



North Tyneside Council

**northernstreetlights** Newcastle  
lighting newcastle and north tyneside



## Joint Street Lighting Committee

30 January 2017

**Present:** Councillor J Stirling (Chair)  
Councillor N Kemp

**Also in attendance:** D Anderson, Commercial Finance, NTC  
S Heslop, Commercial Legal, NTC  
P Holmes, Communities, NCC  
V Taylor, Commercial & Business Redesign, NTC  
G Weatherstone, Communities, NCC

### **JSLC11/01/17 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillors S Fairlie and JLL Harrison.

### **JSLC12/01/17 Appointment of Substitute Members**

There were no substitute Members reported.

### **JSLC13/01/17 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest of Dispensations reported.

### **JSLC14/01/17 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 August 2016 be confirmed.

### **JSLC15/01/17 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**JSLC16/01/17      Project Apollo and Financial Disputes Update**

The Committee received a progress report on the sale of the Street Lighting PFI Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Project Apollo, and the proposed settlement of a number of financial disputes between Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Council and SSE.

At its meeting in December 2015, the Committee considered the initial proposal from the supplier SSE regarding Project Apollo, when it was agreed that officers would continue to investigate and negotiate with SSE prior to contract sign-off to secure a position which left both Authorities at no disadvantage. Following several meetings, officers were now analysing and considering the financial information regarding the preferred bidder in order to demonstrate that the transactions represented best value for money in the current market conditions. The Authorities had also negotiated a number of financial disputes with SSE over the past 18-24 months, each based on individual merits with a view to a wider settlement agreement.

Throughout the negotiations SSE maintained their position that they had continued to be aware of the Service Provider's obligations with regard to best value as set out in the Project Agreement, however they did acknowledge that both Authorities required sufficient Information to allow officers to brief Members on the progress of Project Apollo, without compromise to non-disclosure agreements.

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

In recognising the enormous work involved in the negotiations and in achieving a mutual settlement between the Authorities and SSE, the committee expressed its gratitude to all officers involved in the process.

**Resolved** that the report be received for information.