

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 10 August 2021

Title: Thermal Imaging Camera

Contact Officer: Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer - Angus Whitburn

Background

At the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee meeting on the 15th of December 2020 it was agreed to purchase a thermal imaging camera. The thermal imaging camera would be made available to residents to hire.

Current Situation

Hire Scheme

The front facing Administration Office is now open. The thermal imaging camera rental scheme is something Witney Town Council should be offering out in time for the winter months.

A completely free scheme would probably see the biggest uptake however the camera or cameras may need replacing, repairing, or re-calibrating and if the funds are not available it would end the scheme. A small charge would accumulate quickly over the course of a year but this could be off putting to residents.

The thermal imaging cameras can be supplied with a simple set up guide. A questionnaire could then be completed after the camera is returned to assess if the thermal imaging camera rental scheme is making a difference.

Camera Types

Octopus Energy run a free scheme for account holders that use FLIR cameras that plug into a smart phone. They utilise the smart phones technology and present a very easy to use system. Alternatively thermal imaging complete camera units are the more popular choice. However, the lower priced models do have issues with image resolution. The device selected must provide users with the information they expect otherwise they are completely ineffective.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

This is a community scheme that will hopefully see residents make improvements to their home insulation. If the scheme proves popular then the accumulated results and remedial work could make a large difference to the carbon emissions of Witney.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

For the scheme to be successful its crucial the equipment is readily available and in working order. The scheme should only be offered during the colder month when heat loss can be better identified through use of thermal imaging cameras.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- There is £1,000 budgeted for the Eco/Green pop-up event is split between the event and the thermal imaging camera, currently split as£400 towards the event and £600 for the camera.
- Complete FLIR camera units are available at the costs of £452.00 or £530.10 (both excluding VAT).
- Smartphone Camera Units: 2 units (IOS and android) are available for £722.00 (excluding VAT). If members were to be supportive of this option, it would reduce the eco/green pop-up event budget to £278.00

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. A free or charged scheme for the use of the thermal imaging camera.

The purchase of the thermal imaging camera and available budgets. Members may like to consider delegation to officers based on feedback and professional advice.