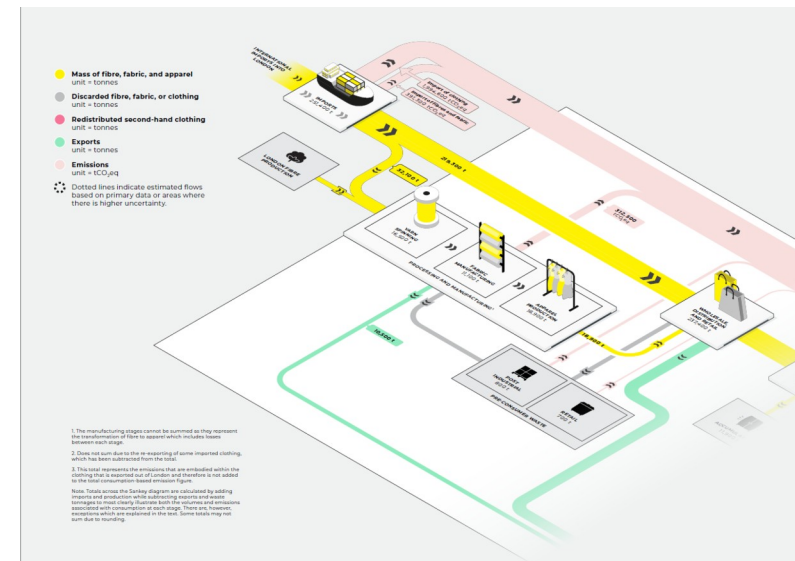
ReLondon's business support programme

- **Date**: Ongoing (Since 2017)

- **Businesses:** Our largest innovator sector, 40% of our 350+ innovators (~120 businesess) tackle textiles in some way.

- **Aim:** provide London's businesses with the support they need to implement or scale circular solutions.

  - **Advice:** Our in-house team of expert business advisors help businesses redesign their business models and validate the commercial and environmental benefits of circular initiatives.
  - **Grants:** We structure and administer grant programmes to achieve outcomes across economic resilience, job creation, and reduction in waste & consumption-based emissions.
  - **Connections:** We organise curated matchmaking events, informed by rigorous needs assessment, aimed at connecting circular innovators to investors, buyers and boroughs; each event is focused on a specific theme/sector. This is complemented by our Circular Economy Matchmaker.
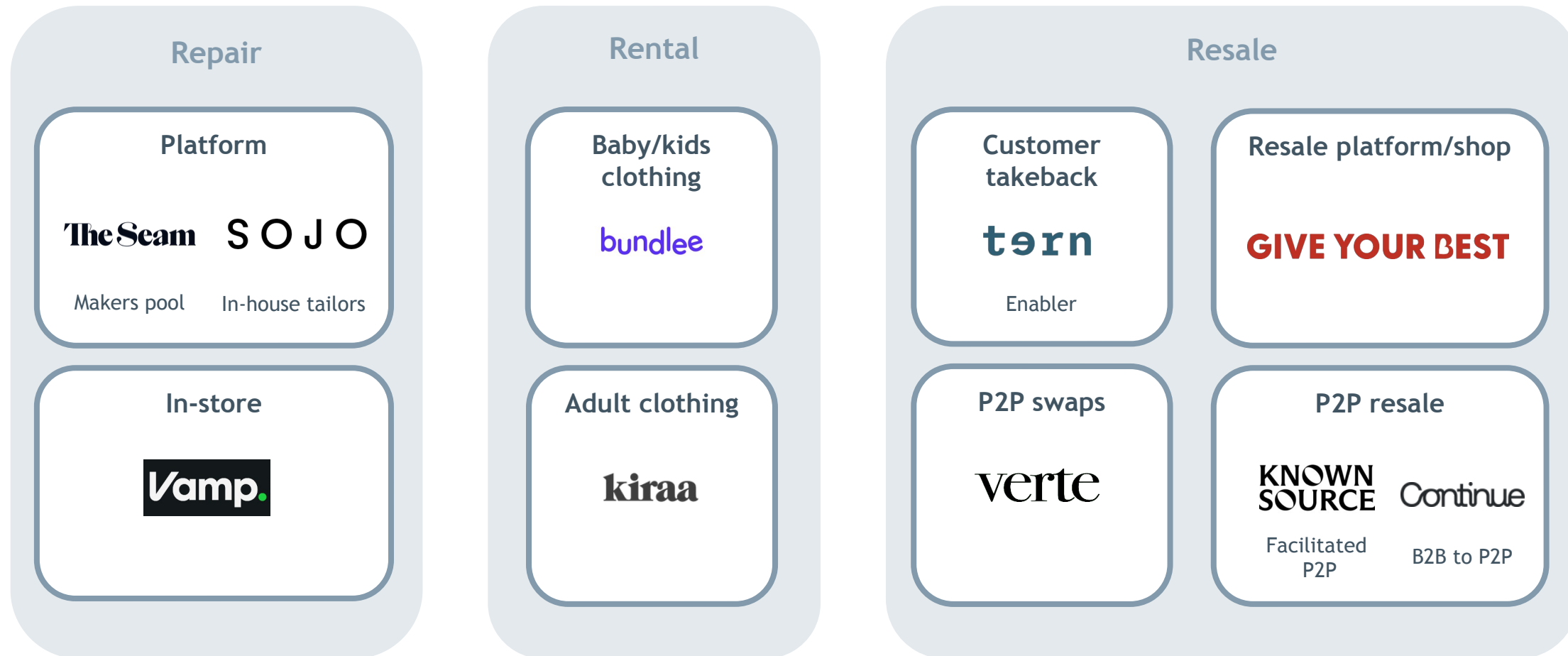
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ReWear Grant programme

- **Timeframe:** November 2024 to March 2025

- **Key partners:** UK Shared Prosperity Fund

- **Aim:** help these circular innovators whose core product/service displace the need for making new clothes to scale their operations and impact.

- **Highlights:**

  - 10 grants of up to £15,000 available for London-based small businesses

  - 99 applications from diverse set of businesses across rewear, resale and repair models.

  - Exploring wrap around support opportunities.

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Solutions map

ReLondon empowers businesses to grow the circular economy

Repair

Platform

The Seam SOJO

Makers pool In-house tailors

In-store

Vamp.

Rental

Baby/kids clothing

bundlee

Adult clothing

kiraa

Resale

Customer takeback

tern

Enabler

Resale platform/shop

GIVE YOUR BEST

P2P swaps

verte

P2P resale

KNOWN SOURCE Continue

Facilitated P2P B2B to P2P

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London Textiles Action Plan

London will be a global hub for circular fashion and textiles by 2030.

Collaborating with industry and citizens, London will nurture creativity and economic opportunities that enable a just, low-carbon and zero-waste fashion sector and set the trend on how textiles are designed, made and used again and again. With world-leading infrastructure, all Londoners can embrace sufficiency, love their clothes for longer through reuse, repair and sharing, and ensure unwanted textiles will find another use.

To deliver this vision, three outcome pillars have been developed:

Pillar 1: Make things well	Pillar 2: Use clothing for as long as possible	Pillar 3: Reuse and recycle disposed clothing locally
Support stakeholders working within the fashion industry to embed and prioritise circular design principles.	Create and enhance opportunities for maintenance and repair and promote the uptake of circular business models.	Improve practices and drive investment into collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure so that unwanted textiles can be managed locally.

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London Textiles Action Plan

1. Establish circular economy hubs for textiles

Industry	SMEs	Local authorities

Support the development of spaces that enable the recovery, remanufacture or reuse of textiles. Hubs hold the potential to reduce waste and support the development of local supply chains. This could also involve skill building and social inclusion co-benefits. Initial funding has been secured to explore the feasibility of this action.

Lead: ReLondon	Pillar aims: 1 (iii), 3 (v, viii, x)	Potential impact: ●●●	Estimated cost: ●●●	Status: Exploring

2. Develop a repair voucher scheme

Citizens	Industry	SMEs	Local authorities

Promote uptake of repair by providing discounted services to citizens across the city. Different models include fully public or public-private partnerships. This activity holds the potential to support local repair shops and can also act as an awareness building campaign. May provide co-benefits such as poverty alleviation, job safeguarding, high-street revitilisation, and community building. Initial funding has been secured to support the feasibility of this action.

Lead: One World Living programme	Pillar aims: 2 (vi), 3 (viii)	Potential impact: ●●●	Estimated cost: ●●●	Status: Exploring

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Summary of potential interventions

tEPR

- Voluntary and/or Mandatory
- Scope, objective, and timeline, market signals
- Support

Quality / Repairability

- Voluntary vs Mandatory
- Fiscal instrument(s), what drives change ?

Recycled content

- Fiscal instrument(s), what drives change ?
- Support; how, who, financed by what?

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Potential interventions for exploration

Textiles Extended Producer Responsibility

- Voluntary vs mandatory, Voluntary feeding into Mandatory ?

- Eco modulation – what are the objectives, should they evolve over time ?

- Timeline, quick wins and/or bigger wins ?

- Support

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