

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 11TH MARCH 2002

REPORT ON: COUNCIL CHAMBER LIGHTING

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SUPPORT SERVICES

REPORT NO: 175-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To obtain approval, in the interests of health and safety, for necessary upgrading of lighting fittings in Council Chamber together with associated painterwork, etc.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That approval be given for acceptance of an offer by Dundee Contract Services to carry out electrical and painterwork in the City Chambers at a cost of £5,712 together with a contingency cost of £870 for removal, storage and return of furniture and portraits.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Provision has been made in the estimates for 2002/3 for works necessitated by Health and Safety considerations.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 These works will remove a noise nuisance and improve lighting for people attending meetings and other events in the Council Chamber.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 For some time now there have been complaints from members, officers and other visitors to events in the Council Chamber that noise levels from the lighting fittings in the Chamber were being amplified by the sound system, and was a times affecting peoples' ability to hear all that was being said at meetings.

An inspection was undertaken by electrical engineers from the Architectural Services Division of the Support Services Department and the following findings were reported:-

"The existing main lighting comprises 1500 mm Fluorescent tube fittings positioned on ledges along the ceiling thus acting as uplighters. These fittings are an obsolete type with electromagnetic ballasts some of which are beginning to be extremely noisy. The noise is loud enough to be picked up by the microphone system in the room.

The older ballasts are beginning to break down. This could lead to failure of the insulation material which will result in electrical faults and possible fires. This has happened to this type of fitting elsewhere. This type of problem is due to the age of the fittings. It is unlikely that the correct spares can be procured leading to unmatched components being installed making the fittings inefficient. The older fittings are not as energy efficient as more modern ones. The varying colours are not good for vision and may cause discomfort to some people."

The issue of most concern from this report is the Health and Safety issue arising from the potential fire risk.

The Electrical Engineer's report recommends removal of the existing fittings and their replacement with modern, energy efficient, high frequency electronic ballast fluorescent fittings. Luminaires will be fitted with reflectors to improve the efficiency of the lighting output.

It has also been recommended that the opportunity be taken to wash down and paint the curved portions of the ceiling above the ledges on which the light fittings are located.

As the works involved will take approximately 2 weeks, and there is a 2 week recess schedule for the first two weeks of April, Dundee Contract Services who are familiar with the electrics in the City Chambers, were invited to submit a price which came to £5,712 and it is recommended that this be accepted so that these works can proceed as soon as possible. It will also be necessary to remove, store and replace the City Chambers furniture and portraits at an approximate cost of £870.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been consulted.

Signature
Director of Support Services

Date