

Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA)

Directorate and Service Area:

Environment & Economy - Commercial

What is being assessed:

STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT AND INTERIM POLICY

Responsible owner:

Dariusz Seroczynski, Strategic Manager – Network Management

Date of assessment:

18 March 2016

Summary of judgement:

The impact of the proposed policy change for the duration proposed is slight and deemed acceptable. Specific issues during the period of the interim policy will be monitored with corrective action taken if necessary.

Detail of Assessment:

Purpose of assessment:

The assessment has been carried out as the Street Lighting Policy for Oxfordshire is proposed to be amended as the result of early termination of the existing Street Lighting Contract at a break point within the contract.

Social Value

Under the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 the Council also has an obligation to consider how the procurement of services contracts with a life value of more than £173,934¹¹ might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the area affected by the proposed contract, and how it might act to secure this improvement. However, it is best practice to consider social value for all types of contracts, service delivery decisions and new/updated policies. In this context, 'policy' is a general term that could include a strategy, project or contract.

Context / Background:

The Council's current Street lighting contract with Scottish & Southern Electrical (SSE) was until March 2024, however, the contract contained a single break point at 1st April 2016. In July 2015, SSE served notice on the County Council that they intended to activate this break clause as the contract was not affordable to them for its full duration, in particular with making financial losses on the maintenance. SSE attached conditions under which they would consider withdrawing the notice; however these were not in the Council's interest and therefore not agreed.

Proposals:

In the long term the termination of the current Street Lighting contract provides the County Council with an opportunity to procure a new and improved contract, taking advantage of recent improvements in technology and general advancements within the sector. Due to the urgency and immediate effect of the termination it is therefore necessary, in the short term, to introduce revised policy, which would reduce the street lighting service to deliver emergency support only, as described in the main body of the report.

Evidence / Intelligence:

¹¹ [EC Procurement Threshold for Services](#)

Explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users etc that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact of different individuals, communities or groups.

A reduced service provision is proposed for the short-term to enable the county council to identify and procure a new service which better meets our medium and longer term needs, along with reflecting the advancements and changes in the industry since the original contract was awarded

Alternatives considered / rejected:

Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.

Following from the receipt of the termination letter officers immediately engaged with discussions with SSE during which SSE indicated that their actions were as a result of there being a single opportunity to break the contract, and should the county council be in a position to include additional opportunities to break the contract within the next two years then, they would be happy to continue for a further two years. The county council therefore informally agreed to a one year extension of the break clause with the potential for an additional year subject to performance. However, when trying to finalise such arrangements it became apparent that SSEs requirements were unrealistic and not in the Councils' interest. Furthermore, EU procurement regulations do not allow for the authority to renegotiate contract rates beyond levels proposed by SSE.

Doing nothing would result in total termination of electrical services exposing the Council to potential claims resulting in dangerous apparatus (in case of failure or damage) being exposed to elements and public.

Impact Assessment:

Impact on Individuals and Communities:

Impact on all communities and groups will be slight as the level of the current service will drop but the emergency repairs to faulty / damaged and dangerous equipment will continue. It is proposed that no routine maintenance will be carried out during the interim period, however this should not specifically affect any of the identified groups. It is proposed that the capital investment (replacement of existing standard lighting to LED lighting) will continue as planned and therefore provide positive impact on communities and groups.

Risks	Mitigations
Exposure to live services due to damaged equipment	New policy will allow for same level of service as before in that area
Assets not visited / maintained regularly/routinely	Log of routine maintenance schedule will be kept and picked through the long-term appointment of the new contractor.

Impact on Staff:

Some impact on staff is anticipated. Certain reduction of standard day-to-day workload on temporary basis is expected; however that will be counterbalanced by the significant increase in resource demand associated with the development of the long-term contract and all the procurement processes and procedures and by the necessity to deal with expected increase of complaints received from members of public, district and parish councils.

Risks	Mitigations
Reduction in day-to-day standard duties	Engagement in the development of the new long term contract and in the procurement process.
Increased levels of complaints	Issue appropriate communication to district and parish councils and to all elected Members.

Impact on other Council services:

Council services that rely on support from the Electrical Services team will be mostly affected.

Current Contract Provision	Proposed interim Provision	Likely scale of Impact
Emergency & Out of hours cover to attend electrical and structural highway apparatus which is deemed dangerous within target response timescales of 2hr, 24hr and 48hr. (I.e. knock-down columns & signs, vandalism, electrical wires exposed, door off, bowl & canopy hanging etc.).	Revised target response timescales to 3hr or 24hr	Minor
Maintenance of illuminated speed limit signs-outages	No provision	Major - Once illumination ceases to function speed limits will become un-enforceable by Police
Private cable networks – currently repaired with 5 days	To be repaired within 10 days	Major - may increase the volume of complaints if service cable not repaired and the highway electrical apparatus not operational at junctions/ interchange. (I.e. Botley, Peartree, Kennington etc.)
Traffic lights/Crossings supplies if private.	Change of target response timescales to 3hr for emergency	Minor

	attendance.	
Real time bus information	No provision	Minor
Speed cameras maintenance of supplies & emergency attendance.	Revised target response timescales to 3hr or 24hr	Minor
Pay & display machines	Change of target response timescales to 3hr for emergency attendance.	Minor - May be a small loss of income.
Routine maintenance (a service which is carried out on each unit) on a rolling 3 year cycle & 2 year for illuminated signs to reduce future costs & ensure operation/condition of the asset.	No provision	Major – May lead to a high volume of units not operating due to lamp failures, or which have gone beyond designed lifespan.
Re-locating existing highway apparatus near driveways which are to be extended or new bell-mouth access for a development.	No provision	Major – impact on new housing developments Utilities companies and provide resident's requesting drop kerbs this may have an impact on the Council's reputation
Tree Pruning	No provision	Minor – but considerable impact on local communities
Non-routine maintenance (Fault Repairs) from 3 to 5 days.	No provision	Major – as this will have a high volume of units not working due to lamp/component failures. May occur additional future costs for repairs.

Impact on providers:

Contract with the current service provider SCE will be terminated on 1 April 2016 due to SCE serving termination notice to OCC. Crown Commercial Services Framework contract is proposed to be utilised in its place to operate emergency only service for a short period of time.

Risks	Mitigations
No service provider in place after 1 April 2016	Appointment of the new short term contractor through Crown Commercial Services Framework.

Social Value

If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area.

How might the proposal improve the economic well-being of the relevant area?

The potential improvements to the economic well-being of Oxfordshire will be considered as services are awarded to the new contractor.

How might the proposal improve the environmental well-being of the relevant area?

The potential improvements to the environmental well-being of Oxfordshire will be considered as services are awarded to the new contractor.

Monitoring and review:

Faults received will be logged as current and periodically reviewed with corrective action taken if deemed essential.

Person responsible for assessment:

Version	Date	Notes (e.g. Initial draft, amended following consultation)
1	18 March 2016	Initial draft