



## **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**26 JUNE 2017**

#### **BRIEFING NOTE: NBC STREET LIGHTING**

##### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 29 July 2015, received a briefing paper regarding NBC owned street lighting. Following this, a scrutiny activity commenced to investigate background data, energy costs, maintenance costs and an invest to save programme.
- 1.2 Subsequently, in March 2017 a Cabinet response asked for a working group to be set up to oversee the transfer of lighting from NCC to NBC and the completion of the NBC street lighting asset list.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update on progress made and the next steps.

##### **2. UPDATE**

- 2.1 An Officer/Member working group has been established which is chaired by the Deputy Leader, Cllr Phil Larratt. The working group has met on three occasions with the next planned for 19 June 2017.
- 2.2 The key responsibility of the working group is to identify, monitor and evaluate current usage of all NBC owned Street Lighting. The working group will also oversee the transfer of those street lights which are owned by NBC but currently managed and maintained by NCC. A number of these street lights are on NPH land and discussions are underway regarding the management and maintenance of these.
- 2.3 A meeting was held on 15 May with NCC in order to understand their position and timescales. The deadline for NBC/NPH to make a decision on which street lights they are going to accept is the end of July 2017. Any street lights which are not transferred to NBC/NPH will be completely removed by the end of September 2017.
- 2.4 NBC are keen to ensure that the street lighting asset list is accurate and comprehensive. Some assessment work therefore is necessary. To help to identify any street lighting that NBC may not be aware of, a communication has been composed which will, inter alia, be sent to the

Ward Councillors, the two Business Improvement Districts (town centre and Brackmills), Parish Councils and local groups. This will state that NBC are in the process of updating their street lighting asset list and that their assistance may be required once the transfer is completed in terms of identification of street lights which may need repairing/replacing.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 An updated asset list has now been completed by NCC to outline which street lights are within NBC/NPH ownership. NCC has confirmed that the list has reduced from the original 744 Street Lights to 607 Street Lights. Scrutiny across the two assets lists is now being progressed which may expose further reductions.
- 3.2 Based on the original figures (Electricity of £30-£50 per year and Maintenance costs of around £70 per column) the maintenance each year would be approximately £42.5k and the electricity would cost between £18k - £30k per year. However, this excludes any costs that may arise from the replacement of columns or luminaires which may be required at the time of handover from NCC. Further scrutiny of these figures is required.
- 3.3 NBC and NPH will undertake an Options Appraisal to consider which of the street lights to accept. This will need to include the condition of the column and the luminaires, and the costs to replace and/or repair as necessary.

### **4. THE WAY FORWARD**

- 4.1 A survey and options appraisal will be commissioned once the duplications have been removed from the asset list. This piece of work will help to better understand the condition of the street lighting and the costs of taking those on. This will include a comprehensive risk analysis, invest to save considerations and an assessment of value for money for NBC/NPH.
- 4.2 Using the information within the survey and options appraisal, recommendations will subsequently be made to Cabinet regarding which street lights NBC and NPH should take on from NCC. This will need to be done in a timely manner given NCC timescales.
- 4.3 This will allow NCC to remove any unwanted street lighting by the end of September 2017.
- 4.4 NBC and NPH to negotiate the management and maintenance of street lights which are on housing land.
- 4.5 The cost implications arising from the management and maintenance of street lights are to be established.
- 4.6 A method to enable the public to report any defects to NBC or its nominated contractor, as may be appropriate, will need to be identified.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 That Overview & Scrutiny;**

1. Note the progress that has been made to date and invites the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning to submit a further update in due course
2. Endorse the way forward outlined in this briefing.

**John Dale**  
**Head of Economic Development and Regeneration**  
**June 2017**