

Appendices:

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NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Cabinet response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Street Lighting
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	11 January 2017
Key Decision:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Regeneration Enterprise and Planning
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Tim Hadland
Ward(s)	All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to respond to the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny Report to NBC owned Street Lighting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet:
- 2.2 Note the recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report on Northampton Borough Council (NBC) owned street lighting.
- 2.3 That a Member/Officer working group is created to oversee the completion of the asset list, options appraisal and final business case in relation to NBC owned street lighting.
- 2.4 That the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, is invited to submit a report to Cabinet to present the findings of the work stream and make recommendations regarding the way forward.

2.5 That the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group are formally congratulated on a high quality and comprehensive report and thanked for the time and effort given to producing it.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Working Group was to differentiate between NBC and Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) owned street lighting.

3.1.2 Key lines of Enquiry

- Investigate all NBC owned street lighting, not just those in situ on housing land
- Differentiate between NBC and NCC owned street lighting
- How the public can report problems and issues with street lighting
- Cost of NBC owned street lighting and energy consumption
- On-going costs for NBC street lighting

3.1.3 Conclusions from the Scrutiny work included:

3.1.4 Energy costs

3.1.5 NBC is recharged for electricity used for specific events such as the Christmas lights. NCC purchases its electricity from Laser Group.

3.1.6 The Working Group acknowledges that there is a need to ensure the Council is getting the best possible price on electricity. It would be useful for NBC street lighting to be of low energy lighting. The Working Group noted that NCC turns down its street lighting during night time hours, therefore reducing energy consumption.

3.1.7 There is no dedicated funding in respect of NBC owned street lighting with the exception of Christmas lighting. There is also no current identified revenue budget for the additional street lighting.

3.1.8 Identification of street lighting

3.1.9 The Working Group highlights the need for the inclusion of reference numbers on NBC owned street lighting columns that identify clearly they are owned and maintained by NBC.

3.1.10 It is felt that there is a need for discussions to take place between NBC, NCC and Balfour Beatty to ascertain whether it would be possible for NBC to “dovetail” onto its interactive mapping system. NCC will be provided with details of the NBC street lighting columns.

3.1.11 Public access to NBC owned street lighting columns

3.1.12 When eastings and northings referencing is completed; the NBC owned street lighting will be plotted onto the Council's interactive mapping system.

3.1.13 The Working Group emphasises the need for one clear reporting mechanism for the public regarding all NBC owned street lighting. It felt that the majority of street maintenance issues will be reported by the public to Street Doctor. The production of the Corporate Asset List will inform ownership of the street lighting.

3.1.14 Maintenance and repair costs – street lightings

3.1.15 Evidence received details that each street lighting column costs around £30 - £50 per year in electricity, depending on wattage, which can range from 30-150 watts. Maintenance costs for 744 lighting columns equates to approximately £50,000 per year. It is acknowledged that this amount could change when the Corporate Asset List is finalised. The Working Group felt that it would be beneficial for consideration to be given to looking at a shared street lighting specialist, with Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), for the 744 NBC owned street lighting columns. It is further felt that maintenance would be cheaper if the test was undertaken in a programmed way; such as a number of columns tested in a day rather than on an ad hoc basis.

3.1.16 Evidence received highlights that there is no revenue or capital budget for NBC owned street lighting and discussions will have to take place regarding assets and maintenance.

3.1.17 Invest to Save Programme - Street Lighting

3.1.18 From the evidence received, the Working Group acknowledges the need for an Invest to Save Programme for NBC owned street lighting. It recognises that NCC has installed energy efficient lighting.

3.1.19 The Working Group recognises that discussions between NBC, NPH and Northamptonshire Police regarding the need and appropriateness for lighting and what areas should/should not be lit should take place.

3.1.20 The Working Group acknowledges that there is a need to ascertain whether the current level of 744 lighting columns is required; for example the lighting of parks. The views of Northamptonshire Police would be useful.

3.1.21 Report It App.

3.1.21 The Working Group highlights the value of the Report It App. and felt it would be useful for details of NBC owned street lighting to be included within the App.

3.1.22 Training

- 3.1.23 Evidence received highlights the need for training of relevant officers, such as customer services staff, regarding the difference between NCC and NBC lighting and to which Authority maintenance issues should be reported to.
- 3.1.24 One clear reporting mechanism for problems with NBC owned street lighting needs to be easily available for the public. A clear reporting mechanism, together with the interactive active mapping system, will make identification and reporting of street lighting columns easier.

3.2 Recommendations and Service Responses

- 3.2.1 It has been established through the work of the Scrutiny Group that there are a large number of NBC owned street lights that currently are not managed, maintained or funded by NBC. As such, there are unquantified risks to the Authority should NCC request a financial contribution towards the maintenance/energy, and the safety of the NBC stock in relation to the general public.
- 3.2.3 The Scrutiny group identified 744 lamp columns throughout the town in the ownership of NBC, however the Group accepts that this is not an exhaustive assets list and as such there are a number of unidentified NBC street lights.
- 3.2.4 Without a comprehensive package of information that will feed from a completed asset list, it is difficult for Cabinet to be advised and subsequently make financial decisions regarding invest to save programmes or contributions to third parties. As such it is proposed that a work stream is created to identify the full list of NBC owned street lights as a matter of urgency.
- 3.2.5 Following the completion of the asset list an options appraisal covering the full range of options available to the Borough Council will be produced. The options identified will include a comprehensive risk analysis and an assessment of value for money to the Authority of the different options. The options appraisal will be presented to Cabinet in due course and will also identify the most appropriate way for the public to report street light faults on NBC owned street lights.
- Business as usual; no changes;
 - Switching off some of the NBC owned Street lights;
 - A financial contribution to NCC for the maintenance and energy costs of the street lights;
 - An invest to save programme for the NBC owned Street lights; and
 - The report will also identify the most appropriate way for the public to report street light faults on NBC owned street lights.
- 3.2.6 Cabinet should be made aware that there is currently no identified budget for NBC owned street lighting. In addition to the direct financial contributions that may be proposed through the options appraisal, it must also recognise that additional officer resource may be required to ensure that there are regular surveys and tests carried out of the NBC stock.
- 3.2.7 The work stream will be completed by the Regeneration and Economic Development service area; however it is recommended that an Officer/Member working Group is established to oversee the work.

3.2.8 Indicative work programme:

- Cabinet Approval of recommendations – 11th January 2017
- Officer/Member working party established – February 2017
- Work stream scoping exercise undertaken – February/March 2017
- Work programme agreed by Working party – March/April 2017
- Completion of the NBC owned street lighting asset list – May/June 2017.
- Options appraisal undertaken; including full cost implications and risk analysis – July/August 2017
- Officer/Member working party agree options appraisal – August/September 2017
- Report to Cabinet autumn 2017

3.3 Choices (Options)

- 3.3.1 Cabinet can choose to approve the recommendations and the associated work programme. This will allow the Authority to complete the NBC street light asset list and complete an options appraisal and report back to Cabinet with further recommendations. This is the recommended option.
- 3.3.2 Cabinet can choose not to approve the recommendations. This leave the Authority exposed to potential future unforeseen costs and risks.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1.1 Policy

- 4.1.2 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 There will be a resource implication through officer time to complete the work; scoping work may suggest additional officer capacity to complete the work programme. There are no other financial implications arising as a result of this report.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 There are no particular legal risks which arise directly from the recommendations of this report, although the current lack of an asset list does present some existing risks in terms of potentially unidentified maintenance issues and these should be reduced by the implementation of the recommendation.

4.4 Equality and Health

- 4.4.1 There are no Equality or Health implications arising from this report, however it should be noted that the next report back to Cabinet may identify several

areas that impact equality and health. As such a full assessment will be presented at the relevant point.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Internal officers have been consulted.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods - Creating an attractive, clean and safe environment.

5. Background Papers

Recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee – NBC Owned Street Lighting.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee report – NBC Owned Street Lighting

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13 June 2016

John Dale, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, X7078