

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 50

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Street Lighting Review		
Date of Meeting:	7 March 2012		
Report of:	Gillian Marston, Head of City Infrastructure		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report sets out progress made since the previous report was submitted.
- 1.2 The report also sets out current initiatives to move the service forward.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee note the report and agree whether further scrutiny action is needed.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

Background and General Information

- 3.1 The City's current street lighting stock consists of approximately 25,000 items. This is made up of 19,000 lighting columns, and the remainder of the stock includes illuminated bollards, signs and beacons. Approximately 15% of the stock is cast iron or heritage. The remainder is made up of concrete (approximately 250), aluminium and steel.
- 3.2 The maintenance needs of this diverse stock have historically caused problems for the city with the result that many items were simply removed from the street scene or not brought back in to service because there were and still are insufficient funds to replace or repair them.
- 3.3 Over the past two years, with new management and a greater focus on the needs of the service, the maintenance regime has improved, with regular inspection and replacement of life-expired, faulty or damaged equipment. However the revenue budget is sufficient only for mainly reactive maintenance with a small degree of planned replacement being funded where possible along individual streets.

Condition of the Assets

- 3.4 A structural testing programme has been implemented to ascertain the overall condition of our stock. 20% of our stock has been structurally tested since April 2010.
- 3.5 Results are available through a web based reporting management tool. This has enabled us to focus on the columns most in need of replacement as our funding permits.
- 3.6 The management report has also enabled us to consider streets for more energy efficient lantern changes where the majority of the equipment is considered to be in a sound structural condition.
- 3.7 Once the full survey is completed the information will be used to programme future inspections and produce information annually on what needs to be prioritised.
- 3.8 There has been no programme to change out life expired equipment in the City and as such much of stock is nearing the end of its useful life. Unfortunately this again is due to the fact that there has been no planned funding allocated for this type of work.

Day-Burning Lanterns

- 3.9 There are still a number of day burning lanterns across the City. There are generally 2 reasons for this. Firstly the District Network Operator (currently UK Power Networks) may have undertaken some work to their cable network without informing us. Secondly the photocell which controls the lamp may have failed or been damaged in some way.
- 3.10 Whilst day burners do not necessarily cause any financial burden to the Council due to the way our energy is measured, it is fully appreciated that that it is not a good advertisement for the service or the City.
- 3.11 Whilst a regular night patrol is carried out to pick up outages the team relies on members of the public to report day burners in general. Once reported they will generally be repaired in line with contract timescales, unless there is a major cable issue in which case repair will depend on the funding available and be weighed up against other maintenance priorities such as failing columns.

Heritage/Conservation Equipment

- 3.12 Approximately 15% of our stock is cast iron and a number of our columns are designated as 'heritage'. No budgetary provision has ever been made to maintain or replace existing stock.
- 3.13 A number of the large Victorian seafront columns have had to be removed over recent years, either due to damage following road traffic incidents or due to concerns over their structural integrity.

- 3.14 It is recognised that the seafront columns are an integral part of the City's street scene and commitment has been made to have a mould produced and copies cast out of this year's LTP funding.
- 3.15 In respect of conservation areas, cuts proposed to our maintenance budget from April 2012 means that these will no longer be replaced on a like for like basis. This is because heritage cast iron columns cost almost ten times more than a standard steel option. Standard columns and lanterns will therefore now be used.

Performance Indicators and Contract Management

- 3.16 The maintenance contract was re-let in April 2010 for a period of 28 months. Negotiations to extend the existing arrangement until August 2015 are currently under way.
- 3.17 Contract performance is measured by a number of Key Performance Indicators which have been agreed to meet our needs. System reports have been developed to assist in this and monthly meetings are held to discuss performance and improvement issues.
- 3.18 Figures are reported monthly to the Head of City Infrastructure.
- 3.19 The BVPIs used previously to monitor the performance of the DNO are no longer used. The DNO now operates to a Guaranteed Standards of Performance arrangement whereby should their performance fall below a defined level they make a payment to the Council for any such failure (taking into account a number of relevant adjustments and exemptions).

Initiatives

- 3.20 The lack of planned investment in the city has resulted in numerous problems that need to be addressed. As a result it is often not possible to achieve long-term gains in efficiency because the majority of column replacements are undertaken on a one for one basis rather than by whole street. We have had to replace with similar or the same light source in order to comply with the original design and with that street's overall lighting type.
- 3.21 Over the last two years there have been some advances. White light schemes have been installed to over 30 streets across the city resulting in a reduction in energy consumption and carbon footprint. The lanterns used are more efficient with better quality components. Part night dimming has also been introduced to a number of streets which further reduces the energy and carbon output.
- 3.22 White light has a number of benefits assisting in the improved quality of CCTV image to assist local police and providing excellent colour recognition. This light source in a modern lantern also means less light spill to properties and an end to the orange glow that is a common sight across the city.

- 3.23 A scheme using LED lanterns is currently being installed to a footpath. This will be evaluated and we will look to install LED schemes where we consider it appropriate in the future. There are many LED solutions on offer, and these need to be assessed to ensure they will provide the benefits that suppliers claim. Whilst there is certainly the potential to use LED across the city it is not necessarily the full and final solution. LED illuminated signage is also being installed to new schemes across the city.
- 3.24 In respect of solar powered options, we are now introducing solar powered bollards across the city as and when illuminated bollards require replacement.
- 3.25 We are currently working with a local consultancy to produce a modelling tool to help identify and justify initiatives to deliver greater energy efficiencies across the city. The tool will also enable us to produce a prioritisation programme in respect of replacing age-expired equipment. There is no charge for this since we are providing live data for the consultant to use in order that the product can be promoted to other local authorities and interested parties.
- 3.26 There are plans to install another 700 new lanterns in the next financial year, potentially using a dimming ballast to part night dim. However this will be dependent on the outcome of the design works to be carried out. Finance for this is being provided through a loan from the Carbon Management Board and repayment terms are yet to be agreed.
- 3.27 The current Street Lighting manager is keen to continue to forge good relations with Transport Planning, Highways Projects and external developers to ensure that lighting is always given due consideration and incorporated appropriately into future projects and their funding.

System and Inventory Management

- 3.28 A great deal of work has been carried out over the last eighteen months to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the Mayrise Management System. The appointment of a Street Gazeteer/Mayrise Administrator to the Highways Operations Group has been of great value.
- 3.29 The system has been cleansed of much out of date and incorrect data particularly in relation to the types of lamps we use. This is vital to ensure that we are correctly invoiced for our electricity consumption. It is a complex task and is ongoing.
- 3.30 Work is ongoing in respect of carrying out further improvements in relation to the production of useful reports and the uploading of results of structural testing for example.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Not considered necessary for an update of this nature.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Capital Funding: There is £250,000 of LTP funding allocated to Street Lighting for the financial year 2011-2012. In addition to this, a further sum of £120,000 has recently been agreed.

Revenue Funding: For the current financial year, there is a revenue allocation of £1,338,000 for general maintenance and £122,400 for corrosion/structural testing, which averages out to approximately £58 per unit per annum. The energy budget for the current financial year is £918,000. The contract is jointly held with East Sussex through an open ended framework agreement with six months' notice required to be given by us should we wish to withdraw.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name Karen Brookshaw Date: 06/02/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Committee is asked to note the report and to make recommendations in light of the content. The Committee has the following options:

(i) to appoint an Ad Hoc Overview & Scrutiny Panel to carry out a short, sharply focused piece of scrutiny, and report its findings to the Cabinet Member for Environment, including any recommendations requiring an executive decision;

(ii) to propose to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission a Select Committee review to carry out a more in-depth investigation. Such a proposal would need to be supported by recommended terms of reference, membership, scrutiny brief and resource requirement.

(iii) to keep a watching brief on the issue and review any need for involvement when the next set of performance indicators are published.

Lawyer Consulted: Carl Hearsum Date: 03/02/2012

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Council's Codes in relation to equalities and inclusion are enforced in all procurement matters. The provision of street lighting and the supply of related energy to the street lighting units facilitates social inclusion and equality for all.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions as set out in the Corporate Strategy. New energy saving technology is being introduced to street lighting wherever possible and when funding permits and it is proposed that this will become the standard for the future.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Well-lit streets help to reduce crime and fear of crime as well as providing a safer night-time street scene.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are health and safety risks involved in failing to keep the city in light during night time hours which could potentially have severe and costly consequences. The same is true in respect of keeping the assets in a safe and maintainable condition.