

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 12 July 2022

Title: Thermal Imaging Camera

Contact Officer: Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer - Angus Whitburn

Background

In August 2021 it was agreed by council to purchase a thermal imaging camera that would be available to hire for residents of Witney. The camera will help residents identify areas in their homes which allow energy to escape.

There were concerns about the security of the camera and possible theft and damage, so it was agreed by council that a community group be approached to take ownership of the unit.

Current Situation

A suitable community group to adopt the thermal imaging camera is yet to be found. More promotion could be made but the council are still dependent on a community group coming forward to get the project off the ground.

It was originally reported to councillors by the Maintenance & Environmental Service officer in August 2021 that the camera be hireable from the administration office for a small deposit or hire fee. Returning to this suggestion it would help to implement the service to residents quicker before it is potentially in high demand in autumn and winter.

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.

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.

In lending out equipment the council are taking a risk in the equipment getting damaged stolen or lost. If the equipment was lost or stolen it would be reported as theft. To help identification of the asset, a tamper proof asset tag would be in place.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- There is not an available budget to replace the thermal imaging camera so if it was lost, stolen or damaged beyond repair the council would not be able to replace it.

Recommendations

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

1. Discuss implementing a charged deposit scheme for the rental of the thermal imaging camera.
2. Collection of a deposit that is returnable or a hire charge that is retained by council to purchase a replacement unit or pay for repairs.