

STREETSMART AND HIGHWAYS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2015

15. Street Lighting

The Committee received a report setting out the current provision of the street lighting service and options currently being considered to reduce energy consumption and manage street lighting assets.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Transport, introduced the report and noted that funding is usually borrowed to pay for replacement costs. Replacing the current lamps with LEDs is too cost prohibitive so thought needs to be given on what the priorities are for this service as the Council is currently spending around £1m per year on the electric bill for the columns and energy prices keep on increasing. He also highlighted the three outline business cases that officers are currently proposing to develop for consideration in early 2016, as set out in paragraph 3.17 of the report.

After the presentation of the report and Appendix 1, members asked questions and made observations on the following issues:

- The problems with street lights which remain on during daylight hours and how they are reported and fixed.
- The need for a cost-effective maintenance programme which is monitored to ensure an effective use of resources.
- The potential impact to any maintenance regime with a switch to LED lights.
- The design life of the street lighting infrastructure currently in situ in Swindon, and associated maintenance costs in relation to the longevity of the column.
- The statutory requirements and responsibility for street lighting services.
- The coding used by Southern Electric to calculate the electricity consumption and subsequent bill they produce.
- The potential for council assets to be used for electricity production which could be sold or used for street lighting.
- The ordering of priority on replacement or maintenance of columns.
- Future developments in technology in this area and their potential impact.
- The lessons learnt from the unsuccessful bid for LED street lighting conversion and concrete column replacement.
- The criteria used to determine electrical inspections and testing as set out in Appendix 1.
- The manufacturer guarantees that come with the different columns or lanterns used.

Resolved (unanimously): (1) To request that Cabinet look at the options to reduce energy use by up to 40% on street lighting.

(2) To request that the Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Transport brings an update report to a future meeting of this Committee regarding the range of options available to help achieve this target.