



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 JUNE 2018
BRIEFING NOTE: NBC STREET LIGHTING

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) were maintaining and paying the electricity for a number of Northampton Borough Council (NBC) owned street lights for a number of years. NCC wanted to transfer the 581 street lights back to NBC to manage and maintain. This was on the basis any that were not accepted by NBC would be removed.
- 1.2 Following the Overview and Scrutiny report in July 2015 and the Cabinet response in January 2017, an Officer/Member working group was established which is chaired by the Deputy Leader, Cllr Phil Larratt. The working group has met on eleven occasions with the next planned for July 2018. The key responsibility of the working group is to identify, monitor and evaluate current usage of all NBC owned Street Lighting. The working group were to oversee the transfer of those street lights which are owned by NBC but were managed and maintained by NCC.
- 1.3 The lighting in question sits on a number of parks and housing estate areas. The housing areas are currently managed on behalf of NBC by Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH). The responsibility of the 581 lighting columns breakdown is as follows:

NBC Assets: 174 (30%)
NPH Assets: 407 (70%)

The responsibility for the management and maintenance of the lights will fall as per the percentages above. Discussions around this are being held between NBC and NPH.

- 1.4 This paper provides an update on progress made and the next steps.

2. UPDATE

- 2.1 Following negotiations with NCC, and the agreement of Cabinet on 13 September 2017, NBC accepted the transfer of 581 street lights from NCC in October 2017, this was on the basis NBC were to manage and maintain these assets.
- 2.2 Cabinet also approved an additional revenue budget of £70k per year to address ongoing electricity and maintenance costs.
- 2.3 A Full Asset List and GIS Map has now been completed to show the location of all of the NBC lighting assets across the borough. This has been completed with a view to using this as a base for an interactive mapping system.
- 2.4 Following on from the transfer, NBC is taking this opportunity to undertake a review of their lighting assets and understand more about what their future obligations are. To address this, NBC is commissioning a conditions survey to understand the current condition, any potential safety issues and any costs of repairs/replacements to a total of 1,303 lights. These lights are mainly located in parks and housing estates across the Borough of Northampton.
- 2.5 To understand better NBC's existing and newly acquired assets and potentially look at an 'Invest to Save Programme', NBC have requested a survey to cover the following:

A full condition and safety survey of each lighting column and lamp to:

- Ensure that the lights are fully functional
- Locate the controls and supply for each lighting column
- Advise on the type of lamp, light level and energy consumption with options and payback for LED and improved controls where relevant
- Include an E.I.C.R and Integrity test to ensure that the columns are safe and in good condition and ensure that there are no additions such as hanging baskets, posters or any other fittings which should not be there.
- Ensure there are no exposed wires or other safety issues
- Advise if the lighting is required for the area to be suitably illuminated or if the light can be removed

These works will include a report backed up with photographs and a table of costs advising:

- Replacement and repair costs for columns and lamps where required
- When further inspections are necessary and the cost
- An options appraisal showing appropriate suggestions of which to maintain and which could potentially be removed to include different options available to NBC/NPH and the costs associated with each.

The development of a suitable identification numbering system of the asset list - this will be used to ensure people needing to report a fault know who to contact and differentiate between lights on NBC and NPH land. A related northing and easting will need to be included in the final asset list.

The design and installation of a labelling system - this will be fixed onto the lighting columns as the survey is being undertaken. These labels will simply outline that they are owned by NBC, the ID Number and the contact information should there be an issue. The labels should also relate back to the asset list.

- 2.6 This Conditions Survey and Options Appraisal has now been commissioned (*will be by the time of the O&S meeting*). Thorn Electrical (Northampton) Ltd are undertaking the survey works which are expected to be completed by the end of July 2018.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 NBC is in the process of setting up Street Lighting as part of the 'Report It' app. Once the labelling system has been put in place as part of the survey works, people will simply be able to take a picture of the label and send it through with the reported issue. It will then be directed to NBC/NPH depending on its location.
- 3.2 A management company will be procured to undertake the management and maintenance of the street lighting assets across the borough. The procurement of the management company will be informed by the final survey and will help to ensure comprehensive management and maintenance of the lighting across the borough. There will also be a universal reporting method making it easier for our customers to report a fault. A minimum call out and repair time will also be able to be enforced. At present, it is difficult to ensure this due to lack of resources.
- 3.3 Discussions have already been held with LGSS Procurement on the best way forward in terms of procuring the management company. The first avenue to explore is using the existing contract in place between NCC and Balfour Beatty as they are already familiar with the lighting assets. An initial meeting has been held with them and Balfour Beatty are in the process of putting together some initial costings based on the information they already have. A full costing will not be able to be estimated until the survey work has been completed.
- 3.4 Should using the existing contract with Balfour Beatty not be acceptable for any reason, NBC will then use an ESPO framework to procure the management company.
- 3.5 NBC/NPH also plan to undertake an 'Invest to Save Programme' which will be informed by the options appraisal following the completion of the survey work.

4. THE WAY FORWARD

- 4.1 The information within the survey report and options appraisal will allow NBC and NPH to make an informed decision on the future of each street light asset. This will include upgrading, removal and replacement. Recommendations from this report will be consulted on with the relevant wards and taken to Cabinet for approval.
- 4.2 September Cabinet 2017 noted that further investigation would be undertaken by officers into an 'Invest to Save Programme' for all NBC street lights that may lead to a further report to Cabinet in due course. An additional capital budget may need to be considered at this point as part of the Council's overall capital programme.
- 4.3 NBC and NPH to negotiate with a management company to manage and maintain the lighting assets on behalf of NBC and NPH.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That Overview & Scrutiny;
 - 1. Note the progress that has been made to date and invites the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning to submit a further update in due course
 - 2. Endorse the way forward outlined in this briefing.

Rick O'Farrell
Senior Regeneration Consultant
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