



CABINET – 28TH NOVEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: FUTURE LIGHTING AND ENERGY SAVING PROPOSALS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

- 1.1 The attached report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 30th October 2018, provided updated future lighting and energy savings proposals and a number of revised options for consideration, in view of the energy price increases for 2018/19 being significantly higher than anticipated. The views and comments of the Scrutiny Committee were sought on the updated energy savings proposals, prior to consideration by Cabinet.
- 1.2 Members were reminded of the previous report presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15th May 2018 and their subsequent recommendations to Cabinet in respect of future lighting options (as set out in Section 2.2 of the report). Following presentation of the original report, the Authority received their electricity supplier invoice for 2018/19, with the unit rate having significantly increased compared to 2017/18 (a total increase of 13.4%), and which is greater than the originally anticipated cost. The increased charges will require additional funding of £165,000 from the Communities Directorate infrastructure budget, for which no allowance has been made, and therefore has necessitated revised options to achieve street lighting energy savings that could contribute to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Committee were therefore asked to again review and provide comments on the revised street lighting energy savings options as set out in Section 4.5.3 to 4.5.5 and Appendix 1 of the report. Each option highlighted the number of units affected, implementation cost, CO2 and kWh energy savings, and annual financial savings (including payback periods). It was noted that in the view of Officers, the most beneficial approach would be to progress a wholesale conversion of the street lighting stock to LED lanterns and implement part-night lighting to all lighting except junctions and major town centres (Option 3).
- 1.4 In response to a Member's query, Officers confirmed that Salix funding is still available but explained that any delay in submitting a bid could place limitations on the deliverability of the proposed options. Discussion took place regarding the feasibility of using renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy, to power street lighting. Officers explained that they have explored alternatives to see if the Authority can generate their own power, and that solar power is not currently a viable option due to the high cost involved in changing the street lighting columns, but that alternative technologies will continue to be reviewed and monitored to identify options to further reduce energy consumption. Following suggestions from Members, it was agreed that a report on the use of Council-owned land to generate renewable energy be brought to a future meeting of the Committee for their consideration.
- 1.5 The Committee discussed a number of alternative savings options, including the use of central management system (CMS) technology, preset dimmers and motion detectors, and Officers explained that each of these avenues had been explored but that the options presented to Committee were the four most beneficial options in respect of the future street lighting approach. Clarification was provided on the part-night lighting times (12.00 midnight

to 05.30am) and during discussion on whether these times could be reduced or realigned, Members were advised that any reductions in timing would be detrimental to the level of budget savings. Officers also responded to queries on the specifics of the impact arising from each proposal and confirmed that major town centres are those aligned with the Council's Town Centre Management model (Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Risca and Ystrad Mynach).

- 1.6 Following consideration of the report, Members unanimously supported Option 1 (convert all lanterns to LED). By the majority present (and in noting there were 2 against), the Committee also supported Option 3 (convert all lighting to LED and implement part-night lighting to all lighting except junctions and major town centres). The Committee unanimously agreed that they were unable to support Options 2 and 4 as set out in the report.
- 1.7 The Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee therefore recommended Options 1 and 3 to Cabinet as the preferred approaches to the future lighting and energy savings proposals.
- 1.8 Cabinet are asked to consider the attached report and the above recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendices:-

Appendix 1 Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 30th October 2018 – Agenda Item 11