

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - 12 JUNE 2006**

**REPORT ON: STREET LIGHTING PARTNERSHIP**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION**

**REPORT NO: 331-2006**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress with the Street Lighting Partnership with Tayside Contracts on the delivery of the street lighting service to 31 March 2006.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of this report and agree that the Director of Planning and Transportation be remitted to report back annually to a with the ongoing progress of the Partnership.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Street Lighting makes an important contribution to road safety, crime prevention and the creation of an acceptable safe night time environment.
- 4.2 The use of more energy efficient equipment and light sources reduces the production of harmful environmental 'greenhouse' gases.

## **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Good quality street lighting benefits all groups who feel vulnerable during the hours of darkness.

## **6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 Reference is made to Article II of the minute of the Planning and Transportation Committee of 16 May 2005 when approval was given for the extension of the partnership with Tayside Contracts for a period of three years. The partnership is performing well against the various objectives established. Further reference is made to Article V of the minutes of Planning and Transportation Committee of 13 February 2006 when approval was given to extend the partnership scheme to include Perth and Kinross council.
- 6.2 An Executive group comprising officers of both Dundee City Council and Tayside Contracts manages the Partnership. This Executive group has recently been extended to include officers from Perth and Kinross Council to reflect the expanded partnership.
- 6.3 The Executive meets on a quarterly basis and reviews performance of the partnership against a number of agreed criteria. The following provides a summary of performance of the partnership for the period to 31 March 2006:

**a Public Complaints/Reports**

Baseline 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Target (2007)
1,630	1,229	1,335	1,750

**b Street Lighting Faults**

Baseline 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Target (2007)
7,716	7,744	6,368	7,000

**c Average Repair Costs**

Baseline 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Target (2007)
£34.37	£30.68	£28.64	£27.00

**d Response Times****Repairs Undertaken Within 7 Days**

Baseline 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Target
97.5%	96.6%	95.7%	95%

**Repairs Undertaken Within 2 Days**

Baseline 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Target
93.1%	91.3%	90.6%	90%

**e White Light Conversion**

Baseline 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Target (2007)
32%	46%	59%	50%

**f Energy Losses**

Baseline 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Target (2007)
18%	14.4%	13.5%	13%

- 6.4 Due to retirements and restructuring, staffing levels and hence staffing costs have reduced. From a base line figure in April 2004 office based staff have been reduced by 30% and operatives have seen a 15% reduction whilst still managing to progress the same level of through put of work.
- 6.5 It is recognised that people are the most valuable asset of any organisation and it was identified early on in the partnership that improved and ongoing training was a priority. In the last year, 10 Lighting Operatives and 4 Electricians have undertaken the new SVQ in Public Lighting and are awaiting final approval from the external assessor. This is the first time this National Accredited Award has been run in Scotland and the lighting partnership is rightly proud of this achievement. Gaining these awards will help towards registration with the Highway Electrical Industry scheme and will indicate the partnerships ongoing commitment to quality and competence. All organisations carrying out works on behalf of the Highway Agency

and Scottish Executive in the future will require to be registered with the above scheme.

- 6.6 Improved communication between the operative on site and office based staff is seen as crucial to the affective and efficient running of the service. Although the technology is not new, picture phones were seen to offer the ideal vehicle for improved communications and collection of on site information. The areas where this new initiative has been put to good use are:
- a Incidents of vehicle damage (RTA) - improved identification of culprits and cost recovery from insurance companies.
  - b Damage to underground cables - evidence when recharging repair costs to road contractors.
  - c Acts of vandalism - comprehensive police evidence for their follow up investigations.
  - d Defective work associated with new housing developers - assists with construction consent adoption approval.
  - e Out of hours emergency - Safety record of attendance.
- 6.7 Although in its infancy, the expanded partnership with Perth and Kinross Council, is performing well. It is planned to carry out a detailed review in the coming months to identify opportunities in workloads and further integration of staff roles and responsibilities.
- 6.8 The partnership faces a real challenge with ongoing increases in electricity costs. Unmetered electricity costs have risen by 78% in the last two years. To absorb these increases, £300,000 less funding is available this year to carry out street lighting maintenance works. To ensure that the specialist skills are not lost, the partnership will pursue externally funded street lighting work.
- 6.9 The present street lighting partnering arrangements meets the Scottish Executive's objectives in increased partnership working in line with the Efficient Government Agenda and the model set by the Regional Transport Partnerships.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) and Managing Director Tayside Contracts have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

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KL/LMcG/EC

2 June 2006

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