

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

9 OCTOBER 2014

SUBJECT:	STREET LIGHTING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2014
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
REPORT OF:	KEVIN ADDERLEY, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR STUART WHITTINGHAM, HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out a comprehensive review of the Council's approach to managing and maintaining street lighting and includes a street lighting strategy and action plan, and replaces the earlier budget savings option of switching off street lights.
- 1.2 The development of the approach proposed will result in a reduction in energy consumption and subsequent reduction in the carbon levy; future maintenance costs will be reduced resulting in greater savings to the authority.
- 1.3 The maintenance of highways, including street lighting, is a statutory duty imposed on the Council as the Highway Authority for Wirral.
- 1.4 Cabinet is asked to approve the new strategy and action plan, and to approve the necessary capital funding to enable the strategy to be delivered.
- 1.5 This is a Key Decision in the Council's Forward Plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The proposed Strategy document outlines the basic principles and standards applying to street lighting and illuminated signage in Wirral. The term "street lighting" encompasses lighting and all other items of illuminated street furniture provided on the public highway (and unadopted highway), except traffic signals and electrically operated vehicle information signs.
- 2.2 In the current economic climate, the Council needs to reassess the way street lighting performs and the options available to improve the efficiency and expenditure associated with providing the service. A reduction of the Council carbon footprint is also a necessary consideration that must be complied with.

- 2.3 The proposed Strategy also considers the progression of street lighting schemes and the options available to the Council to procure a new scheme with the aim of reducing future on-going costs.
- 2.4 The aim of the Strategy is to minimise future energy usage and carbon emissions from street lighting through the implementation of economically viable programmes of work to achieve energy savings and by ensuring that new street lighting is provided only where necessary. Through this process the Council will continue to maintain a fit for purpose street lighting asset by managing the service in accordance with sound asset management principles and nationally accepted good practice.
- 2.5 The existing, approved, budget option for 2014/15 to switch off lights on certain routes will affect the same lighting units as the strategy proposes for conversion to LED, and it is proposed that the lighting is not switched off as planned and that the budget saving required will be incorporated within the savings planned for the new strategy.
- 2.6 The proposed Street Lighting Strategy and Action Plan is attached as **Appendix 1** to the Report

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 No reportable risks have been identified in changing from the current form of street lighting to LED street lighting. Lighting will continue to be provided in accordance with British Standards.
- 3.2 There is a financial risk to the Council if a different approach to street lighting is not adopted as energy prices are expected to rise significantly, which is entirely out of the Council's control, and current sodium lights utilise far greater amounts of electricity than LED lights. In addition, in 2014/15 a new carbon levy was introduced on electricity used for street lighting; reducing electricity consumption will reduce the liability for this charge.

LED lighting will also reduce maintenance expenditure as the lifecycle of an LED system is considerably longer than that for the current sodium lighting stock.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 A practice of switching off street lighting has been considered in order to reduce energy costs and Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) charges, however this is a relatively short term solution and will not provide significant savings or a reduction in maintenance costs unless the columns are actually removed.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council's proposed strategy for street lighting has been included in the Future Council public consultation which is currently underway.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

- 6.1 There are no outstanding previously approved actions.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 There are no direct implications arising out of this proposal.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 8.1 The proposal to retrofit LED lighting units, including Central Management System (CMS) capability, to 6943 existing street lighting columns is estimated to cost £4.3 million in capital investment, including all procurement costs.
- 8.2 Subject to Members approval, it is proposed to procure a lighting specialist to prepare the necessary technical specifications for the LED units together with a complete evaluation of the suppliers for quality and cost purposes and the preparation of the tender documentation.
- This work will also include the complete assessment of the 6943 lanterns to determine which require new LED lanterns and which are suitable for retro-fitting. The outcome will identify the most cost effective LED product for the Council together with recommendations for the level of dimming in selected locations.
- 8.3 A preliminary programme for the procurement and delivery of this project is outlined in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 8.4 The revenue savings which result from the proposed works described in 8.1 are already included in the Future Council proposals, and comprise energy and maintenance savings of £100,000 in 2015/16 and £390,000 in 2016/17, as well as the £85,000 saving already taken in 2014/15.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Local Government Act 1966, means that Wirral Council is a Highway Authority in its own right with a duty to ensure the safety of the public highway. The Act does not confer a legal duty on a Highway Authority to provide and maintain road lighting, however, a highway Authority does have a duty of care to maintain the lighting stock it has installed in a safe condition and to ensure that the equipment is fit for purpose.
- 9.2 The maintenance of highways, including street lighting, is a statutory duty for the Council under the Highways Act 1980 (as amended).

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?
- (a) Yes and impact review is attached –

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-april-2014/eias-regeneration-envir>

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC Scheme) will include calculations for street lighting energy usage for the first time this financial year, 2014/2015. By ensuring that future street lighting is provided only where necessary the Council will minimise future energy usage and carbon emissions.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no implications under this heading.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 13.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) Approve the proposed Street Lighting Strategy and Action Plan.
- (ii) Endorse the £4.3 Million Capital funding required and refer to Council for Approval and inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme.
- (iii) Approve the superceding of the 2014/15 budget savings option for switching off street lights so that the lighting is not switched off as planned and that the budget saving required will be incorporated within the savings planned for the new strategy.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 By implementing economically viable programmes of work the Council will minimise future maintenance, energy usage, cost and carbon emissions from street lighting .

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Street Lighting Strategy 2014 and Action Plan

Appendix 2 – Preliminary Programme

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-demand-for-energy-from-industry-businesses-and-the-public-sector--2/supporting-pages/crc-energy-efficiency-scheme>

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date
None	

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	