

Democratic Services

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Date: 15 July 2013

Dear Councillor Mitchell,

Topic Group B: Review of Investment in Streetlighting

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and your officers for their attendance at a meeting of the above Topic Group on 9 July 2013.

The Topic Group welcomed the opportunity to explore the issues raised in the draft reports which related to a significant investment in LED streetlighting across the Borough. We felt that the overall approach to the investment as an 'invest to save' initiative had been carefully prepared and it is with this in mind that we support, in principle, the proposals which are to be considered by the Executive in September 2013. Members welcomed the approach to phasing in the new stock over a two year period and the savings which the Council would realise if the investment was agreed by the Executive.

In their concluding remarks, Members wished to request that the Executive Member review the investment at appropriate intervals to ensure that the lighting stock continued to deliver optimal performance bearing in mind wider technological innovations. Further comments were also made in relation to the exploration of the residual costs of the lanterns as soon as practicable and that given the scale and significance of the contract, work be undertaken across the organisation to ensure a robust and flexible contract was in place to meet both current and potential future streetlighting requirements. Furthermore, Members noted the robustness of the Health Impact Assessment and the Borough-wide approach to the application of LED streetlighting. The Topic Group suggested that the Executive Member may wish to progress a communications and engagement strategy which, amongst other issues, focussed on the cost savings which would be achieved by the Council once LED streetlighting was implemented.

Once again, I wish to thank you and your officers for enabling the Topic Group to consider this report prior to its consideration by the Executive. We welcome the consideration of this 'invest to save' initiative as a means of updating and improving the streetlighting stock and realising savings for the Council in the longer term.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor John Reilly Chairman of Scrutiny Topic Group B

Cc Peter Molyneux Aidan Flynn Iain Veitch Cllr Cordingley Cllr Ross Cllr Bowker Cllr Lloyd Cllr Adshead