



meeting **STREET LIGHTING REPAIR SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **14 MAY 2007**

agenda item number

Report of the Chair of the Street Lighting Repair Select Committee

Work Programme

Purpose of the report

1. To inform Members of the Select Committee's progress through its work programme.

Background

2. The Highways Select Committee which concluded in March 2007 recommended that the issue of the street lighting repair performance of E-on be looked at in more detail. Further to that on 26th March 2007, Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a Select Committee to examine this issue over the course of two meetings in April and May 2007.
3. The Street Lighting Repair Select Committee previously met on 23 April to receive briefing from departmental officers and evidence from E-on. At its last meeting the Select Committee requested details of the final quarter's performance indicators for 2006/2007. These are as follows: for BV215a (target 7 days) 6.83 and BV215b (target 15 days) 29.52. These figures are subject to audit checks which are currently ongoing. In addition, the Select Committee requested information on the backlog of repair works, this is attached to this report as Appendix 'A.'

Further Evidence

4. The Select Committee agreed at its last meeting that it would receive evidence from The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) – the regulatory authority in relation to street lighting repair. Ofgem has been attempting to promote competition in the gas and electricity connections market and this has developed slowly based on voluntary arrangements with electricity distribution network operators (DNOs). Ofgem indicates that the voluntary approach has proved ineffective as a means of enabling competition and Ofgem has been receiving an increasing number of complaints about these connections. While DNO

performance is usually acceptable there are many cases of poor performance. Ofgem proposes to establish national minimum performance levels that they would expect all DNO's to surpass. Ofgem will report on their achievements in 2007/08 and consider what further action, if any, is required for example through the price control review. Mr Roger Morgan, Senior Connections Policy Manager at Ofgem has consented to brief the Select Committee on Ofgem's responsibilities and proposals, and to answer questions.

Agreeing Final Recommendations

5. This is the final meeting of the Street Lighting Repair Select Committee. There is therefore a requirement for the Select Committee to carefully consider what it has heard and proceed to draw up robust, evidence-based recommendations that are likely to lead to improvements in street lighting repair performance.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that

the Street Lighting Repair Select Committee note the work programme, receive briefing and evidence, initiate lines of questioning as necessary and then finalise recommendations.

Councillor the Hon Joan Taylor
Chair of the Street Lighting Repair Select Committee

Background papers: nil.