



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI657883353

Thank you for your request for information relating to contract to install new street lighting in the City post 2010 via Balfour Beaty.

You have requested the following information:

I have a few questions regarding the contract to install new street lighting in the City post 2010 via Balfour beaty and any other involved.

1. Of the quarter of a billion pound contract over 25 years, is the city paying for this out of its own funds?

The Council receives a £5m grant from central government per annum for the length of the contract equating to £125m due to CCC being in the PFI. The Council is responsible for paying the remaining half.

2. Was there any dissenting opinion against the scheme that is recorded?

The state of the streetlighting inventory before the commencement of PFI was in such a poor condition that columns were at risk of failing or danger to residents.

3. Was there any discussion of the city doing this itself at a vastly lower not for profit cost to the tax payers rather than outsourcing to for profit private capitalist transnational oligarchs who take most of the money out of communities for no work via dividends and rents unto tiny handfuls at the top of each corporation so that the poor souls can afford a second yacht for every day of the week while we cannot even afford to turn our street lights

on.

The authority once netting the PFI grant from the unitary charge made a small saving because of improved technology.

4. If it is being paid for from the councils budget, what is the estimated average cost to citizens, per street light, per year., what is the total cost to the council per year.

As answered previously the council is not solely responsible for funding this.

5. Was the project voted on by the entire council for approval, or was this passed through by other means via a smaller number of hands, in which case whose hands / signatures were they.

This went to full cabinet ahead of the PFI contract being entered into. Documents and reports from this meeting should be available online.

6. Was there an agreement on the number of streetlights overall that would be installed, and how many were removed.

31,765 assets were removed and replaced with 30,362 assets. In addition, 5,613 assets that did not require upgrading but included in the PFI.

7. Was there an agreed contractually obligated ratio/percentage per street of street lights that would be returned vs those removed on per street basis. Is it stipulated in the agreement to the corporation, did they make any promises on this matter.

An energy saving target was introduced, but now target for number of assets.

8. On the turning off of streetlights due to the councils mismanagement of budgets, is there a map of all the areas this is done to, if not, can you confirm if ALL residential areas get this treatment in the city, and if not, can you provide a list of those areas that do not have their street lights turned off at night when they are needed most.

All residential area outside of the ring road have been treated with the same part night switch off criteria/conditions. Blue light services were consulted as part of this process with no area specific concerns being raised.

9. As the street lights are turned off to save a miniscule £700K, has any attempt been made by any party to make the giant corporations like the Blackstone group who have assets on their books = 10% of the entire planets GDP and own assets in the city, to force them to cough up that 700K'chicken feed to them so that the council no longer has to dump that cost of lighting onto the shoulders of workers by turning their lighting off as if returning to Dickensian England

The energy used by PFI assets is paid directly by the Council and is not part of the contract.

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If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance