



11th STREET LIGHTING PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE PROJECT FOR SSE CONTRACTING

SSE Contracting, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Tay Valley Lighting Nottingham) Ltd (TVL), has been awarded the 25 year Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract. In addition to replacing old street lights, the contractor will be responsible for maintaining all the lighting columns and illuminated signs in the city. SSE Contracting was appointed the preferred bidder in March 2010.

All will have new white light lanterns. Ten thousand existing columns (lampposts) will remain and have new lanterns fitted. Thousands of illuminated sign posts and bollards will also be replaced under the proposals. All columns will be fitted with technology that will help the council achieve significant energy savings over future years.

The brighter, more energy efficient new lights could also contribute to 17 per cent of the council's 30 per cent CO₂ reduction target by 2016. They will also meet the European Lighting Standards.

Colin Hood, Chief Operating Officer at SSE said, "SSE is well established as the UK's leading street lighting contractor, and this latest contract will build on that. The Nottingham Street Lighting PFI will create safer and improved lighting for the people of Nottingham. We will work hard to make sure a high standard of service and delivery."

Cllr Jane Urquhart, Nottingham City Council's portfolio holder for Transport & Area Working says: "This is very good news indeed especially as it comes at a time when there is some uncertainty surrounding some major capital projects in the region. Nottingham literally has a brighter future, but also a safer and more sustainable one."

"The current street lighting in Nottingham is becoming less effective. We work closely with the police and other emergency services through the Crime and Drugs Partnership to control crime and anti-social behaviour. These organisations could be greatly helped by the new street lights and technology advances."

Alan Breeton (Interim Director) at the Crime and Drugs Partnership says: "I'm delighted as it will greatly assist our emergency services with their work making it easier for them to monitor hot spots with CCTV. I welcome the impact better lighting will have in further reducing crime and increasing people's feeling of safety."

All street lighting will be installed with dimming capability to provide flexible control of lighting intensity and energy consumption. Having the ability to be able to reduce the intensity of lighting during off-peak hours saves energy and money. This means that lights could be turned down after busy commuter peak times, traditionally after 7:30pm and before 6:00am during winter months, to save energy.

The cost of this new service will be met from an annual council street lighting budget of £4.8m and an annual PFI grant of £3.5m from central government. The council will seek opportunities to reduce costs through energy savings.

Cllr Urquhart concludes: "I'm glad the Treasury has recognised that this is a sound investment. At a time when everyone is tightening their belts, our new energy efficient lighting will save the council money and there will be reduced maintenance costs."

Work to replace the new lights could start in the autumn of this year.