

CD Briefing Note

TITLE:	Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant (TSOG) application proposal
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PURPOSE

To seek Corporate Director support to allocate and spend £631,374.47 of Department of Transport (DfT) Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant (TSOG) funding on Traffic Signal Upgrades. (Subject to Portfolio Holder DDM)

ISSUE

A large proportion of the Traffic Signal assets and infrastructure within Nottingham City are of a historic nature using incandescent halogen signal lamps (almost 50%).

These lamps use large amounts electricity to power them and have to be regularly replaced, increasing the carbon impact of the assets.

Nationally increasing numbers of signal lamps are being replaced with an improved LED module which is gradually leading to obsolescence issues as manufactures move away from producing incandescent lamps.

BACKGROUND

The Department for Transport have a made a total of £30 million available to Highway Authorities through the Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant to upgrade traffic signal systems, replacing unreliable and obsolete equipment to improve reliability.

£10 million of the grant will be paid out through the transport metrics within the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) formula, whilst the remaining £20 million has been made available through an application challenge process, with funding allocated in £500,000 lots.

Nottingham City Council has been successful in their bid for £500,000 from the challenge fund. (£131,374.47 also automatically allocated to Nottingham).

PROPOSAL

The funding allocation of £631,374.47 has been formally accepted and is proposed to be directed towards replacing older assets, replacing Halogen Incandescent Lamps with modern LED retrofit signal heads. These modules consume an average of 9W across a typical cycle, producing an energy saving of around 75% over current stock. LED modules also have a much longer life span than traditional lighting methods, reducing the need for replacements and down time to allow for maintenance.

Retrofitting modules in this manner ensures that existing investment in the majority of the signal infrastructure is retained, minimising waste and disposal issues.

The grant funding allocated must be used to address the backlog of obsolescence issues in English authorities and should be used for additional works to address these problems. The funding cannot be used to replace existing allocated resources for this type of maintenance / upgrade work.

The maximum allocation of £500,000 of challenge funding grant (plus automatic grant of £131,374.47) has been approved by the Department for Transport and must be used by the funding period ending 31 March 2026.

Any Grant Monies not used within the Grant Funding period will be returned to the DfT with any future costs for the Upgrade of obsolescent signals needing to be found by the City Council via other funding streams. Officers are confident that failing any significant delays in the supply chain for upgrade signal equipment, all monies will be spent prior to the funding period deadline.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Officers are recommending the following:

- The Corporate Director formally supports the request for a Portfolio Holder Decision to allocate and spend the grant funding of £631,374.47 on Traffic Signal Obsolescence as detailed in the Grant Conditions (DDM to be submitted via the formal process).
- All associated spend will be monitored by the Traffic Control Centre team, who will submit monthly project and budget reports to the DfT through the dedicated online TSOG portal. These reports will also be submitted to the City Council's Transport Delivery Board for oversight. Regular reporting of this type has also been required of the current Transforming Cities Fund 2 (TCF2) allocation for traffic signals projects.
- All other grant conditions stipulated on receipt of the Grant Funding to be fully reviewed and adhered too.