

Essex County Council
Robert Overall
Executive Director for Environment,
Sustainability & Highways
County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1QH

Fao: Parish / District Council

Date: 11 February 2010
Our Ref: ESH/HM/KT/PFI
Your Ref:

Dear Sir / Madam

Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

In July 2009 the Department of Transport (DfT) announced a 3rd street lighting bidding round with the intention of allocating £440m in PFI Credits to local authority street lighting projects early in 2010. Local authorities Expression of Interest (EoI) were invited, with submissions to be received by the Department on 7 December 2009. The street lighting PFI objective is to reduce a backlog in local authority street lighting maintenance with a view to securing enhanced crime and accident reduction outcomes along with energy and CO₂ saving initiatives.

Part of the PFI project would involve the replacement of street lighting which has or will reach the end of their design life during the 25 year period on the contract. This work will be carried out within the first 5 years of the project and all street lighting furniture whether replaced or not will be maintained during the 25 years of the project.

As you know, our letter dated 10th November 2009 refers, Essex County Council decided to submit an EoI for consideration by the DfT. Due to the short timescales involved with submitting the EoI by the 7th December 2009 an estimated amount of Parish, Town, District and Borough Council lights was used. This has allowed time for a more informed assessment to be made of what lighting stock you are currently responsible for and to this end I would ask you to complete the attached spreadsheet and return it to me at keith.tovee@essex.gov.uk by 1st March 2010. This information will be used to assess what your costs would be should you choose to be part of the PFI contract. In addition we will need an indication on the amount of money you have spent on your street lights (capital and revenue) over the last 5 years and a predictive spend for the coming 5 years.

The information required for the spreadsheet can be sourced from your own lighting inventory, your current maintenance/testing street lighting contractor and your submissions to your energy supplier (a copy of which would be helpful).

If ECC obtains approval for its EoI the next phase is to move to an Outline Business Case (OBC) which will need to be sent to the DfT in May 2010. The 1st March 2010 deadline is therefore important to be met as it will provide sufficient time for us to indicate your likely commitment to the project and for you to make a final decision as to whether you wish to continue with it or not.

If you require any further information please contact me either by phone or email.

Yours faithfully

Keith Tovee
Principal Engineer Street Lighting

Please reply to Keith Tovee

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