

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

4 JANUARY 2007

**REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND REGENERATION
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Regeneration and Transport – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Cook

REVIEW OF STREET LIGHTING SERVICES

1. Summary

This report informs Cabinet of the outcomes of the review of the Council's street lighting services undertaken by the Environment and Regeneration Select Committee between April and November 2006.

2. Recommendations

Recommended that:

1. Data verification exercise to be undertaken to determine the condition of stock, to begin by the start of the next financial year
2. Ensure that performance figures encompassed in DWL Partnership Agreement are recorded for the duration of the arrangement in order to ensure that the partnership is achieving good value for money
3. Cost benefit ratio created for different scenarios relating to investment and replacement, to include an investigation the potential of utilising the software created by Jacobs Babbie for Telford & Wrekin Council for this purpose.
4. Production of a policy document based on the recommendations outlined in the UK Lighting Board's Code of Practice for Highway Lighting Management
5. An assessment of the level of finance required, based on stock condition and outcome of cost benefit ratio (see recommendations 2 & 3)
6. Creation of a Business Case outlining the preferred option for investment.
7. Placement of an advert in a national journal inviting expressions of interest from companies interested in entering into an agreement for the advertising rights on street columns.

8. Officers fully explore the options outlined in the 'invest to save' document
9. Report of the conclusions of the dimming trial to be reported back to Environment and Regeneration Select Committee and Safer Stockton Partnership in 2007.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

This topic was identified as an area meriting a scrutiny review at a meeting of the Scrutiny Liaison Forum held on 8 March 2006. The issue was subsequently referred to the Environment and Regeneration Select Committee for approval, and passed to a meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee as part of the work programming procedure.

The objectives/aims developed by the Committee for the review were as follows: -

- To advise upon strategic and operational policy relating to energy cost, service efficiency, sustainability, community safety and satisfaction
- To complete the scrutiny review and make recommendations on future policy regarding delivery of street lighting services
- Findings and recommendations from the review to be reported to Cabinet/Council

The review addresses the following strategic corporate objectives:

- Resource management – Improve operational efficiency
- Community Safety – Respond to residents' concerns and fears of crime and anti-social behaviour, as part of the safer Stockton partnership
-

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek

improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc.; whether or not they are a member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting, and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room during consideration of the relevant item.

AGENDA NO.

REPORT TO CABINET

4 JANUARY 2007

**REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND REGENERATION
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

REVIEW OF STREET LIGHTING SERVICES

SUMMARY

This report informs Cabinet of the outcomes of the review of the Council's street lighting services undertaken by the Environment and Regeneration Select Committee between April and November 2006.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended that:

1. Data verification exercise to be undertaken to determine the condition of stock, to begin by the start of the next financial year
2. Ensure that performance figures encompassed in DWL Partnership Agreement are recorded for the duration of the arrangement in order to ensure that the partnership is achieving good value for money
3. Cost benefit ratio created for different scenarios relating to investment and replacement, to include an investigation the potential of utilising the software created by Jacobs Babbie for Telford & Wrekin Council for this purpose.
4. Production of a policy document based on the recommendations outlined in the UK Lighting Board's Code of Practice for Highway Lighting Management
5. An assessment of the level of finance required, based on stock condition and outcome of cost benefit ratio (see recommendations 2 & 3)
6. Creation of a Business Case outlining the preferred option for investment.
7. Placement of an advert in a national journal inviting expressions of interest from companies interested in entering into an agreement for the advertising rights on street columns.
8. Officers fully explore the options outlined in the 'invest to save' document

9. Report of the conclusions of the dimming trial to be reported back to Environment and Regeneration Select Committee and Safer Stockton Partnership in 2007.

DETAIL

1. The Environment and Regeneration Select Committee were tasked with examining Stockton Borough Council's street lighting services following a meeting of the Scrutiny Liaison Forum. The Committee were asked to address issues relating particularly to service costs incurred as a result of rising energy prices and an ageing stock with increasing maintenance requirements.
2. Committee also agreed to consider strategic and operational issues relating to service efficiency, sustainability, community safety and customer satisfaction as additional concerns.
3. Members were first concerned with receiving a technical overview of the service, in recognition of the highly complex nature of the subject. This was followed by receipt of oral and written evidence from SBC Street Lighting Engineers, Financial Officers and Officers from the Regeneration Department. Members also received evidence from external witnesses from Websters (DWL) and Integrated Utility Services, who are partly responsible for the Distribution Network. Committee were unable to take evidence from Northern Electrical Distribution Ltd.
4. Committee also considered desk based comparative and information gathering work relating to various schemes operated by other Councils in the same family group, and considered national 'best practice' guidance in terms of energy efficiency and general operation of the service.
5. Committee were happy that SBC is achieving best value for money in terms of energy procurement, but noted the shortfall in the 2006/07 budget as a result of rising energy costs, that was covered by the repairs and maintenance budget. Committee recognised the concerns, in both the short and long term, of rising energy costs and SBC's ageing street lighting stock. Members also note the need to create a fuller and more coherent policy for management of the service, and a requirement to undertake a comprehensive data verification exercise in order to fully calculate the required investment level.
6. It was also noted that trials are ongoing to experiment with mechanisms to reduce energy costs, and that successful trials should be rolled out across the Borough in order to achieve energy efficiencies.
7. It was stressed, though, that any experiments with dimming or reduction of street lighting should be undertaken in full consultation with safer Stockton partnership and the local communities in order that safety in the community is not compromised.

8. Members were also keen to ensure that the performance indicators outlined in the Webster's Partnership Agreement are measured and updated on a regular basis to ensure that the partnership is providing the best value for service and value for money.

CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD COUNCILLORS

4. Initial consultation has been undertaken with Members and Officers, and will be an integral and ongoing element of the recommendations

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. To be identified as part of the recommendation

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

6. Services offered at the Park and Hall are integral to Community Safety themes

Contact Officer: Sarah Connolly, Scrutiny Officer

Telephone No. 01642 528158

E-mail Address: sarah.connolly@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

See page 14f the appended report

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

N/a