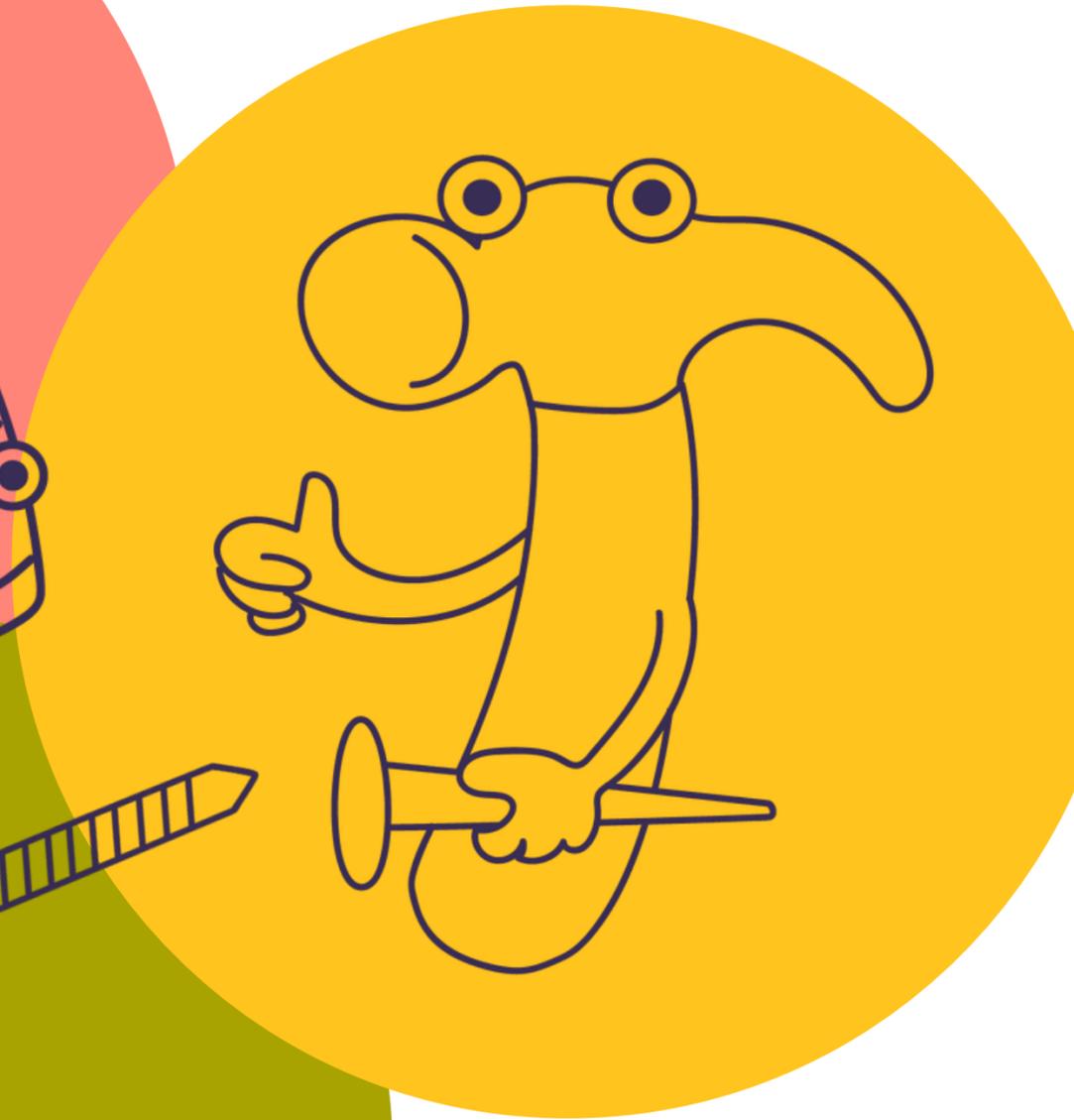


# Glasgow Tool Library



# Scotland & Sweden - National Approaches to Building a Sharing Economy



Glasgow Tool Library



Fritidsbanken (Leisure Bank)

## GTL Overview

- Registered charity in 2018
- Based in Maryhill in North Glasgow
- 2 staff working 4 days a week
- 3 Library Support Staff (former volunteers)
- 50 volunteers across 3 teams
  - Maintenance Team
  - Marketing Team
  - Library Team
- 1,100 Active Members
- 1,200 items - tools, camping, cameras, games
- 19,000 loans
- Community events and training



## Membership Prices

- Supporter Membership - £35+
- Standard Membership - £30
- Saver Membership - £15
- Free membership - £0
- Organisational Membership
- 65% of income

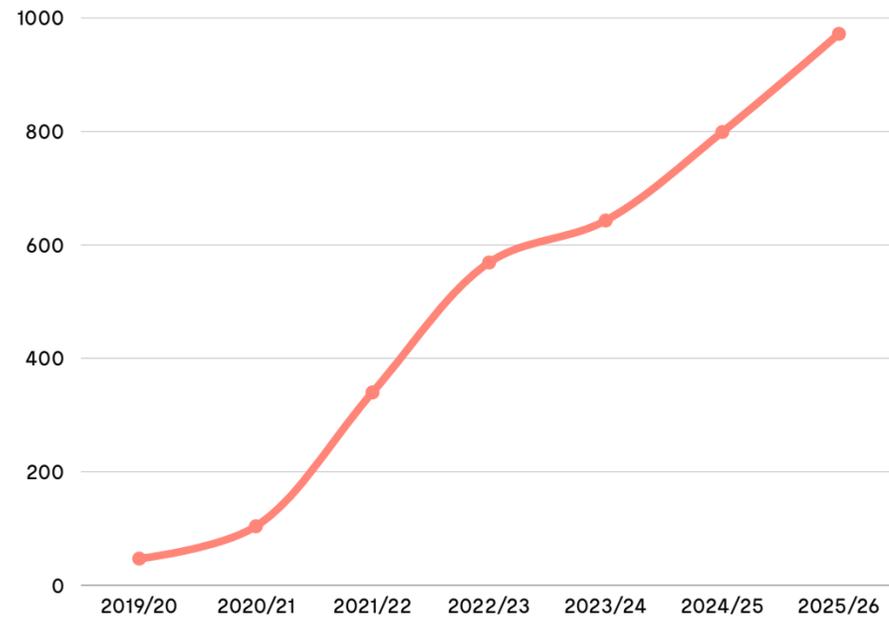
## Hire Fees

- 7p p/d for hand tools
- Up to £2.50 p/d for high value, larger and in demand items
- 25% of income

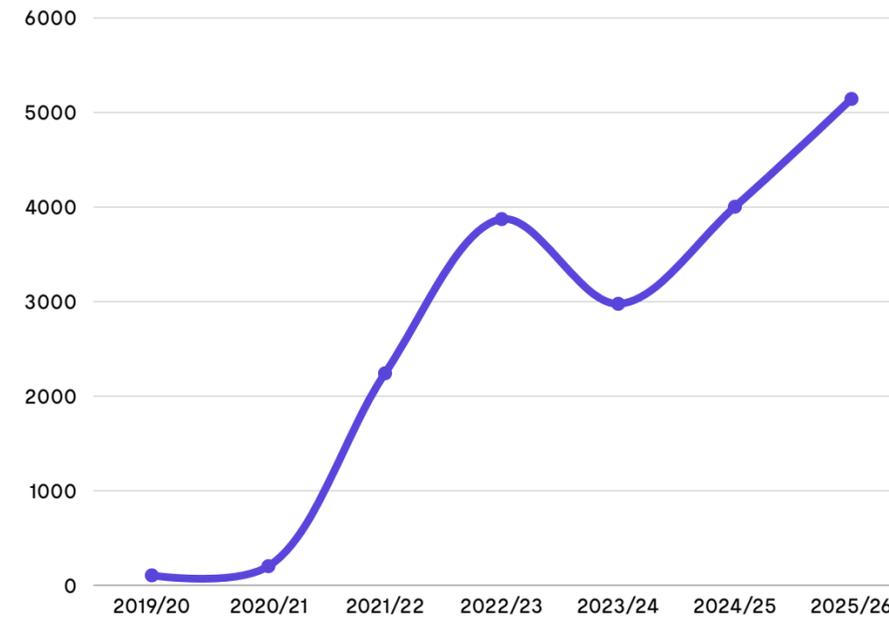


# Growth

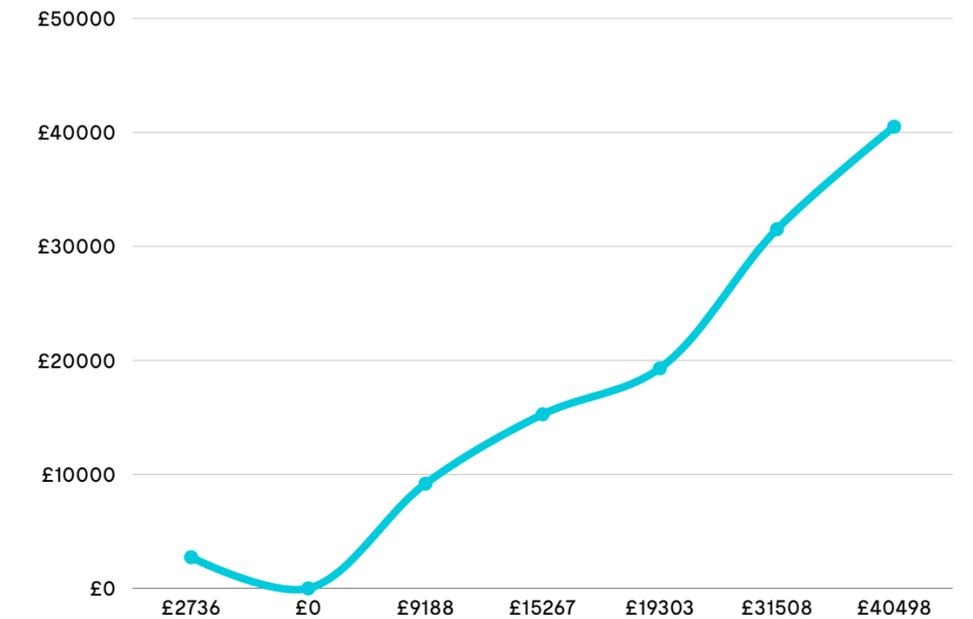
## Members



## Hires



## Income



- 30% annual growth
- Over 50% of running costs covered through trading

# Challenges

- Space - struggle to find suitable affordable space
- Investment - lack of funding and investment in the circular economy
- Political buy-in - strategy and route maps don't result in real support



# How do we build an alternative to consumer society?

- Sharing economy is one piece of the puzzle...
- But how do we scale the sharing economy nationally - social enterprise model vs public service



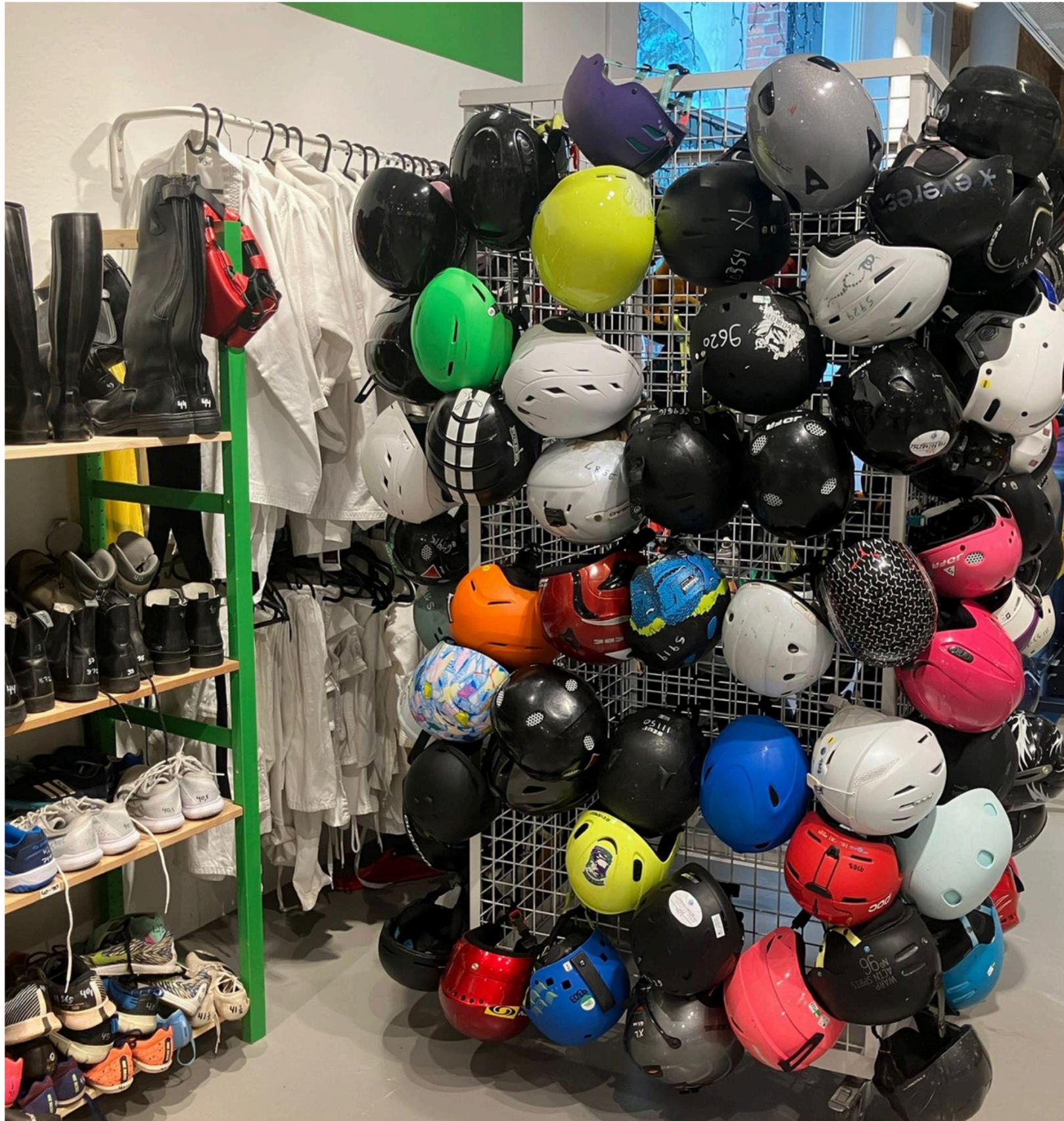


# Fritidsbanken®

“Fritidsbanken is like a library for sports and leisure items.”







- First one set up in 2012 by local authority
- Following year two more set up by neighbouring local authorities
- Now there are 130 throughout 120 municipalities (out of 290) throughout Sweden.
- Another 15 planned to open this year and aim to have a least one in every municipality
- 100% fully funded by local government
- 100% free - no membership, hire or late fees

The logo for Fritidsbanken, featuring the word "Fritids" in a bold, green, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its upper right, and the word "banken" in a similar green font below it.

National NGO that works with local authorities to set up and run Fritidsbanken, bring in national level funding, communicate impact and develop service nationally.

The logo for Fritidsbanken MALMÖ, featuring the word "Fritids" in a bold, green, sans-serif font, "banken" in a similar green font below it, and "MALMÖ" in a bold, black, sans-serif font at the bottom.

Local authority provide start up costs, space, running costs. Comes out of annual budget, like waste management or public libraries

The logo for Arbetsförmedlingen, featuring a green circular icon with a white stylized 'A' shape inside, followed by the text "ARBETSFÖRMEDLINGEN" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, and "SWEDISH PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE" in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font below it.

**ARBETSFÖRMEDLINGEN**  
SWEDISH PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

National government provides staff through a back to work placement scheme.

- No volunteers - 'staff' are employed through national back to work scheme
- Branch manager employed by National NGO
- Marketing and communication all done by local authority
- Developed their own software - much more user friendly than MyTurn





## Impact

**1.8 million**

items borrowed in 2025

**50%**

of users are 20 or younger

**100,000**

item donated annually

“Fritidsbanken often gains cross-party support because it contributes to public health by helping more people access the outdoors.”

“We learned in the process that we need to reach out to the highest level actors in each municipality...**We need to develop the project with the people who are actually in charge of finance. If we don't have meetings with them to explain the project, then they might not secure enough resources to run Fritidsbanken.**”



Fritsidbanken / Swedish System	Glasgow Tool Library / Scottish System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population 10.6 million</li> <li>• 290 municipalities</li> <li>• 130 Sharing Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population 5.5 million</li> <li>• 32 municipalities</li> <li>• 28 Sharing services</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% funded, 100% free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precarious funding, social enterprise model</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More political buy in due to focus on physical health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited buy in as DIY / new homeowners are not disadvantaged demographic</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small and innovative local authorities that are willing to invest, take risks and move quickly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large local authorities that are unwilling to take risks, be innovative or move quickly</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unified approach at a national level, but limited ability for service to adapt to each local context</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fragmented approach, but organisations work directly with their local communities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tied to bureaucracy of local authority - each branch doesn't manage its own marketing, which is centralised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local organisations can develop their own identity, communication and aims</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication, knowledge and resource sharing creates efficiencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration, but limited capacity to work together in more strategic ways</li> </ul>

# Scotland & Sweden - National Approaches to Building a Sharing Economy

- Pros and cons to both models
  - Sweden - focus on health has more buy in and 100% funded, but more bureaucratic
  - Scotland - greater flexibility to adapt to local area, but very precarious
- What can we learn from the approach in Sweden?
  - Is it a model that can be replicated here - 290 municipalities vs 32 municipalities
- Amazing work done in Scotland...
  - But - should we aim to set up more and more underfunded and precarious equipment libraries, or should we use our experience, evidence and international examples to campaign for fully funded (leisure?) equipment libraries across the country?

