

TITLE: SCHOOL FLASHING LIGHTS MID ARGYLL KINTYRE & THE ISLANDS

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an update on the issue of the outstanding replacement of the School Flashing (“Twenty’s Plenty”) lights within Mid Argyll Kintyre and the Islands.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members note this report.

3. DETAIL

The original requirement for the installation of speed restriction signs at schools is included in this report.(Appendix1).

As is stated in this appendix, funding was made available for the original installation for the signs, however no consideration, financial or otherwise, was given to the requirement for the essential on-going maintenance.

Not unlike the Council street lighting apparatus, the inclement weather on the West Coast of Scotland has taken its toll on these signs and almost every one has exceeded its design life.

The street lighting section has been reduced by 60 % over the last 3 years and this lack of available resource and the cost of the specialist materials required for these signs has meant that the necessary up keep has not been possible.

Consideration was given to alternative procurement strategies, including in-house delivery, collaboration with neighbouring local authorities and policy changes. For various reasons, these approaches were not considered to be appropriate and a stand-alone maintenance and repair/replacement Contract was procured.

With this in mind, a Council wide condition survey of these signs was carried out by Consultancy firm Capita Symmonds, with a view to using the information gathered to issue a tender for replacement and maintenance. Their findings are attached in Appendix 2.

The included tender (appendix 3) was issued and the quotations received ranged between £240,000 and £422,000. As the available budget will in no way stretch to cover these costs, a paper is being taken forward as a budget pressure to Strategic Finance requesting funding to allow appointment of the successful company.

As an interim measure, the signs that are situated on high speed roads are being given priority and if not repairable, are being systematically replaced as a matter of urgency. There are 4 such sites within the MAKI Area; Rhunahaorine, Glenbarr, Drumlemble & Southend.

Infrastructure works have been carried out on all 4 sites and all of the new signs should be in situ by the beginning of October. The signs for Southend are programmed to be in place on or around the 11th of September.

All work is being carried out by Imtech, who have a proven track record in dealing with this type of Maintenance, and were assessed as representing best value in the recent invitation to tender exercise.

- 4. Policy:** The street lighting network will be maintained in line with BS5489 & BS 7671 and the 'Road Maintenance & Asset Management Plan' as closely as the available roads maintenance budget will allow.

5. Financial: Increased demand on all work associated with Street Lighting is having a significant impact on the available resources.

6. Personnel: Nil

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