



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**8 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**BRIEFING NOTE: Update on Street Lighting**

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This Briefing Note is to update on the cataloguing and maintenance of all Street Lights which are the responsibility of the Landlord Service of Northampton Borough Council and therefore come under the future investment plans of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.
- 1.2 The Landlord Service is also responsible for some un-adopted roads and footpaths and these also need to be included within future investment plans if they are to be brought up to adoptable standard.

**2 Street Light Surveys**

- 2.1 In order to catalogue and record all the street lights which come under the HRA, we commissioned surveys to be carried out by qualified electricians, one of which used to work for both the Landlord Service and Commercial Team, before leaving the Council. He and his previous team used to carry out the maintenance of many of these fittings so his knowledge of these street lights was invaluable.
- 2.2 Street Lighting essentially comes under the following areas of responsibility:
  - County – for all street lights required for the highways network
  - General Fund – for street lights off the highway in parks, leisure centres, town centre, etc.
  - Housing Revenue Account – for street lights off the highway around some housing estates, including footpaths, garages, parking and pedestrian areas around blocks of flats.
- 2.3 Each of the 40 estates within the Borough was covered by the production of 160 location maps and surveys were then carried out. Each un-adopted street light was numbered and recorded with a unique reference number using a permanent marker. The maps were used to record location of each fitting, along with the following information:
  - Location - Street name or Building name
  - Mounting Type - Column or Wall

- Height of fitting
- Lamp Type
- Lamp Wattage
- Control Type – Photo Cell or Clock
- Access Requirement – Ladder or Scaffold

2.4 These surveys were commenced in January and completed in July and resulted in the identifying of some 359 separate light fittings. Across the 160 maps, HRA street lights were recorded in 63 locations with the largest groups in Spring Boroughs, Kings Heath and Semilong.

### **3 Survey Evaluation and required Actions**

3.1 Having completed the surveys we are now arranging for all this information to be transferred into the following locations:

- The production of spreadsheets to summarise the information
- The Housing database so that repairs can be actioned more effectively
- The GIS system to formally map the information collected

3.2 In addition, we are making arrangements for each lamppost to be tagged, using a unique reference number generated from the housing database which when quoted will identify the location and number of the fitting, using the number marked up from the survey. We will have each fitting tagged with an aluminium strip which when reported will allow the repairs service to know the exact location of each fitting that needs to be repaired.

3.3 Having now established a list of all the HRA lighting units, we will capture a condition appraisal as part of the tagging process to determine the priorities for investment. This will determine the type of column or wall fitting, its condition and state of decoration, if applicable. We will also consider the social and environmental issues with Housing Management to determine areas which are prone to ASB or crime to highlight improvement to lighting that might be required.

3.4 We are also making arrangements for the servicing and updating of these fittings, along with opening up discussions with the current service arrangements the County have with Balfour Beatty. There are some considerable energy efficiency savings to be made for converting many of these fittings to low energy bulbs and making use of an existing contract could ease the procurement process. So far our discussion with Balfour Beatty/ the County have not progressed particularly well as the needs of 360 lamps bear little significance compared to the thousands that need doing to the highways network. Nevertheless, we will make further approaches in the hope that the completed surveys will help pave the way to a joint solution.

3.5 We are also making an assumption that within the next 10 years each lamp will need a refurbishment and replacement and figures for this are being produced to sit within the HRA business plan.

## **4 Conclusions**

- 4.1 As part of the Asset Management Strategy that is currently being developed, we will ensure that the street lights are included within future investment plans with the aim of bringing as many as possible up to adoptable standard and/or converted to low energy to minimise the cost and maintenance of these fittings.

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