Street Lighting Upgrade Project

Although the Project was originally expected to be completed by the 31st March 2018, unfortunately the contractor has not been able to complete all the works. Please find below the Project status, as of the end of March, and information regarding the Additional Works proposed for 2018/19.

**Background**
When originally proposed, the Upgrade Project was planned to be procured and undertaken over a five year period, with the Borough bearing the full costs. Subsequently, to take advantage of the commercial benefits, a joint procurement exercise, with Slough and Reading Borough Councils, was agreed and the project was reduced to a three year period. As a joint project, the Boroughs submitted an application to the Department of Transport (DfT) Challenge Fund, which was successful, and resulted in a grant to cover 70% of the costs. However, to meet the DfT’s funding conditions, the project period was further reduced to a two year period.

**Extent of Works**
At the start of the project, in April 2016, WBC was instructing the contractor to replace 7640 Columns & Lanterns, 5205 Lanterns Only and to covert 1955 from traditional units to LED’s – a total of 14,800. Over the life of the Project the number of instructions has increased to 8630 Columns & Lanterns and 7350 Lanterns Only – the conversion of traditional units was cancelled, due to technical and product guarantee difficulties, in favour of a direct replacement the lanterns – a total of 15,980.

As of the 31st March, Volker Highways have completed 14,519 instructions, i.e. 8135 Columns & Lanterns and 6384 Lanterns Only. Although it is disappointing that Volker Highways have not been able to complete all the works, there are a number of reasons why this has been the case, e.g.:

1. Access restrictions, impose by the NRASWA Team, due to conflicts with other works, e.g. Wokingham Town Centre refurbishment and regeneration works; other 3rd party works
2. The last 1000 Telensa (Central Management System) nodes programmed for WBC went ‘missing’ and were not delivered to Volker Highways – this prevented most of the Lantern Only programme for March being undertaken.
3. Deferred locations that require road closures and/or extensive traffic management, e.g. Twyford crossroads, High Street, Wargrave, where coordination with other works, e.g. signage, ‘special’ lanterns, would be beneficial to traffic
4. Dead service cables on the SSE network – these faults need to be repaired by SSE before Volkers can undertake the replacement works
5. Dead service cables, owned by WBC – cable replacement works need to be planned and undertaken
6. SSE cable problems that require joint visits with SSE engineers have been submitted to SSE and are awaiting SSE programming dates
7. “Special” equipment/materials that manufacturers will not deliver until post 31st March

The outstanding units (497No. Columns & Lanterns and 969No. Lantern Only replacements), and any necessary snagging works, will be programme as and when the sites become accessible and NRASWA permits are granted during 2018/19.

**2018/19 Additional Works**
To take full advantage of the available DfT Challenge Fund Grant, which is covering 70% of the costs, additional replacement works, not originally include in the project, are being planned for next year, e.g.:
1. Illuminated Signs – replace/convert signlights; de-illuminate where appropriate; replace poor condition posts and signs
2. Replace traditional wall mounted units
3. Replace traditional subway lighting
4. Replace High Mast lighting
5. Replace traditional “Under Bridge” lighting
6. Replace traditional lanterns in recently adopted streets (specified pre LED)
7. Replace “Special”/architectural units

By undertaking these additional works, the aim is to have all WBC public lighting as LED’s, thus further reducing ongoing revenue costs. The cost of the Project works and the 2018/19 Additional Works will be completed within the original budget.