

REPORT OF CABINET

Approval to convert 10,600 street lights in roads across the borough to more energy efficient LED lights.

In October 2013 the Council had agreed to convert 6,000 street lights in residential roads to Light Emitting Diode (LED). This project had been due to be completed by November 2014. Cabinet received a report which sought agreement to commence phase two of the LED rollout by converting a further 10,600 street lights. This represented a further 60% of the Council's sodium street lights and would bring significant longer-term savings in energy usage/costs, maintenance costs and a reduction in carbon emissions.

The estimated cost of the project is £2.7 million with a resultant annual energy cost saving of £280k and a further anticipated component replacement cost saving of £83k at current prices (effective from 2017/18), meaning there would be a simple "payback period" of under 8 years - 9 years if measured on a net present value basis.

An interest-free loan should be available to the Council to fund 52% (£1.4 million) of the total capital cost with the remaining funding coming from resources to be identified at the appropriate time by the Director of Resources.

The change of 10,600 sodium street lights across the borough to LED lighting will have a number of benefits including:

- Reduction of annual energy costs
- Help future-proof the street lighting electricity budget against inevitable future energy price increases
- The installation of the LED lanterns will enable the Head of StreetCare to achieve savings as part of the re-tendering of the street lighting maintenance contract (due Nov 2016) to reflect the lower requirement for maintenance of the new lanterns.
- Helping residents feel safe and secure. Through superior colour rendering and a higher perceived brightness, the white light of LED lighting will make it easier to distinguish objects, colours, shapes and other details. In particular, facial recognition would be easier. White light also gives the most even illumination with fewer areas of intimidating shadow.
- Ensuring that light was directed downwards instead of upwards into the night sky. In contrast to the old orange/yellow lighting this will dramatically reduce light pollution.

Whilst not implementing energy efficiency measures in the council's street lighting will leave the street lighting energy budget vulnerable to inevitable future increases in UK electricity costs.

Cabinet:

- a) Agreed to the Service proceeding to tender for the purchase of 10,600 LED lanterns and the conversion of 10,600 existing street lights, across the borough.
- b) Approved in principle, the application for the maximum interest-free loan available under the Salix Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme (SEELS) of £1.4 million to part fund this project.
- c) Agreed to the undertaking of small-scale trials of dimming street lights during hours of low movement on selected roads to assess the suitability and benefit of adopting a wider dimming regime.

Cabinet RECOMMENDS to the Council that it add the funding of the scheme as set out in Appendix A to the Capital Budget for 2015/16