



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Environment OSC

Street lighting Workshop

[23.10.18, 10:02 -10:25]

[Newton Room]

Chairman: Councillor Mike Exton

Present: Councillor Brian Sumner, Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

Officers: Paul Stokes, Carolyn Baker, Susie McCahon, Lucy Bonshor, Jack Gardner

Apologies: Councillor Ashley Baxter, Councillor Nick Craft

ACTION NOTES

- 1. Apologies**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Baxter and Craft
- 2. Disclosure of interests**
No disclosures of interest were made
- 3. Street lighting**
The briefing paper was circulated as well as figures for the cost of a 5-year plan for replacing street lights with LED lamps. These figures included energy savings being reinvested into the scheme to help towards the cost of replacing lights. Members heard that a total capital investment of £1,257,550 would be needed to replace all of the street lighting within the district. It was for members to debate whether this investment would be done over a proposed 5-year timetable or over a longer period of time with less capital investment put forward by the council on an annual basis. In the proposed 5 year timetable each year would require an annual investment of £251,510 from capital expenditure apart from the 5th year which would only require £99,911. This plan would give a payment return of just over 15 years.

Members question if it was appropriate and feasible to ask the council to spend a quarter of a million pounds per year for the replacement of street lights considering the investments the council is putting into other services and the group further questioned if the replacement of street lighting was a priority for council funding. A member raised the concern that leaving the European Union

may have an as of yet unknown effect and that it may be prudent to wait and see how this could affect council priorities and the cost of replacing street lighting.

Members discussed that they had not received complaints about the current street lighting. Members were reminded that there was already a replacement policy that operates on an ad hoc basis as lamps require replacement and It was raised that it could be possible to reinvest savings from energy costs to increase the number of street light replacements year on year. Questions were asked if all of the savings could be put into the replacement policy or if an arrangement could be made to split savings between the scheme and the corporate fund.

A Member raised that with Lincolnshire County Councils change of policy to switch off street lighting during some night time hours that there was not a raise in reported crime and that in her belief that the connection between lighting and crime was not based on factual evidence. Members also discussed that planning policy encouraged new developments to make best use of street lighting and to provide a high standard of lighting in their developments. Members spoke about how the council would soon be considering the next budget and that this budget may well affect any recommendations made by the committee. It was felt that the committee could always re-examine the issue if there was seen to be a growing need to increase the rollout of LED lamps.

Members spoke about the possibility of residents being unhappy that the council would be spending money on street lighting replacement and not on other service areas that residents believed to be underfunded.

As discussed in previous workshops it was raised that some of the lights would not be able to be replaced as the columns would be incompatible with the LED lamps however it was noted that this would be a small number of lights. Members also reiterated that If an ornate column was wanted by a Parish Council then it was the responsibility of that Parish Council to buy the column.

Members felt that a report should be drafted for the Committee to recommend that council continues with its current street lighting replacement policy. Members agreed that there should be a discussion between the Corporate Operations Lead and the Assistant Director Finance about the feasibility of reinvesting savings from energy costs into the replacement of street lighting.