

Meeting	Finance and Policy Committee
Date	14 th July 2026
Report Title	Thermal Imaging Camera
Agenda Reference	14
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Recommendations:

1. Increase awareness and promotion of the scheme to encourage greater uptake and increase the number of hires.
2. Consider if a hire charge is necessary to support the ongoing administration of the scheme and encourage value and commitment from borrowers.

Background

Haydon Wick Parish Council introduced a Thermal Imaging Camera Loan Scheme to help residents identify heat loss within their homes, enabling them to make informed decisions about energy-efficiency improvements and reduce household energy costs.

The camera is currently available to parish residents free of charge. It can help identify opportunities for both minor improvements, such as sealing draughts around doors and windows, and larger measures such as additional insulation.

Using infrared technology, the camera detects areas where heat is escaping from a property, highlighting common problem areas including doors, windows, letterboxes, and external plumbing fixtures. Addressing these issues can often be achieved at relatively low cost while delivering meaningful savings on energy bills.

The scheme also supports the Council's strategic health and wellbeing objectives. Maintaining a warm home during winter can help reduce the impacts of cold-related health conditions, including respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, and poor mental health.

Hiring Process

The camera is available for loan to Haydon Wick parish residents and can be reserved through the Parish Council. Borrowers collect the camera from the Council offices and may retain it for a loan period of one week. The device connects to a smartphone or tablet via Bluetooth and operates through the free FLIR ONE application. As the scheme is restricted to Haydon Wick parishioners, borrowers are required to provide proof of address prior to collection. To simplify the booking process, communications materials include a QR code directing residents to further information and booking details.

Usage to Date

Since the scheme launched in early May, the camera has been hired on two occasions, both occurring shortly after the launch. Feedback from both residents was positive, with users reporting that the camera helped identify areas of heat loss and energy inefficiency within their homes.

Promotion of the scheme has included:

- Articles in the Parish magazine
- Social media posts
- A dedicated page on the Parish Council website



Discover Hidden Heat Loss in Your Home

Free Thermal Imaging Camera Hire



Costs

The initial purchase cost of the thermal imaging camera was **£314.00**. No additional expenditure is currently anticipated, as the camera is stored and transported in a purpose-designed protective hard case.

The Council may wish to consider introducing a hire charge. By way of comparison, Chiseldon Parish Council currently charges £15 per hire for a similar service, however other Swindon Parishes do not charge.

Future Communications

Engagement with energy-saving initiatives is typically higher during the autumn and winter months when household energy consumption increases and heating costs become a greater concern.

It is therefore recommended that a renewed promotional campaign be launched in September, potentially linked to Government winter fuel payment announcements. Additionally, 'Big Energy Saving Week' typically held in January is a national campaign backed by the [Energy Saving Trust](#) and Citizens Advice to help households lower bills and cut emissions. This would provide a strong lead-in to the winter period, which officially begins on 1st December, and could help increase awareness and uptake of the scheme during the time when residents are most likely to benefit from it.