

Environment and Regeneration Select Committee

A meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Select Committee was held on Tuesday 16th May 2006.

Present: Councillor Mrs Beaumont (Chairman); Councillors Cains, Fletcher, Leckonby, Noble, Mrs Norton, Salt, Smith, Teasdale and Woodhead.

Officers: S Connolly, Miss F Shayler (LD); T Andrew, B Allen (DNS).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf Councillors Larkin, Mrs Robinson and Walmsley.

148 Review of Street Lighting

Tom Andrew, Design Engineer, Development and Regeneration was in attendance to provide Members with background for the Review of Street Lighting. Bob Allen, Consultant, was also in attendance to detail the work that he was undertaking with regard to Street Lighting.

There were approximately 25,600 streetlights in the borough and the budget needed to be used effectively to get the best use out of the energy needed, maintenance and replacement of the lights.

David Webster Ltd. (DWL) exclusively delivered maintenance of street lighting to Local Authorities and had been delivering the service to Stockton-on-Tees borough Council via a Partnership agreement. The agreement began in October 2004 for a four year period with an option to extend for a further 2 years. The terms of the agreement encompass a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) with the aim to deliver five key outcomes:-

- Increased levels of customer satisfaction
- A safe environment for the community
- Reduce the environmental impact of street lighting
- Increase levels of people satisfaction
- Improved Service Delivery

Bob Allen, was currently investigating 2 elements of the Contract with regard to Preventative and Reactive measures.

The target for resolving faults to street lights were subject to two BVPI's. BVPI 215(b) where inspection of a unit revealed that it was the fault of electricity failure and needed to be referred to the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) (30 day target) and BVPI215 (a) Faults that were a non DNO fault and the responsibility of DWL to repair (4 day target). Both targets were exceeded for the period 2005/6 but significant improvements had been made and both were currently within target. During 2005/06 on average 97.4% of units were operating correctly.

Members were shown a yellow display card that would be placed on the lamppost indicating that the light had been examined and the fault had been reported to the DNO. This had been implemented to improve

communications with the public ensuring that they were aware that the fault was being dealt with.

The cost of electricity had increased significantly nearly doubling in cost from 2004/05. NEPO work on behalf of the authority to try and get the best deal possible for electricity.

Members discussed the timing of street lighting, the connection with crime and public perceptions. Discussion was held on the costs involved if street lighting was knocked down by vehicles and the difficulties in finding the perpetrator. A charge was also made by the Police to inform the authority of any perpetrators, the charge was made even if the accident had not been reported.

Members discussed the material that lamp posts were made with and the different types that were still in existence within the borough. Any new lamps were mild steel columns that were galvanised and painted. The life of a new column was around 30 years.

Tom Andrew provided information on how the team was managed and staffed. Bob Allen was due to retire in June 2006 and the option of co-opting him onto this Select Committee for the duration of this review was given initial consideration. It was suggested that the possibility of this be discussed further with the Chair, Vice Chair, Scrutiny Officer and Bob Allen.

Members requested information on the performance indicators used for the initial contract with David Webster Ltd.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. David Webster Ltd and NEDL be invited to the next meeting on 5th June, 2006.
2. A meeting be arranged with the Chair, Vice Chair, Scrutiny Officer and Bob Allen.
3. Information be provided on the PI's used on the initial contract with David Webster Ltd.