



North Tyneside Council

northernstreetlights Newcastle
lighting newcastle and north tyneside

City Council



Joint Street Lighting Committee

10 August 2016

Present: Councillor J Stirling (In the Chair)
Councillors S Fairlie, J Harrison and N Kemp

Also in attendance: D Anderson, Commercial Finance, NTC
N Eglintine, Environment & Regeneration, NCC
Y Harrison, Democratic Services, NTC
S Heslop, Commercial Legal, NTC
P Nelson, Environmental Sustainability, NTC
V Taylor, Commercial & Business Redesign, NTC

JSLC01/08/16 Appointment of Chair (North Tyneside Council)

Resolved that Councillor J Stirling be appointed as Chair for the municipal year 2016/17.

JSLC02/08/16 Appointment of Vice-Chair (Newcastle City Council)

Resolved that Councillor N Kemp be appointed as Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2016/17.

JSLC03/08/16 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence reported.

JSLC04/08/16 Appointment of Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members reported.

JSLC05/08/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of interest or Dispensations reported.

JSLC06/08/16 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 December 2015 be confirmed.

**JSLC07/08/16 Street Lighting PFI Performance Report from 1 July 2015 to
30 June 2016**

The Committee received a report which explained the standards used to measure the performance of the Service Provider and detailed the performance of the Street Lighting PFI contract for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

It was highlighted that there was a small number of instances when the time taken to repair a fault by the District Network Operator exceeded the 30 day target. There was also a small number of instances when the time taken to repair a fault by SSE exceeded the 5 day target.

The six Performance Standards for the period July 2015 to June 2016 were detailed in Appendix 1. Each of the performance standards, Best Value Performance Indicators and the financial position for the period were summarised below:

Performance Standard 1: - at the time of publication of this report it being beyond the Initial Asset Renewal Programme (IARP) period, PS1 now showed the total number of street lighting apparatus in each Local Authority area.

Performance Standard 2: - example values on the percentage of lighting apparatus in lighting across the month were detailed in the report, noting that contract targets were being met.

Performance Standard 3: - in relation to responsiveness to repairing faults;

- Criteria A – Emergency response was currently achieving 100% attendance within one hour
- Criteria B and C – Performance in this area was satisfactory

Performance Standard 4: - a scorecard analysis was used to determine customer care response times and provision of real time information to the Council's through SSE's Facilities Management System, which was accessed remotely.

One of the Indicators required the Council Monitoring Teams to carry out inspections of SSE vehicles to ensure they were carrying information cards and complaint forms. Neither Council's Monitoring Team carried out this check so the score was currently marked as N/A; otherwise all performance was excellent (as detailed within each month's data).

It was noted that an additional Customer Care Service sheet had been included in order to detail calls that arose directly into Envirocall/Envirolink and were forwarded directly to SSE. It also recorded written correspondence to each Monitoring Team. The most robust way of accurately reporting this was to only include written correspondence through the Members Enquiry System and this was implemented from this report onwards.

Performance Standards 5: - the Local Indicators LP11-LP16 was included in Appendix 1. It was highlighted that in the case of LP5 and LP6 in order to better manage the work over a 12 month period, SSE brought forward the completion date of jobs to dates that were in advance of the contractual agreement. Both LP5 and LP6 were completed within the reporting period, however reporting monthly would not show a true and accurate picture. Work was ongoing with SSE to reach a suitable methodology to report to committee.

Performance Standard 6: - a scorecard analysis was used to determine the performance of SSE in their working practices regarding Quality Assurance, Health & Safety, Training, Road Work Reports and Waste Management.

Best Value Performance Indicator: - the BVPI showed the average repair times by both SSE (a) and the District Network Operator (b). The target days were now shown at contract target and in calendar days, as opposed to previous reports which showed working days.

Financial: - contract payment was by means of a unitary charge which would be subject to deductions and penalties for poor performance. Details of the payments and penalties were detailed in a separate PFI Finance report on the agenda.

During discussion on the reporting methodology and future provision of indicators, Members suggested that statistical information could be consolidated to key points for scrutiny purposes and specific contract monitoring issues reported to the Joint Street Lighting Committee by exception. It was agreed that officers, in consultation with the Chair, review the composition of the PFI performance report.

The committee was informed that an Innovation Day with SSE was currently being arranged to take place in August or September, the purpose was to discuss e.g. emerging technologies, further potential for roll out of LED, use of the Mayflower system and links to smart city roll out and potential maintenance savings.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked officers for the positive report.

Resolved that the report be received and the methodology and future provision of indicators noted.

JSLC08/08/16 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3, 7 & 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

JSLC09/08/16 Street Lighting PFI Finance Report from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

The Committee received a report which explained the financial aspects of the conduct of the Joint Street Lighting contract for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

Payments under the PFI contract included a services element and an energy element. The services cost was fixed under the contract, subject to an annual inflationary increase. The energy element was subject to open market testing on a regular basis.

Members were advised that unitary payments were based on the original PFI contract on the contractor's performance. No deductions were made in the 12 months to June 2016. Performance issues were set out in a separate PFI Progress report on the agenda.

During discussion on the PFI finance report the Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to appropriately.

Resolved that the report be received and the contents noted.

JSLC10/08/16 Project Apollo

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the future arrangements of Project Apollo.

At the previous meeting in December 2015, it was agreed that following consideration of the initial proposal from the supplier SSE for the future delivery of the Apollo Scheme, officers would further investigate details of the financial, legal and operational elements of the proposal and a meeting of the Committee convened early in 2016.

It was reported that although no significant progress had been made since December 2015, officers had met with SSE in June 2016 to discuss Project Apollo specifically and to reiterate the supplier's obligation to provide sufficient information regarding the future arrangements of the scheme, without over riding any non-disclosure agreements.

Members were advised that Project Apollo was now a standing item on all operational and strategic contract review meetings between North Tyneside Council officers and SSE operatives. These meetings were monthly in frequency and officers were due to meet with SSE operatives at the end of this month to discuss outstanding information requested.

The committee expressed concern that despite continued requests to SSE to provide both Newcastle and North Tyneside Councils' with the relevant information, also recognising officers' frustration in their attempts to move the project forward; it was agreed that officers would prepare a briefing note on the outcome of the meeting for further discussion with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

During discussion on the Project Apollo report Members of the Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to appropriately.

Resolved that the report be received for information.