

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE -  
13 FEBRUARY 2006**

**REPORT ON: STREET LIGHTING PARTNERSHIP**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

**REPORT NO: 89-2006**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report considers a proposal for the extension of the existing partnership with Tayside Contracts for the delivery of the Street Lighting service to include an extended partnership with Perth and Kinross Council.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report and agree:
- i To the extension of the partnership scheme to include Perth and Kinross Council;
  - ii That the Director of Planning and Transportation be remitted to report back to a future Committee with the results of this pilot scheme;
  - iii To remit a review of the Street Lighting Partnership manager's post, including the role and responsibilities, to the Director of Planning and Transportation and the Assistant Chief Executive (Management);
  - iv That further discussions take place with Angus Council to encourage them to form part of this project.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION**

- 3.1 Revenue savings accruing from these proposals will be reinvested within the delivery of the Street Lighting service.

## **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Street lighting makes an important contribution to road safety, crime prevention and the creation of an acceptable, safe, night-time environment. The after dark environment in Dundee is a key factor in the quality of life for its residents and visitors.
- 4.2 The use of more energy efficient equipment and light sources reduces the production of "greenhouse" gases.

## **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Good quality street lighting benefits all groups who feel vulnerable during the hours of darkness.

## **6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 Reference is made to Article II of the minute of the Planning and Transportation Committee of 16 May 2005 when approval was given for the extension of the

partnership with Tayside Contracts for a period of three years. The partnership is performing well against the various objectives established.

- 6.2 Perth and Kinross Council operate a similar partnering arrangement with Tayside Contracts for the delivery of the street lighting service within their authority. This partnership arrangement was introduced as a 3 year pilot scheme and is due to finish at the end of March 2006. The indications at this stage are that this scheme has also been a success, unit costs have been reduced and a high level of service has been maintained.
- 6.3 The Street Lighting manager in Perth and Kinross has indicated his intention to take early retirement at 31 March 2006 and Dundee City Council has been approached with a view to having a single manager responsible for both teams.
- 6.4 The individual Street Lighting teams within both Perth and Kinross and Dundee are relatively small and the works budgets in each authority are under pressure. The general condition of the street lighting plant within Perth and Kinross at this time remains relatively good and it is accepted that because of the funding situation that the general workload for some of their technical staff is likely to reduce in future years.
- 6.5 It is considered that there would be benefits to both Councils and Tayside Contracts if all the available staff were part of a single team providing an integrated street lighting function, managed by a single Street Lighting Partnership Manager.
- 6.6 The Street Lighting Partnership Manager's remit would be to standardise lighting policies, procedures, materials and working practices within the Partnership Team and also provide the managerial support to both the Dundee and Perth based teams.
- 6.7 It will also be this Manager's responsibility to consider the future direction of the combined unit and to bring forward proposals to further develop the efficiency and/or effectiveness of the street lighting division.
- 6.8 The formation of a single team under a single Street Lighting Partnership Manager covering both Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Council has many benefits for both Councils and Tayside Contracts:
  - The larger team will be more adaptable in dealing with peaks and troughs in workload.
  - The production of a common specification will reduce the costs of storage of materials, and should encourage cost savings through bulk purchase.
  - The arrangement meets the Scottish Executive's objectives in increased partnership working in line with the Efficient Government Agenda and the modal set by the Regional Transport Partnerships.
  - It gives scope for further development of such a partnership, for example by other Councils considering joining, as experience grows over time.
  - The new structure has cheaper staffing costs for both Councils.
  - It meets an identified need within Tayside Contracts by introducing an appropriate level of management for its street lighting team.

- 6.9 It is proposed that a single partnership arrangement between Perth and Kinross Council, Dundee City Council and Tayside Contracts be formally agreed and be introduced on a three year pilot from 1 April 2006.
- 6.10 The grading of the Street Lighting Partnership Manager will require to be reviewed to take account of these increased responsibilities. However, net savings in staff costs in the order of £70K over the three year period of the trial are anticipated as a consequence of sharing the costs of the Partnership Manager. These savings, together with savings resulting from improved efficiencies, will be reinvested back into the delivery of the Street Lighting service.
- 6.11 Dialogue has taken place with representatives of Angus Council regarding a possible partnership that included this Authority. However, Angus were not minded to commit to that at present and indicated that they would retain a "watching brief". Therefore, although nothing is formalised at this stage, it is recognised that further discussions may take place with Angus Council in the future as part of any possible future development of partnership working.

## **7 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) and Managing Director Tayside Contracts have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

Mike Galloway  
Director of Planning & Transportation

Ken Laing  
City Engineer

KL/EH

30 January 2006

Dundee City Council  
Tayside House  
Dundee