

Briefing Paper Central Management System – street lighting



Background

CMS (Central Management System) technologies are the most effective way of reducing the ongoing costs of a lighting service, meeting the challenge of rising energy prices whilst improving the quality of light and implementing a sustainable and flexible control to this asset. When a CMS is utilised in conjunction with Light Emitting Diodes (LED's) and CMS it can also reduce the requirement for regular planned and reactive maintenance, therefore potentially providing further revenue savings.

Many Local Authorities have already adopted or are moving towards such an arrangement, this includes our immediate neighbours (Cornwall, Devon and Exeter) as well as scalable city comparisons – (Bristol & Milton Keynes) it is reported that 85% of all local authorities now dim their street lighting installations.

This strategy must however be based upon consideration of many variables.

As part of the business case for Capital Funding for procurement and installation of a CMS officers produced a Business Case as attached (Appendix B). This Business Case provides estimated headline savings for adopting CMS and variable lighting regimes in the Plymouth City area, detailed in Section 2. This was based upon a realistic approach to lighting levels required across the city to ensure the network is lit to the relevant standards. Further details of the assumptions made to produce the savings and payback options in this report can be found in Section 5 of the Business Case.

Recommendation and Reasons

Based on the advantages outlined in the Business Case Capital Funding has been allocated. It is considered that a CMS would allow the Council to, as well as realising the energy emissions and costs benefits, provide the opportunity for the Council to deliver the following benefits:

- Providing a safer and sustainable highway network
- Reducing the rate of failure for critical assets and improve its resilience
- Improve public perception and satisfaction with the highway network

If the Council were to decide not to proceed with this proposal there would be several risks that would need to be closely managed and maintained. These include:

- Revenue allocation insufficient to cover energy costs
- Opportunity to substantially reduce CO² emissions missed
- Links to 'SMART CITY' advantage not maximised (Clean Air, Road Sensors, Traffic Counts etc.)
- Traffic & Crime reduction opportunity not realised.