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July 2010

“TREMENDOUS” CITY LIGHTING PROJECT COMMENDED BY LEADING AUSTRALIAN CITY OFFICIAL

A street lighting project in Stoke-on-Trent, which could help shape developments in Australia, has been described as “tremendous” and “value for money” during a recent visit by a leading city official.

Martyn Glover, who is the Director of Infrastructure Services for the City of Joondalup, visited Stoke-on-Trent on Wednesday (July 7). During his visit Martyn heard about future plans for street lighting in Stoke-on-Trent and how they would be implemented. Martyn originally travelled to the region in 2000 following advice from a lighting consultant in Australia about the good work taking place in Stoke-on-Trent. He will now travel back to Australia and explain how developments in Stoke-on-Trent can benefit projects they are planning.

Martyn, said: “In Joondalup we’re always looking at how other bodies around the world are improving their own street lighting. We became aware of the agreement Stoke-on-Trent City Council entered into with Tay Valley Lighting and were very impressed by what we heard and now what I’ve seen during my visit.

“From what I have seen this project has been a tremendous success here and is proving value for money. When I visited the region before plans were just beginning to be put together and it’s great to now see those plans taking shape. I have travelled the world and many local governments have not got anywhere with their plans but Stoke-on-Trent has made a huge step forward to deliver this service.

“I can take this working knowledge of the system that the city council has implemented back with me to Australia to help us to shape our own lighting schemes.”

Stoke-on-Trent City Council entered into a 25 year contract with SSE Contracting in September 2003 to improve public lighting and on highways. The partnership contract is being delivered through the Government’s Private Finance Initiative. In total 38,900 new items of equipment will be installed over the contract period including 33,700 new lamp posts. In the first five years of the project 25,255 lighting columns were replaced.

Councillor Mervin Smith, cabinet member for city development, said: “The improvements to street lighting has proved exceptionally beneficial to the people of Stoke-on-Trent, reducing crime, the fear of crime and night time accidents. It is a testament to the hard work which has gone on that we are attracting international recognition for this type of project and I hope that Martyn can take a little bit of Stoke-on-Trent away with him to benefit the people of Australia.”

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