Herefordshire Council

Decision maker:	**Assistant Director for Regulatory, Environment and Waste Services**
Decision date:	**Monday 11 March 2019**
Title of report:	**LED Street lighting - additional assets**
Report by:	**Energy and active travel manager**

Classification

Open

Decision type

Non-key

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose and summary

To approve the conversion of the Council's remaining street lighting and public lighting to LED on an invest to save basis.

In 2018/19 approximately 180 lights were added to the council's street lighting inventory from new highway adoptions and through the consolidation of all public lighting into the public realm service.

As these lights are additional to the initial LED street lighting project, this report seeks approval to utilise the underspend in the pre-approved capital budget for LED street lighting to convert the remaining public street lighting to LEDs on an invest to save basis at a cost of £81k.

Recommendation(s)

That:

(a) All remaining street lights and public lighting are upgraded to LEDs at a cost of no more than £81k; and

(b) the energy & active travel manager be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the above recommendations within the approved budget,

utilising the council's public realm contractor.

Alternative options

1. **Do nothing** - The council will not benefit from the financial and carbon savings these projects offer and the council's ability to deliver against its carbon reduction targets.

Key considerations

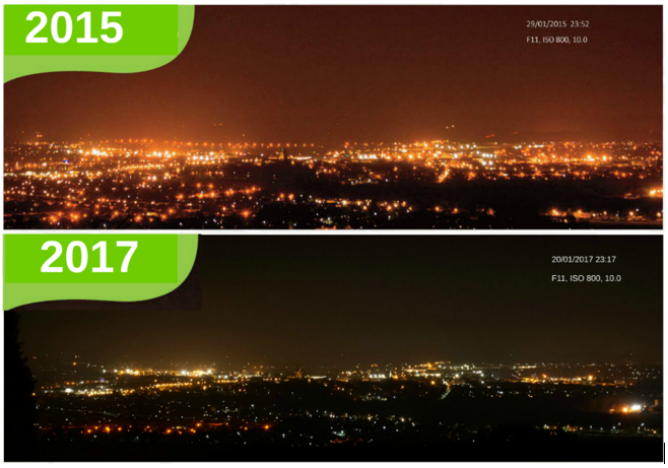
Background

2. In 2017/18 the council completed the LED street lighting investment programme which upgraded all street lighting to LEDs.

3. As far as we are aware, Herefordshire was the first county to achieve 100% LEDs for street lighting and the costs, financial savings and carbon savings are summarised below.

	Number of assets included	Cost	£ savings over 20 years, energy and maintenance	Payback period	Carbon savings over 20 years
Traffic lights, signs and bollards	2,489	£411,000	£1.2 million	8 years	4,074 tonnes
Street lights	12,412 street lights & 2,926 column replacements	£6,545,900	£16 million	7.8 years	25,279 tonnes
Total	**17,827**	**£6,956,900**	**£17.2 million**	**Average of 7.9 years**	**29,353 tonnes**

4. This project has been a major contributor towards delivering the council's carbon reduction targets and has greatly reduced light pollution levels across the county as illustrated below.



New street light adoptions

5. As the local highway authority, the council can choose to adopt additional new highway and street lighting either when developments are completed or from parish councils where there is a benefit for the council to manage them.

6. Whilst the council's highways design guide has been updated and requires all new developments to follow the same standard and specification as the council's street lighting, there is some street lighting which were installed to the previous standard.

7. As these lights have now been adopted, this proposal seeks to upgrade them to the same standard as the rest of the street lighting asset. This will reduce both energy and maintenance costs in addition to reducing the associated carbon emissions.

Lighting on Public Buildings

8. Public and street lighting on public buildings do not form part of the highway, and prior to 2018 were previously managed separately within property services. In order to streamline services, these lights have been consolidated with street lighting within the public realm service.

9. As these assets were not in scope of the original LED street lighting project which commenced in 2015, this proposal seeks to upgrade these to the same standard as the street lighting in order to reduce energy and maintenance costs in addition to reducing the associated carbon emissions.

Community impact

10. The previous LED street lighting projects have been well received by residents due to a better quality of street lighting and reduced levels of light pollution. There were a small number of initial complaints where residents' properties are no longer lit, although this has generally been resolved through communications and education as the lights are only intended to light the public highways, so this is seen by the majority as an improvement.

11. The significant financial and carbon savings offered through these proposals will both protect public service provision in a time of austerity whilst also demonstrating our commitment to community leadership on carbon reduction when natural resources are decreasing.

12. The improved lighting, reduced running costs and associated carbon savings will contribute towards the delivery of the council's corporate plan priority to 'secure better services, quality of life and value for money'.

Equality duty

13. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

    A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

    (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

    (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

14. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

15. An Equality impact assessment was completed as part of the substantive LED project and is attached as appendix 1.

Resource implications

16. The estimated capital costs are summarised below:

Capital cost of project	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**Total**
Installation Costs	71,500			71,500
Risk	2,100			2,100
Contingency	7,400			7,400
TOTAL	81,000			**81,000**

Funding streams (indicate whether base budget / external / grant / capital borrowing)	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**Total**
LED Street Lighting capital budget	81,000			**81,000**
TOTAL	**81,000**			**81,000**

17. The proposal is to finance this project through the existing "LED Street Lighting" capital budget, which was underspent from the initial LED replacement programme. The capital repayments will be met through the existing and future energy savings in the street lighting energy budget as the initial LED replacement programme delivered savings in excess of the initial business case.

18. This project will also deliver unbudgeted maintenance cost savings and cost avoidance through the reduced maintenance costs for the LED lighting.

19. The proposed project will be delivered through the existing Herefordshire Public Realm Contract which delivers the council's street lighting management.

Legal implications

20. The powers and duties of a street lighting authority in the matter of lighting are statutory. The common law imposes no duty to light and confers no powers.

Points of further note;

- Under the relevant provisions of the Highways Act1980 there is a power to light a highway but no duty to do so.
- No liability for an accident arising from a failure to light, or failure to continue to light, a highway.
- There is a statutory duty of care to road users to warn and protect , such as providing lighting to warn of obstructions on the highway and includes the safety of lighting equipment on the highway
- The Electricity at Work Regulations imposes a duty on owners and operators of electrical equipment to ensure its safety

Risk management

21. A comprehensive risk assessment was completed as part of the main LED project which was developed jointly by the council and the BBLP project team. This will be reviewed and updated for this extension.

22. The associated risk value is included within the total project cost.

Consultees

23. Emergency services were consulted as part of the original LED street lighting project and had no concerns with the proposed upgrade to LED lighting.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – LED Street lighting, Equality Analysis

Background papers

- None