

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER MEETING – COUNCIL SERVICES

27 March 2014

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE RESOURCE REDISTRIBUTION NETWORK – WARP-it.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek approval for Derbyshire County Council to subscribe to the WARP-it resource redistribution network.

2. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

The Council's Corporate Environment Policy outlines the organisation's commitment to sustainable development, in particular by protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment and through responsible purchasing and contracts.

The County Council currently has a centrally controlled furniture reuse/redistribution system, put in place as part of changing the way Derbyshire works. Whilst this system enables some reuse, recycling and disposal of furniture it doesn't have any carbon auditing capabilities, and isn't effective across all departments. In addition the current system only seeks to redistribute items of furniture and does not take into account other office items such as fixtures and fittings, electrical items, consumables; paper, cartridges etc.

Best practice from other authorities has highlighted the potential to enhance the Council's approach to resource redistribution by adopting a more efficient system which would also allow the authority to save financially. A procurement exercise has been undertaken and WARP-it have been identified as the only company that fully meet the council's criteria.

WARP-it is a redistribution network which makes it easy for individuals in an organisation to give away or loan unwanted items to others inside the same organisation or beyond. WARP-it is also able to provide financial reporting, carbon emissions reporting and is also able to report on how much waste has been diverted from landfill. WARP-it will allow the council to improve on the current system and potentially re-use more office items.

The WARP-it network also allows the loaning and borrowing of equipment which would be of a wider benefit to the community, voluntary sector and schools. It can be used as a joint asset management system between

organisations and can potentially aid those who need business continuity during emergency situations e.g. flooding.

Instead of buying new, staff can find spare equipment for free. WARP-it creates an active marketplace which is easy for staff to search, view and claim. The marketplace platform allows safe and legal resource distribution or loan and guarantees both financial and carbon savings for the authority.

3. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost for annual subscription to WARP-it is £2,000 and can be met from the corporate sustainability budget. Included in the cost is the setup of the network across the council, and all legally required terms and conditions statements, which will be customised to suit the authority. It also provides the council with training and on-going support for staff using the system, communications campaign support (in conjunction with PR), and reporting systems.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Developing a 'resource redistribution network' demonstrates Derbyshire County Council's commitment to minimising waste by implementing the best practicable environmental option. The system will also help to manage unavoidable waste in accordance with the Council's Environment Policy.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Quotation procedure, January/February 2014 - Held in Policy and Research.

6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; the prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, health, legal and human rights, personnel, property and transport considerations.

7. KEY DECISION

No

8. OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That approval is given for Derbyshire County Council to subscribe to the WARP-it resource redistribution network for a period of 12 months.
2. That an evaluation of the benefits is carried out after 12 months to gauge success and the potential for continuation.

Ian Stephenson
Chief Executive