

## **LED STREET LIGHTING PROJECT UPDATE – BRIEFING NOTE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLACE (HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC PROTECTION)**

1. On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, having considered the Cabinet Member update reports, Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) requested clarification in terms of the implementation of LED street lighting across the Borough.
2. Council approved the Street Lighting Asset Project, as part of the budget setting process in March 2021, approving the investment of £12.750m to replace all non-LED lanterns with energy efficient LED lanterns (approximately 25,400 lanterns in total), and replace life expired lighting columns (approximately 6,000 columns). The project is also retro-fitting LED technology to the illuminated signs and upgrading illuminated bollards.
3. It is an important project as it is reducing the Council's Carbon emissions; reducing energy usage, thereby saving money; renewing street lighting columns that have reached the end of their engineering life; and providing an improved quality, whiter light.
4. The project is being delivered by the Council's appointed Street Lighting contractor (Jones Lighting) and was scheduled to take 192 weeks to complete. The Council and the Contractor have worked collaboratively throughout, in developing the programme; agreeing materials to be deployed; and managing risks, including supply chain issues, costs and delays that have arisen due to external factors (e.g. Covid-19 Pandemic, exit from the EU, war in Ukraine/sanctions on Russia, energy price increases, inflation et.).
5. As part of the Council's wider capital improvement and strategic replacement programmes, projects are also being run, in parallel, replacing non-LED traffic signals with more energy efficient LED signals, and replacing other non-LED assets (e.g. underpass lighting etc.).
6. For management and planning purposes, Street Lighting is divided into 75 defined geographical zones, and the project was initially being delivered on a zone-by-zone basis, replacing all non-LED Lanterns in a zone, to maximise efficiency of resource deployment. In response to unprecedented increases in energy costs, and as reported in the Cabinet Member Update Report on 7<sup>th</sup> March, from April 2023 the programme has been realigned to replace all higher energy lanterns across the borough first. This is a slightly less efficient way of working but will deliver a larger proportion of the forecast energy and financial saving within the current financial year, thereby contributing more to current cost pressures.

7. Despite the issues relating to delays in material deliveries, for the period up to the end of February 2023 a total of **11,337 lanterns have been installed** against an estimated programmed installation schedule of 9,556 which indicates we are currently ahead of schedule on lantern replacement.
8. Unfortunately, due to the delays in delivery (the war in Ukraine has impacted significantly on availability and price of steel), the street lighting column replacement remains slightly behind the estimated programme. The programme has been adjusted to match the expected availability / delivery of street lighting columns and total of **2,643 columns have been installed** against an estimated programmed delivery schedule of 2,772.
9. To date a total of **357 road sign lighting units have been upgraded** to LED units, and **454 illuminated bollards have been replaced** with non-illuminated bollards.
10. In terms of the headline outcomes, to date the project has delivered a **total energy reduction of 3.374 million KWH**, and a **total Carbon reduction of 722 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**.
11. The unprecedented rise in energy prices has meant that despite the substantial reductions in energy usage, street lighting energy costs have continued to rise. The reduction in energy usage, as a result of the project, has however had a significant impact in reducing the impact of those uncontrollable cost increases, and the gain from this investment will continue as and when energy costs reduced.