



## Sofa so good . . . website is a dead giveaway

ONE person's junk is another's prized possession.

And a new website launched yesterday aims to turn one into the other.

Keen to reduce the amount of household goods going to landfill, the Dublin local authorities have set up a website which allows people to swap or give away household goods by advertising them online for free.

Dublin's Lord Mayor Vincent Jackson yesterday launched 'Free Trade' which lists a range of the free items available including furniture, stereos, baby products, garden items, books, clothes

and lots more.

And despite only being live for a few hours, by early last evening there were already 70 items online.

One woman in Dun Laoghaire was giving away most of her wardrobe, including a blue sheepskin sleeveless jacket and pair of red shoes.

There was a baby's buggy available, a copy of the Official Driver Theory Test for Learner Drivers (which "helped previous owner to secure licence"), beds, sofas, top soil and a set of hair straighteners.

The service is hosted on the website, www.Dublin-

Waste.ie and is run by the four Dublin local authorities. "People moving house or re-decorating often want to change their suite of furniture or TV, but can't trade in the old one and that's where www.DublinWaste.ie comes in," Hugh Coughlan from Dublin City Council said.

"The website allows them to advertise items for free and advises on how to make contact with prospective new owners.

"We envisage Free Trade being very popular among first-time buyers, students and landlords, but we would encourage everybody in Dublin who

is looking for household goods to check it out before rushing out to spend money on new goods, because everything on the site is usually in good condition and is absolutely free."

There are more than 20 categories of household items on the site, and advice for users to be sensible and take precautions when making arrangements to meet strangers.

The team can be contacted by phone (01-6676880) or by email at [info@dublinwaste.ie](mailto:info@dublinwaste.ie).

Our picture shows the mayor with model Ruth Griffin at the launch

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