

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Meeting Date: 10 April 2018
Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Wyn Griffith
Contact Officer: Gwyn Morris Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal
Contact Number: 32402
Item Title: Street Lighting Scheme

Report to the Cabinet

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

To recommend seeking Welsh Government Green Growth funding for a scheme to change the remainder of street lights to LED technology.

2. REASON WHY DECISION IS NEEDED

This invest to save scheme requires the Cabinet's approval if it is to be realized.

3. INTRODUCTION

The Council has 18,057 street lights. By September, 2018, 10,279 of them will have been changed to LED technology that will ensure a reduction in carbon emissions of 414 tonnes CO₂, reduce light pollution and achieve £260k per annum savings in energy costs for the Council.

We are now eager to change the remainder of the street lights to LED technology (7778 number in total). These are the more powerful lights that use significantly more energy than the lights being changed in the current scheme. These are the lights used on our main highways, in town centres and at busy road junctions. LED is now readily available and at more affordable prices to enable these larger lighting units to be converted to the technology.

The intention with this new scheme is to utilize £1,398,795 of investment from the Welsh Government Green Growth Fund to change 7778 street lights to LED technology (with dimming capabilities) over a period of 3 years between April 2019 and March 2022.

On completing the scheme, a further carbon emission reduction of 572 tonnes CO₂ is expected together with a reduction in light pollution. It will also achieve a £185k per annum saving in energy costs for the Council.

4. REASON AND JUSTIFICATION BEHIND THE DECISION

There are benefits in terms of the environment and financially from implementing this scheme.

The Welsh Government Green Growth Fund investment will need to be repaid, interest free, over a period of 7.5 years. The application for funding (business case) is currently being assessed by SALIX (an independent company) on behalf of Welsh Government. If the application were to be successful, then the Cabinet needs to give its approval to the offer of funding from Welsh Government.

Obviously, given the financial challenges facing this Council, it would be advantageous for the savings from this scheme to be realized sooner and this should be given further consideration as the scheme progresses.

Whilst accepting the funding, the Council will retain the flexibility to interchange with internal funding if savings can be achieved sooner.

The scheme contributes to the well-being goals as required under the Well-being of Future Generations Wales (2015) Act, and in terms of:

- (i) A Prosperous Wales – energy reduction delivers financial benefits through reduced energy costs. Lighting equipment will be supplied by means of the National (Wales) Framework and Gwynedd Council's workforce will carry out all the installation work (retaining local equipment).
- (ii) A Resilient Wales – contributes to climate change goals by reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions.
- (iii) A Globally Responsible Wales – the scheme will achieve reduced energy consumption and carbon emissions, contributing towards reducing the impact of climate change.

It is not likely that implementing the scheme will have an effect on people with characteristics protected by the equalities legislation (Equalities Act 2010).

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

This is the programme intended for the scheme:

(i)	SALIX to scrutinize the application and business case on behalf of Welsh Government	March 2018
(ii)	If the application is accepted, the Cabinet to approve the Welsh Government offer of interest free funding	April 2018
(iii)	Design of new lighting system and order equipment	April 2018 – March 2019
(iv)	Start on the 3 year work to change the street lights to LED with dimming capabilities	April 2019
(v)	Complete the scheme	March 2022

6. OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add in terms of propriety.

Head of Finance:

I support the intention of applying for funding from the Welsh Government's Green Growth fund. Subsequent consideration will be given to arrangements that would achieve the savings sooner.

Opinion of the Local Member:

Not a local matter.