

COMMITTEE	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	21 May, 2015
TITLE	Efficiency Savings 2015/16 – 2017/18
PURPOSE	To report on the scheme relevant to the Highways and Municipal Department which has been referred to the Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.
CABINET MEMBER	Coun. John Wyn Jones

1. Background

- 1.1 The Cabinet in its meeting of 16 December, 2014 recommended that a Highways and Municipal Department efficiency saving scheme was to receive further consideration by the Scrutiny Committee i.e.

PB24 New Procedure for Replacing Lamps: 'the Communities Scrutiny Committee is to compare the proposal with current arrangements (bulk change) to ensure we are making the right decision. Bulk Change arrangements were put in place to save money'.

- 1.2 This Report is for that purpose. This Committee's recommendations on the scheme being considered will be referred to the Cabinet and in order for it to make a final decision on the schemes.

2. PB24. New Procedure for Replacing Lamps £97k (2015/16)

- 2.1 Currently, the Council replaces lamps in its street lighting every 3 years. This arrangement is known as 'bulk lamp changing' and involves the replacement of all lamps in a street or particular area in one visit. This is despite some lamps not appearing in need of replacement.

- 2.2 Bulk Lamp Changing was introduced in order to:

- avoid having a reduction in lighting standards after 3 years (since these lamps were designed with an operational life of 3 years).
- have a more efficient and effective maintenance programme where there is no need to re-visit a street or area.
- have consistent levels of lighting upon renewal.

- 2.3 There have been significant developments in lighting technology recently and whereby the effective and operational life of lamps has increased by several years. This has negated the need for bulk lamp changing.

- 2.4 The operational life of LED lanterns is between 7 and 10 years and this can be further extended with the introduction of control switchgear e.g. that allows for dimming. With this type of technology it is neither effective nor practical to operate a bulk lamp changing regime.
- 2.5 These are technological developments that enable a change to maintenance requirements:
- LED technology
 - better standard of lanterns are now available with extended operational life span
 - latest switchgear equipment can extend the operational life of the lantern
 - the lantern's lighting levels now remain constant throughout its operational life
 - better lighting standards are now achieved with the latest lanterns.
- 2.6 This Council intends to implement an extensive programme to change its street lighting system to LED to include switchgear to enable dimming (and part night operation where appropriate). This will help in extending the lifespan of the lantern, reduce energy costs and carbon emissions.
- 2.7 As a consequence, it is expected that there is no further need for a bulk lamp change regime at 3 yearly cycles. It is anticipated that adopting a different maintenance regime will ensure annual savings of £97000 to the Council in street lighting maintenance costs.
- 2.8 This is the basis for the PB24. 'New Procedure for Replacing Lamps' Savings Scheme.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked for its comments regarding this efficiency savings scheme and in order to enable the Cabinet to make a more informed and final decision on the schemes.