

5 October 2023



**Street Lighting Energy Reduction
(SLERP) Project Update**

**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods
and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a SLERP update regarding retrofit installations, confirm the current position, advise on the final SLERP 3 project and comment on energy savings, carbon reduction and financial information.

Executive Summary

2. The current highways street lighting asset stock is 83,676 streetlights, the SLERP project has continued to convert high energy lanterns with low energy LED lanterns to reduce carbon emissions, energy consumption and costs.
3. The project delivery (retrofit installations) is funded through capital investment with payback from reduced revenue costs on an invest to save basis.
4. The SLERP project has been the biggest contributor to date, to the Council's reduction in carbon emissions.
5. THE SLERP project is being delivered in 3 phases:
 - SLERP 1 – complete
 - SLERP 2 – complete
 - SLERP 3 - underway
6. LED lantern conversions have been delivered through the project more efficiently and effectively than anticipated and at less cost than originally expected in the business case.

7. Expenditure savings in the SLERP 2 project have funded SLERP 3.
8. Over the period LED lantern technology has improved and this has allowed some of the more difficult lantern conversions to be brought into scope.
9. SLERP 3 will focus on converting those more difficult lighting units with new LED lanterns.

Recommendations

10. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report and its contents, and the committee receive an end of project update once the overall scheme is completed in 2025.

Background

11. **SLERP 1-** the project was a 6-year invest to save project which converted 60,000 streetlights, started in 2013 and completed in 2019.
 - Cost £22,532,000
 - Energy Reductions 16,948,934 kWh
 - Carbon Savings 8,413 tonnes
 - Annualised Electricity savings @ 2023 rates £5,596,199
12. **SLERP 2-** the project was a 3-year project invest to save project to convert 17,328 streetlights, started in 2020 and completed in 2023.
13. The project was extended by 6 months from the original timescale due to the complexity of the project and completed in September 2023. The total number of retrofits are 17,404
 - Cost £6,364,268
 - Energy reductions 5,317,434 kWh
 - Carbon savings 1,184 tonnes
 - Annualised Electricity savings @ 2023 rates £1,755,710
14. **SLERP 3-** the project started in September 2023, it is programmed to be complete in 18 months and plans to convert 1,900 streetlights.
 - Cost £2,898,000
15. The conversions are more costly as there is a requirement to replace streetlighting columns in addition to the lanterns to achieve the necessary lighting levels.
16. Following completion of the project there will be 3,530 streetlights remaining, these will be converted in future years as part of the ongoing capital column replacement programme.

Conclusion

17. Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report and its content.
18. SLERP 1 and SLERP 2 are now complete and SLERP 3 commenced in September 2023, the overall project is planned to be complete in March 2025.
19. The project will continue to be funded through Capital investment with payback from reduced revenue costs on an invest to save basis.
20. On completion of SLERP 3 a further report will be provided.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Durham County Council, as the local Highway Authority, has a statutory duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the adopted highway at public expense.

Finance

As detailed in the report.

Consultation

Public consultation undertaken on the updated Street Lighting Policy

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Climate Change

Delivery of the SLERP project contributes to the councils declaration of a climate emergency in respect of energy and carbon reduction through the installation of LED units,

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

The SLERP project is delivered by the Council's in-house Highway Services team supported by a supply chain of competitively procured external sub-contractors.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

External sub-contractors are procured through a competitive tendering process which is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure value for money is achieved.

Lighting units are purchased through a local company following a competitive procurement exercise.