[These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the committee]



Joint Street Lighting Committee

18 September 2017

Present: Councillor N Kemp (In the Chair)

Councillors S Fairlie, J Harrison and S Stirling

In Attendance: N Eglintine Environment & Regeneration, NCC

Y Harrison Law and Governance, NTC

JSLC01/09/17 Appointment of Chair (Newcastle City Council to Chair)

Resolved that Councillor N Kemp be appointed as Chair for the Municipal year 2017/18.

JSLC02/09/17 Appointment of Vice-Chair (North Tyneside Council to Vice-Chair)

Resolved that Councillor J Stirling be appointed as Vice-Chair for the Municipal year 2017/18.

JSLC03/09/17 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

JSLC04/09/17 Appointment of Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members reported.

JSLC05/09/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

JSLC06/09/17 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 January 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

JSLC07/09/17 Street Lighting PFI Performance Report from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

The Joint Street Lighting Committee received a performance report on the Street Lighting PFI Contract for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

At its meeting in August 2016, the Joint Street Lighting Committee agreed that officers should review the performance information presented in the performance report to ensure it was both meaningful and prioritised the most useful information, including a section on electricity consumption, which was not previously included. In terms of benchmark data, details had yet to be secured from ASPE however, the information would be available at the next meeting of the Committee.

This report detailed the performance of the service provider against a number of contract performance standards and local indicators between July 2016 and June 2017 and included additional details on electricity consumption, spend and reduction programmes.

With regard to contact monitoring for North Tyneside Council it was highlighted that there had been a small number of instances when the time taken to repair a fault by the District Network Operator, Northern Powergrid, which exceeded the 30 day target. There were no instances when the time taken to repair a fault by SSE exceeded the five day target. There were no other performance concerns reported and overall, performance was very good. The performance standards were outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

The LED replacement programme was now underway and over 2,300 lamps had been replaced with modern LED. The programme would run to June 2018 and install LED lamps in 7,300 street lighting columns. Both Authorities were consuming less electricity than the contractual forecast. Commentary was given on progress towards making further efficiencies through the introduction of LED lighting.

Members welcomed the much improved reporting format in terms of user benefit when considering PFI performance. Six monthly performances would be presented at future Joint Street Lighting Committee meetings.

Members were advised that since the previous meeting of the Committee, the sale of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Project Apollo had gone through and all disputes were resolved in the round. The Project had been the subject of a report to Cabinet in March 2017.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked all officers from both authorities in working together to achieve a positive outcome to the SPV operating contract.

Resolved that the report be received for information and the comments on performance noted.

JSLC08/09/17 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7 & 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

JSLC09/09/17 Street Lighting PFI Progress Report for 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

The Committee received a report which explained the financial aspects of the conduct of the Street Lighting PFI Contract for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Payments under the PFI contract included a services element and an energy element. The services costs were fixed under the contract, subject to an annual inflationary increase and for changes in the type and numbers of equipment in use. The energy element was subject to open market testing on a regular basis and represented the energy consumed at that price.

Members were advised that payments were in line with the unitary charge and reflected the energy charges throughout the year on a seasonal basis. There were no specific issues reported.

Members discussed the report and were given the opportunity to ask questions which were responded to appropriately.

Resolved that the report be received for information.