

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - 9 JUNE 2008**

**REPORT ON: STREET LIGHTING PARTNERSHIP**

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

**REPORT NO: 261-2008**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress and performance of the Street Lighting Partnership with Tayside Contracts on the delivery of the Street Lighting Services to 31 March 2008.

## **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 the Committee with the ongoing progress of the Partnership.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Reference is made to Article V of the Planning and Transportation Committee of 13 February 2006 when approval was given to extend the Partnership by a further 3 years to 31 March 2009 and include Perth and Kinross Council.
- 4.2 An Executive group comprising two senior officers from each Council and Tayside Contracts meet on a quarterly basis to review performance of the Partnership against a number of agreed criteria. The following provides a summary of performance against agreed criteria and the Councils Service Plan 2007-2011.
- 4.3 The approved Service Plan 2007-2011 details five service objectives for street lighting which are listed below.
- 6.3.1 *'Continue to improve the overall management and maintenance of the street lighting asset and maintain the position as one of the lead authorities in Scotland for this service'.*

Dundee City Council, Street Lighting is a member of the Society of Chief Officers Transport Scotland (SCOTS) "cities" benchmarking family and has recently completed an exercise to compare it's performance against the other three major cities in Scotland. The full results of this benchmarking exercise for 2006/07 is listed in Appendix A. However, the key highlights are listed below.

- a Dundee repair their street lighting twice as quickly as the next best performing city, Glasgow.
- b In percentage terms Dundee has fewer faults annually.

- c In percentage terms when compared to the numbers of street lighting, Dundee has the least number of calls from the public reporting defects. Aberdeen and Edinburgh receive 67% more than Dundee whilst Glasgow receives 75% more.
- d Compared with Dundee, Aberdeen has 4 times as many lights per 1000 street lights not working as planned on any one evening. Glasgow have 7 times and Edinburgh 11 times as many.

6.3.2 *"Continue to achieve best value in the procurement of street lighting works and optimise average unit costs for repairs".*

Average Repair Costs (including bulk lamp change)

Baseline 2002/03	2006/07	2007/08	Target 2010/11
£37.79	£25.53	£24.84	£25.53

The Council has recently changed its strategic approach towards street lighting maintenance and is changing from a reactive regime of repairing lights when they fail to a more proactive approach which involves replacing groups of lamps in a geographical area at the end of their expected life. There are three major benefits to this approach.

- a. It produces a higher level of productivity, by reducing wasted travelling time of randomly attending faults in different areas of the City.
- b. It reduces fuel consumption which has benefits to the environment.
- c. It reduces the number of street lights dark on any one evening.

- 6.3.3 *"Continue to improve the reliability and operation of street lighting equipment by reducing the number of annual defects over the four year period of the plan".*

#### Street Lighting Faults

Baseline 2002/03	2006/07	2007/08	Target 2010/11
9532	5168	4650	4500

#### Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) average over 3 Years

Baseline 2002/03	2006/07	2007/08	Target 2010/11
2 years 108 days	3 years 171 days	4 years 48 days	> 5 years

#### Number of Street Lighting Faults reported by the Public

Baseline 2002/03	2006/07	2007/08	Target 2010/11
2252	1219	1117	<1219

All three indicators continue to show improved performance over previous years and are on course to meet targets set by 2011.

- 6.3.4 *'Continue to seek improved community safety through the implementation of the white light programme across the city through consultation with stakeholders'.*

The percentage of street lighting converted to white light in residential areas now stands at 68%. Constraints on the previous Quality of Life funding stream for this work has significantly curtailed this programme. Other alternative sources of funding will continue to be investigated in order to aim to achieve 100% coverage across the City.

- 6.3.5 *'Continue to minimise the adverse input that the Street Lighting function has on the environment'.*

#### Energy Losses

Baseline 2002/03	2006/07	2007/08	Target 2010/11
20%	13%	13%	<13%

#### Average load connection per Street Light

Baseline 2002/03	2006/07	2007/08	Target 2010/11
unavailable	104W	104W	<104W

- 4.4 Despite managing to drive costs down, the Partnership has continued to face the challenge of significant cuts in the works budgets to absorb ongoing increased in electricity costs. £90,000 less funding was available for carrying out street lighting maintenance works in 2007/08. This is in addition to £300,000 less the previous year. This reduced funding needs to be monitored to ensure the partnership can continue to address the safety issues that exist with the structural and electrical condition of the equipment.
- 4.5 An Asset Management system has been purchased and is presently being populated with information. Structural and electrical test programmes have commenced and it is proposed to bring a report to Committee in due course to advise on the condition of the street lighting asset.
- 4.6 The Partnership is performing well in winning work outwith the Council's allocated street lighting budget. In 2007/08, 44% of the work carried out by the Partnership was carried out on behalf of external clients.
- 4.7 The present Street Lighting Partnering arrangement meets the Scottish Government's objectives in increased partnership working in line with the Efficient Government Agenda and the street services model set by the Regional Transport Partnership.

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

## **6 CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

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15 May 2008

Dundee City Council  
Tayside House  
Dundee



**SCOTS**  
Street Lighting  
Working Group

## Cities Benchmarking Group Benchmarking Parameters for 06/07 & 07/08

		Aberdeen	Dundee		Edinburgh	Glasgow
		2006/07	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2006/08
1	Average Time Taken to Repair	5 days	1.5 days	1.8 days	3.5 days	2.9 days
2	Total number of Street Lighting Faults	10298	5168	4650	21149	29318
2(a)	Faults as a % of Street Lighting Stock	30.2%	23.3%	20.9%	38.5%	45.8%
2(b)	Frequency of night inspections	3 weeks	weekly	weekly	9 weeks	4 weeks
3	Number of Public Reports (24hrs)	4780	1219	1117	9314	13442
3(a)	Public calls as a % of faults	46.4%	23.6%	24%	44%	45.8%
3(b)	Public calls as a % of Street Lights	14%	5.5%	5%	15.5%	21%
4	Average cost (client) of repairing routine faults	£26.20	£25.53	£24.84	£37.36	Can't Provide
4(a)	Direct cost (contractor) of repairing routine faults	£22.77	£21.28	£20.70	TBA	N/A
4(aa)	Labour & Plant Costs	£12.52	£12.18	£12.60	TBA	N/A
4(ab)	Material	£10.25	£9.05	£8.10	TBA	N/A
5	Number of street lights	34073	22171	22287	60000	64077
6	Energy Consumption per street light (carbon footprint)	120 watts	104 watts	104 watts	111 watts	119watts
7	Cost of Night Inspection	£22,171	£36,000	£36,900	Security Staff	£146,550
7(a)	Number of night Inspections Annually	16	48	48	6	13
7(b)	Individual cost of inspecting a Street Light	4.1p	3.4p	3.5p	n/a	17.6p
7(c)	Annual spend on night inspections per Street Light	£0.65	£1.62	1.65p	n/a	£2.29
8	On average, number of street lights per 1000 not working on any one evening	13	3	3	33	21