

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	20 NOVEMBER 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	18
TITLE:	STREET LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE TERM CONTRACT 2013-2018 (CURRENTLY EXTENDED UNTIL 30 JUNE 2021)		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR A PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out details to enter into a final year (2020/2021) of the Street Lighting & Electrical Maintenance Term Contract, 2013-2018 (currently extended until 30th June 2021). This contract provides a sustainable Street lighting Maintenance Service under the current contractual terms and conditions.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee note the outputs delivered by the Street Lighting & Electrical Maintenance Term Contract 2013-2018 (currently extended until 30th June 2021).
- 2.2 That the Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee approve the further 1 year extension of the Street Lighting & Electrical Maintenance Term Contract 2013-2018 (currently extended until 30th June 2021).

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of a high quality, best value public service.

- 3.2 To make travel more secure, safe & comfortable for all users of the public highway.
- 3.3 To provide a public highway network as safe as reasonably practical having regards to financial constraints and our statutory duties.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 This report outlines the current Reading Street Lighting and Electrical Maintenance Term Contract 2013-2018 (currently extended until 30th June 2021) with SSE Contracting Ltd. This contract facilitates a continued provision of a sustainable Street lighting Maintenance Service.
- 4.2 Reading, Wokingham and Slough Borough Councils secured Challenge funding from the DfT for 70% of the cost of a £27m joint streetlighting asset upgrade to LED with a Central Management System (CMS) in 2015. The total budget for Reading was £9.8m, £6.86m of which was grant and £2.94m was RBC capital. A joint LED swap out contract was tendered in the autumn of 2015 and Volker Highways were awarded the contract to swap out streetlights, sign lights, illuminated bollards and life expired columns. The contract works began in April 2016 and were completed 31st March 2019. All equipment has been fitted with the Mayflower CMS system which allows remote dimming, monitors energy usage accurately and report faults remotely. 11,300 lanterns have been upgraded, 4,033 columns and 850 bollards replaced, 2,350 sign lights and a number of bridge mounted fittings have also been replaced, as well as 300 heritage columns have been refurbished. The works are subject to a 12 month defect liability period and LED lanterns carry a 12 year warranty.
- 4.3 Upgrading the streetlighting stock to LED has significantly reduced the maintenance input and will do so for the next 20 years, with an estimated reduction in costs of up to 50%. Street lighting energy consumption has also fallen by 55% as a result of the change to LED lighting.
- 4.4 The Council successfully renegotiated the Streetlighting & Electrical Maintenance Term Contract 2013-2018 (extended until 30th June 2021) with SSE Contracting Ltd based on the reduced maintenance requirements and have saved circa £200k in maintenance costs per annum.
- 4.5 SSE Contracting Ltd has agreed to continue the Streetlighting and Electrical Maintenance Term Contract 2013-2018 (currently extended until 30th June 2021) for the final year (until 30th June 2021), under the current Contract arrangement / terms and conditions.
- 4.6 The Council will look at alternate options during the next Financial Year (2020/2021), including retendering the Streetlighting & Electrical Maintenance Term Contract and to consider bringing the streetlighting maintenance in-house as part of a joint streetlighting & traffic signals service.

- 4.7 A report will come back to Committee at the appropriate time on the alternate options. A current review of the traffic signals contract that has been conducted jointly with other Local Authorities has highlighted both positives, (potential cost savings), but also negatives, (in terms of decision making and joint agreement between parties).

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The Street Lighting & Electrical Maintenance Term Contract 2013-2018, if further extended until 30th June 2021, will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-21 objectives of:

- Securing the economic success of Reading
- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe
- Ensuring the Council is fit for the future

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 The Street Lighting & Electrical Maintenance Term Contract 2013-2018 (currently extended until 30th June 2021) Committee Report is available on the Reading Borough Council Website outlining the Council's decision making process. This is subject to review annually taking into account comments from the public, media, Government and Councillors.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 7.2 There is no overall change to service delivery of the Street Lighting & Electrical Maintenance Term Contract 2013-2018 (currently extended until 30th June 2021) at this time. Should any future updates/amendments be required, which result in service delivery changes, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The cost of the Streetlighting & Electrical Maintenance Term Contract 2013-2018, if further extended until 30th June 2021, shall be fully funded from the existing Transport and Streetcare Revenue Budget.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Decision Book - 'Street Lighting Maintenance Contract - 2 Year Extension' April 2018
- 10.2 Decision Report - 'Street Lighting Maintenance Contract - 2 Year Extension' April 2018
- 10.3 Supplement Agreement Street Lighting and Electrical Maintenance - 11 July 2018