

**Decision Maker:** EXECUTIVE

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Key

**Title:** STREET LIGHTING LED CONVERSION PROGRAMME

**Contact Officer:** Garry Warner, Assistant Director (Highways)  
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**Chief Officer:** Colin Brand – Director of Environment and Public Protection

**Ward:** (All Wards);

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline proposals for a capital programme to allow the remaining streetlight in Bromley to be converted to LED to provide potential revenue budget savings as part of the transformation programme.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Executive approve;

- i. establishment of a capital programme for a further phase of street lighting improvements at an estimated cost of £3.2m
- ii. to draw down £3.2m from the Invest to Save Fund to meet the replacement scheme cost, to be subsequently repaid from savings within the Street Lighting revenue budget
- iii. request that final details of the scheme are reported to the Environment & Community Services PDS Committee later this year, including ensuring the criteria are met for an appropriate invest to save project, and any amendments requiring approval are subsequently referred back to the Executive
- iv. that the revenue budget future requirement for street lighting is reviewed and any identified ongoing saving is included in the Council's financial forecasts and future budget considerations.

### Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None
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### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
  2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council Quality Environment Safe Bromley Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres :
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £3.2m
  2. Ongoing costs: : Recurring revenue saving TBD
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Highways – Street Lighting
  4. Total current budget for this head: £3.6m (revenue budget)
  5. Source of funding: Invest to Save Fund and existing revenue budgets
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### Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 33.5
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement :
  2. Call-in: Applicable:
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### Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: None
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Borough wide
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? no
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: n/a

### **3. COMMENTARY**

#### **Background**

- 3.1 As the Highway Authority, LB Bromley own and maintain 27,796 lamp columns and 1,732 illuminated road signs across the borough, many of which have exceeded their recommended design life of 25 years. In 2012 the Council approved an invest to save project to replace 8,000 of the oldest concrete and steel lamp columns and install energy efficient LED lanterns to these and a further 6,500 structurally sound steel streetlights in residential roads.
- 3.2 Street lighting on busy traffic routes require higher levels of lighting than residential roads, and therefore consume more electricity. Salix Energy Efficient and SEALS funding has recently been used to fund lantern conversions of 3,650 lamp columns on the borough's busiest roads.
- 3.3 The structural condition of the remaining steel lamp columns and signposts is carefully monitored using ultrasonic testing to identify areas of corrosion, and the latest survey identified 1,001 steel lamp columns and 289 steel signposts that will require replacing during the next four years.

#### **Proposed Capital Project**

- 3.4 Following recent improvements 6,813 lamp columns are still fitted with older lanterns which have a high electricity consumption. Replacing these with new low energy LED lanterns would reduce electricity and maintenance costs, as well as improve the reliability of the lamp posts.
- 3.5 As the previous invest to save funding for the earlier scheme has been repaid, one option is to use current revenue budgets that are available for further street lighting improvement works. If current revenue budgets are maintained during the next four years, 1,001 lamp columns and 289 signposts could be replaced, and low energy LED lighting installed on all 6,813 remaining streetlights at a cost of £3.4m over that period. While savings would be achieved from 2021/22, following each annual programme, the full savings from reduced energy and maintenance costs would not be realised until 2025/26. The age profile of the column stock would require the continued ad-hoc replacement of the remaining defective columns in the short and medium term to maintain the network in a safe condition. Condition assessments would continue to be undertaken to identify those lamp columns that would be life expired.
- 3.6 Alternatively, a further invest to save project would allow all 1,001 lamp columns and 289 signposts to be replaced, and low energy LED lighting installed on all remaining street lighting in the first year of the programme at a cost of £3.2m. The savings made through reduced unit rates for new lamp columns together with energy efficiency, reduced maintenance, CCL and staff costs are estimated at £0.168m annually and would be achieved after one year. By utilising the revenue budgets for lamp column replacements and minor improvements mentioned in 3.5, the capital investment would be repaid within four years. Condition assessments would continue to be undertaken to identify those lamp columns that would be life-expired at the end of the four-year programme. It will then be possible to reassess the ongoing revenue budget requirement for street lighting replacement and running costs and reflect any resultant budget savings in the Council's future financial forecast.
- 3.7 It is proposed that the LED conversions will be delivered through the existing street lighting contract with Riney at an accelerated timetable once funding has been agreed. Riney have confirmed that they have the capacity to complete the project within the required timescale.

### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council's vision for Bromley is that it remains a place where people choose to live and do business. Modern, safe, reliable and efficient street lighting has an important part to play in realising this vision particularly in terms of improving public perception of the street scene, enhancing community safety and security and promoting the accessibility of public transport and other local services during the hours of darkness. These align well with the policy priorities in Building a Better a Bromley.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 On the basis of the invest to save option, the cost of replacing corroded lamp columns the remaining stock of streetlights with LED's is initially estimated at £3.2m. As part of the invest to save project approved in 2012, it was agreed that the revenue budgets for lamp column replacements, minor improvements and saving from reduced energy and CCL would be used to repay the invest to save fund. As funding for that phase has now been fully repaid, those same revenue budgets are once again available to repay the invest to save funding , which currently are as follows:

Street Lighting Budget Head	Revenue Budget 2021/22 £'000
Lamp column replacements	584
Minor improvements	127
<b>Total</b>	<b>711</b>

- 5.3 In addition, annual revenue budget savings from energy efficiency, reduced maintenance, CCL and staff costs are estimated at £168k a year after year one. Taking this into account, and allowing for estimated interest on the outstanding funding balance over the life of the project, the indicative period over which the investment will be repaid is estimated at 4 years.
- 5.4 Subject to Executive's approval of the scheme in principle, the financial details and phasing of the scheme costs, savings and interest payments will be finalised and reported for scrutiny to the Environment & Community Services PDS Committee later in the year. Any changes to the schemes financials that require further approval would then need to be referred back to the Executive.
- 5.5 Following completion of the scheme, the future revenue budget requirement for street lighting will need to be reviewed and any identified ongoing savings included in the Council's financial forecasts and future budget considerations.

### 3 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Highways Act 1980 empowers the Council as Highway Authority to provide lighting. The Council has a duty of care to the highway user and must ensure it can demonstrate it has systems and programmes in place to ensure the safety of all highway lighting equipment.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Impact on vulnerable adults and children Personnel implications Procurement implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	