



CASE STUDY

Northumberland County Council

Northumberland County Council is a very large rural council in the Northeast of England which recently underwent huge restructuring as the seven district councils became one.

Overview

- Very large rural council
- Blocked purchase of new items
- Had a store of items after building rationalisation
- Saved £68K on internal purchasing in the first 4 months
- Worked in partnership with third sector and business community
- Chief executive level support
- Led by procurement department



<http://youtube/ip3pvJdiqw8>

Julie Parkinson, Category procurement manager,
talks about how procurement was reduced dramatically using Warp It.

The challenge

At Northumberland County Council (NCC), the local government review forced department mergers and therefore multiple office moves, resulting in a significant excess of items of office furniture and office accessories.

Warp It is an easy-to-use online portal which provides a platform for organisations to redistribute (give, loan) resources legally and conveniently within an organisation, but also beyond - within other organisations. The platform

- Makes it easy for staff within an organisation to find colleagues with items to spare inside the same organisation or beyond - reducing procurement spend
- Makes it easy for individuals within an organisation, who wish to part with items, to find new owners - saving on waste disposal

Warp It: Benefits to the organisation

- Reduction of unnecessary procurement
- Reduction of waste
- Savings of staff purchasing time
- Better use of space
- Better internal collaboration

- Support local organisations
- Recording and tracking of assets across the organisation
- Convenient marketplace for staff
- Storage stock flow facility
- Loans of underused resources with idling capacity
- Opening-up of internal network to partners prioritising internal staff
- Downloadable management reports for procurement and environmental savings
- System management for whole building clearances
- Deals with waste legislation and liability
- Access control for staff
- Integration with existing portering or task management software



Warp It Reuse Procurement Building Clearance

**The Warp It team at NCC; (from left to right)
 Steve Stewart (Chief Executive of Northumberland County Council),
 Julie Parkinson (Senior Category Specialist),
 Daniel O'Connor (Chief Executive of Warp It),
 Gordon Pearson (Supporting Project Officer) and Paul Smart (Chief Executive of Revive)**

NCC had spent £55,025.10 on furniture from April 2011 to June 2011. The business case for Warp It was that efficiency savings could be achieved by re-distribution within the authority and schools, thereby reducing demand and spend on new items.

High level support

Warp it implementation has high level support. NCC Chief Executive, Steve Stewart said: "As an environmentally-conscious organisation, we are always looking for innovative methods to enable us to reach our goals."

Savings

The following savings have been produced by NCC and have been a result of the effect of allowing staff to share existing items rather than buying new.

Financial Year	NCC Actual Spend Data (furniture items) Including Schools	% Spend Decrease Due to Warp it implementation
2011 - 2012	£97,614.16	N/A (Warp It implemented Feb 12)
2012 - 2013	£35,320.35	64%

Supporting third sector

NCC partnered with local social enterprise, to provide the manpower to transport goods from storage to their new location.

Paul Smart, Chief Executive of the social enterprise company said: "We are able to combine the transportation of furniture and equipment to offices with our existing charitable work involving collection and delivery of low-cost furniture to families on low incomes."

Sustainable procurement and supporting schools

Julie Parkinson, Category Procurement Specialist, Northumberland County Council said, "Warp It has created a process for re-distribution of furniture and items across the authority. The schools in Northumberland have an easy way to access surplus resources. This has led to a change in culture for the authority with less demand for new goods."



NCC won an award from the Society of Procurement Officers (SOPO) for using the system to reduce procurement so dramatically.

Julie went on, "Warp It is a no brainer. There are so many benefits to the authority using Warp it. Led by Procurement, we have managed to intercept orders and steer staff to this portal which not only saves our disposal costs but reduces spend. Overall after only a few months, the benefits have been fantastic!"



Northumberland had a store for furniture reuse

Value for money

Lee Jackson, Commercial and Procurement Services Manager at the council said, "The Commercial and Procurement Team saw the potential of Warp it and are delighted with the achievements to date. The Warp It portal is easy to use and is easily applicable to other organisations – if Northumberland can achieve over £60,000.00 of savings in such a short period of time, other organisations with traditionally higher spend could achieve much more."