

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 6th January 2016

CONTACT OFFICER: Sing-Wai Yu – Team Leader,
Highway Maintenance & Asset Management (01753) 875628

WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR INFORMATION

Street Lighting Maintenance and Upgrade

1. **Purpose of Report**

To inform the panel members of the current street lighting maintenance contract status with SSE and the forthcoming LED upgrade project commencing April 2016.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Panel is requested to note the content of this report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities**

- ***Regeneration and Environment***

Street Lighting is a key part of the infrastructure assets in Slough. A well maintained and improved street lighting stock will help to deliver a number of outcomes set out in the councils new five year plan (2015/19). Improving street lighting throughout the town will dramatically increase the publics perception of personal safety and help towards delivering outcomes 4 and 5 (*4. Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley and 5. Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances*). It can promote security for drivers, riders and pedestrians in urban areas and can be used to increase the quality of life by artificially extending the hours in which it is light, so that various community and business activities can take place. Another positive impact on the environment will be a reduction in energy consumption and reduction in the upward sky glow with luminaires that distribute light in a more efficient manner.

- ***Safer Communities***

Also improving the perception of personal safety, it is envisaged that greater numbers of the public will be encouraged to walk and cycle after dark.

3b. **Sustainable Community Strategy: Cross-Cutting themes**

A well lit highway network in Slough forms a part of the highway asset management plan. This promotes optimal allocation of resources for the management, operation, preservation and enhancement of the highway infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future customers.

3c. **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

- ***Improve the quality and availability of housing and environment for Slough residents***

A well lit public highway network in Slough will ensure that all sections of the communities can traffic on the highway in a safe manner during dark hours. Also enabling public transport and emergency vehicles to reach their destinations more efficiently and safely, as well as promote a more positive and welcoming environment for residents and visitors.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

LED Upgrade project:

If the street lighting stock is left as it is energy/carbon pressures will grow from a forecasted pressure of £120K in 14/15 by around 6-10% per annum plus any government increases in carbon charges. 1290 concrete street lighting columns are in poor condition and unsuitable for LED lantern retrofitting so these will need changing over the next few years at a cost of £1.2M. Without a CMS remote dimming (providing additional reduced energy/carbon use) is not possible and scouting of defects and outages will continue as in the street lighting maintenance contract.

The complete replacement of the stock will cost £6.2m. Due to the success of the Department for Transport Challenge Fund bid, we will receive a 70% grant towards the replacement programme and the remaining 30% will be funded from the Council's capital budget.

Ongoing maintenance regime:

As far as dealing with complaints are concerned, if street lighting faults are not fixed on time, it will increase the risk of personal accidents and criminal activities. In addition, this will also undermine the image of Slough as a good place to work, live and do business in. This highlights the importance of a robust maintenance regime.

(b) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Community Support	NA	We use reports from the community in order to help us with fault rectification in addition to our own fault monitoring
Communications	NA	We plan to publish the programme for our LED Upgrade Project online
Community Safety	NA	A well-lit highway network will promote a safer environment for all sections of the community to enable them to conduct leisure as well as work/ business activities
Financial	NA	This is an excellent deal for the Council by leveraging the funding from central government to replace the ageing street lighting stock to make it energy efficient thus reducing the energy bill and maintenance cost for the future.
Timetable for delivery	2 years	NA

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no Equality Impact Assessment implications.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 Slough Borough Council, in its role as Highway Authority maintains approximately 11300 street lighting units along its public highway network. The Highways Team also looks after approximately 300 lanterns on behalf of Parks and Recreation Grounds.
- 5.2 The current street lighting maintenance contract with SSE was originally awarded in 2012 through a competitive tendering process. The contract runs for 3 years with an option to extend for another 3 years based on annual review.
- 5.3 The street lighting maintenance contract with SSE consists of elements of routine and reactive maintenance. Routine maintenance consists of electrical testing of lighting columns, feeder pillars, signs and bollards as well lamp cleaning and bulk changes. Reactive maintenance handles emergency call outs dealing with complaints and other unforeseen occurrences.

- 5.4 The Council pays the energy charges for street lighting and traffic signals/ bollards to a different power supply company. The procurement of energy is not administered by the Highways Team although the Highways Team pays monthly energy costs by the revenue budget allocated.
- 5.5 Our customer service call centre normally handles the complaints from the general public. The majority of these complaints are made by telephone calls to the call centre. Once the call centre receives the complaints they will then log the details onto the Oracle system and then pass on the information to our Maintenance Contractor SSE directly. Please see table 1 below.

Table 1:

2013-14 expenditure year	
TOTAL FAULTS REPORTED ORACLE	687
TOTAL FAULTS RAISED ON OUR INVENTORY SYSTEM	496
FAULTS REPAIRED WITHIN 5 DAYS	472
SSE FAULTS	23
FAILURES	1
AVERAGE REPAIR TIME DAYS	4.84

- 5.6 After receiving the complaint SSE then registers the details of the complaint before deciding the method of repairing works to be carried out and then feed the information back to the Highways Team via the Facility Management system (FM). Works orders are issued from the Highways Team to SSE accordingly.
- 5.7 SSE and SBC carry out monthly scouting to different routine maintenance areas.

LED Upgrade

- 5.8 Recent severe financial constraints and the development of LED technology, and the fact that the central management system enables us to monitor the performance of each individual street lighting lantern remotely as well as allowing us to dim each lantern, have prompted efficiencies. Local authorities in the United Kingdom are switching the existing high/ low pressure sodium lanterns to LED in order to save energy costs and give street lighting engineers a much more efficient way of controlling street lighting levels throughout the network.
- 5.9 Slough Borough Council took the lead at the end of 2014 in the LED upgrade initiative together with other Berkshire boroughs. This has led to the winning funding bid of £27m awarded by Department for Transport through its Challenge Funding bid initiative in February 2015 to upgrade the entire street lighting stocks for Slough, Reading and Wokingham.
- 5.10 Slough Borough Council being the lead authority in the above mentioned LED upgrade project has completed the tender which was put together with input from all 3 participating boroughs. Volker Highways has been chosen as the winning bidder (on a 24 month contract) and currently Slough Borough Council is going through the contract formalisation procedure with a view to sign the contract with Volker Highways in December 2015 to enable the contractor to start on site in April 2016.

- 5.11 As the local authorities in up and down the country are moving away from the traditional street lighting sodium lanterns to LEDs there is a supply chain problem in the industry during the current transition period. This is due to the fact that the old style lanterns are phasing out and sometimes the exact amount of new LED lanterns required is not clear. The street lighting lantern manufacturers are cautious in their stock carrying which in turn has presented problems to the current street lighting maintenance contractor for them to react to the complaints.
- 5.12 Slough Borough Councils Highways Team are working closely with the current maintenance contractor (SSE) and the newly appointed contractor (Volker Highways) to manage the situation of dealing with the general public's concerns.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

None

7. **Conclusion**

By the end of 2017/18 Slough should have replaced its entire ageing street lighting stock with more energy efficient LED lanterns, as well as getting rid of all the existing concrete columns. In doing this the maintenance requirement for street lighting should have diminished significantly and so will the cost of street lighting energy consumption. Overall this project provides a good net benefit for the whole of Slough.

8. **Background Papers**

'1' - Street lighting inventory from Facilities Management software system