

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 4 June 2013

Street Lighting – Replacement of Test Failed Columns

Item number	7.11
Report number	
Wards	All

Links

Coalition pledges	P44 , P49 , P50
Council outcomes	CO18 , CO19 , CO21
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 , SO4

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Executive summary

Street Lighting – Replacement of Test Failed Columns

Summary

An increasing risk, in relation to Test Failed lighting columns, was identified at a Transport and Environment Committee workshop on 19 March 2013.

Finance and Budget Committee previously noted at its meeting on 17 January 2013 the realignment of Services for Communities (SFC) Capital budgets and transferred funds from previously approved projects to new projects. A balance of £1.332M remains and was put to a SFC capital investment contingency fund. It is proposed that £1M required for street lighting will come out of the remaining contingency.

The additional £1M funding will accelerate the current replacement programme for Test Failed lighting columns. It is estimated that 710-760 columns will be replaced through this programme, dependent upon contract prices.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Transport and Environment Committee:

- 1 notes the content of the report;
- 2 approves the proposals for a £1M capital spend in 2013/14 to accelerate the Street Lighting Test Failed column stock replacement, subject to agreement by Full Council;
- 3 refers this proposal to Council for approval as it is not currently contained within the Capital Investment Programme for 2013/14; and
- 4 considers this funding requirement when setting future years' budgets.

Measures of success

Success will be measured by an accelerated reduction of the worst Test Failed columns on the inventory and a faster replacement of concrete and steel lighting columns with aluminium columns.

Financial impact

The current annual budget for Street Lighting is £1.4M for 2013/14.

The cost of providing energy for street lighting is expected to nearly double by 2020. The energy saved by using new lighting technologies, in conjunction with column replacements, will reduce the lighting energy bill.

Equalities impact

Improving the street lighting asset will positively contribute to the delivery of the Equality Act 2010 for all of the protected characteristics, but in particular age and disability, and will improve the lives and safety of all residents and visitors to the city.

Sustainability impact

Aluminium columns are now the first choice in street lighting designs as they require no ongoing maintenance and have a design life of more than 50 years. These columns are manufactured from recycled aluminium and they can be recycled again at the end of their life.

The new lamps, dependent upon type, can last from 5 to 20 years compared to the current life of 2-4 years. These lamps also use less energy, therefore securing savings in the lighting energy bill, and future carbon tax.

Both the aluminium columns and the modern light fittings used take account of all required environmental regulations and can be recycled at the end of their life helping the Council meet its carbon footprint and environmental targets.

Consultation and engagement

Not applicable.

Background reading/external references

None.

Street Lighting – Replacement of Test Failed Columns

1. Background

- 1.1 The renewal of street lighting apparatus is funded from the Council's Capital Investment Programme. Up to 2004, funding was set at an average of £500k per annum and, although this has increased to an average of £1.63M per annum for the period from 2005-2012, renewal of columns that have failed a structural test has not kept up with the level of deterioration.
- 1.2 The existing street lighting stock consists of 57,138 lighting columns. The traditional steel and concrete columns have a design life of 30 years.
- 1.3 From the total stock of 57,138 columns, 16,857 columns are over their 30 years design life. This figure increases, in Edinburgh, by approximately 1,500 columns per annum.
- 1.4 An accelerated replacement of Test Failed street lighting columns will greatly assist with reducing the potential risk, to the Council.

2. Main report

Progress Made to Date

- 2.1 Given the high number of columns over their 30 years design life, an independent risk-based structural testing programme commenced in 2003 to provide an accurate assessment of the condition of the lighting column stock. This programme was undertaken on column stock that was 15 years old and over.
- 2.2 To maintain continuity of this critical testing regime, a rolling programme of structural tests will be included with electrical testing, and will be carried out on a six year cycle across the city. The resultant test scores will help to inform future investment decisions for column replacement work programmes.

Current Position

- 2.3 The issue of Test Failed columns was discussed at a Transport and Environment Committee workshop on 19 March 2013. At that workshop members recognised the scale of replacement columns required and the need to prioritise this work. The Director of Services for Communities was asked to investigate if there were any available funds. £1M has been identified from capital projects managed by Services for Communities. This funding can therefore be allocated to the replacement of Test Failed lighting columns.
- 2.4 Test Failed columns are graded 1-5, with 1 being the highest risk. To maximise the use of the additional £1M investment all High Risk 1, Test Failed columns and other critical risk Test Failed steel columns will be replaced citywide. This will almost eradicate these highest risk columns and ensure that the investment is targeted at the most structurally critical columns in the city. 710-760 columns will be replaced through this programme, dependent on contract prices.

Risk Assessment

- 2.5 Independent test results highlight that replacement of this aged stock should commence urgently if a position is to be reached where the future replacement of Test Failed columns can be managed within reasonable budget limits.
- 2.6 It is acknowledged that the current funding levels require to be supplemented. The additional £1M will assist the replacement programme, and help to reduce the risk. A continuing requirement to replace Test Failed columns remains and further funding, to manage and reduce this risk, will be explored.

Financial Implications

- 2.7 Current funding levels for the renewal of street lighting apparatus funded from the Council's Capital Investment Programme for 2013/14, removing staff design costs and other charges, is £1.15M for actual spend on the ground. There are a number of competing demands on this budget. The additional £1M will be solely used to accelerate the Test Failed column replacement programme for 2013/14.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Transport and Environment Committee:
- 3.1.1 notes the content of the report;
 - 3.1.2 approves the proposals for a £1M capital spend in 2013/14 to accelerate the Street Lighting Test Failed column stock replacement, subject to agreement by Full Council;
 - 3.1.3 refers this proposal to Council for approval as it is not currently considered within the Capital Investment Programme for 2013/14; and
 - 3.1.4 considers this funding requirement when setting future years' budgets.

Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

Links

Coalition pledges	P44 – Prioritise keeping our streets clean and attractive. P49 – Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill. P50 – Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020.
Council outcomes	CO18 – Green – We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production. CO19 – Attractive Places and Well Maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards. CO21 – Safe – Residents, visitors and businesses feel that Edinburgh is a safe city .
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 – Edinburgh’s economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all. SO4 – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.
Appendices	None