

Scrutiny Review: Impact of the Part Night Street Lighting Policy

Date: **03 November 2017**

Subject: **Background Information: Introduction of Part Night Street Lighting**

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide background information to the Scrutiny Panel and describe the process by which part night lighting came to be implemented on a wide scale across Lincolnshire.

The current Street Lighting Policy (effective from 18 July 2016) is attached at Appendix A.

Actions Required:

The Scrutiny Panel is invited to:

1. Consider the background of the implementation of Part Night Street Lighting, and;
2. Explore any additional avenues of investigation or information the Panel would like to consider in the future.

1. Background

Due to ongoing constraints on revenue budgets across the County Council, the possibility of savings from changes to the street lighting service started being explored in depth during 2015. In order to assist in delivering savings, a capital investment of £6.4M was approved in January 2016 from the County Council's Future Capital Development Contingency, allowing an invest-to-save project to be implemented.

The Street Lighting Transformation Project was developed in parallel with the identification of the capital investment and was predicated on alterations to the street lighting policy to allow changes to be implemented.

1.1 Street Lighting Transformation Project

The Project, which ran from April 2016, used the capital investment alongside normal budgets to implement the hierarchy of provision as detailed in the street lighting policy (see below). This resulted in three main strands to the Project within the constraints of the budget:

- Conversion to LED (dimmed at times of low use) of just over 17,000 higher wattage lights on trafficked routes
- Complete switch off of 870 higher wattage lights on trafficked routes
- Conversion to part night lighting of just less than 44,000 lights, with otherwise eligible lights being left on as they met defined exemption criteria (see below).

The Project was substantially completed within the 2016/17 financial year, which is a significant achievement considering the resources, logistics and area covered by the Project. Some works continued into the current financial year, including conversion to part night LED of lights which require scaffolding for access (now completed) and conversion to LED of heritage-style lights which require specific design work and equipment with long order times (some of this work is still ongoing).

1.2 Part Night Lighting

Part night lighting is when street lights are switched off for a period of time during the night. The times at which lights are switched off in Lincolnshire are from around midnight until 6am, if light levels require it. The timing is governed by intelligent photo-cells which – on installation – assess the length of the night and whether it is getting longer or shorter to see what time of year it is, and then adjusting its timings accordingly. Typically, they also have an adjustment period around the time that the clocks change.

Part night lighting has been applied to new development roads within Lincolnshire since 2010, so was not an innovation when introduced more widely as part of the Transformation project.

1.3 Policy Changes

The timeline and detail of Street Lighting Policy changes pertinent to this Scrutiny Review are as follows:

14/09/2015 Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee consider proposals to amend the previous Street Lighting Policy implemented in January 2013, in particular to work through a hierarchy for existing street lights wherever practicable (see below, but noting that part night lighting was defined as Dusk to 24:00 and 05:30 to Dawn).

04/11/2015 Policy Decision by the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT to adopt the changes discussed and recommended by the Scrutiny Committee on 14/09/2015.

01/03/2016 Policy Decision by the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT to amend the September 2015 Street Lighting Policy, made subsequent to the approval of the £6.4M capital investment. The amendments updated the hierarchy to be worked through for existing street lights wherever practicable to be as follows:

1. Complete removal of lights (subject to a lighting assessment and local engagement) where this is the most financially sustainable solution considering removal costs.

2. Turning lights off (subject to a lighting assessment)
3. Part night lighting (up to the last junction on a route Dusk to 2400 then 0600 to Dawn; beyond the last junction on a route Dusk to 2200 then 0600 to Dawn)
4. Dimming lights
5. As a last resort, leaving lights fully lit during normal lighting hours.

The Decision paper included a section on Implementation of the Policy, which whilst not part of the Policy includes principles regarding how it should be applied. In relation to the application of part-night lighting it proposed that existing lights be converted to part-night lighting as part of the Street Lighting Transformation project. In residential and commercial areas, this would be where columns are 6m tall or less. On industrial estates, all columns would be part-night lit.

It also set out in principle that a location with any of the following characteristics could be considered for an exemption in determining the final application of the policy relating to part-night lighting:

- A significant record of night-time road traffic accidents, as advised by the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership
- A significant record of night-time crime, as advised by the Police or Community Safety Partnership
- An adjoining care / nursing home, sheltered housing, or warden controlled accommodation
- An operational emergency service facility, including Fire, Ambulance, Police, Coast Guard, or Hospital with 24 hour A&E
- A highway safety feature, such as traffic calming, speed humps, zebra crossings etc.
- A significant night time economy, defined as the centre of a major urban area or larger town as referred to in the County Council's Local Transport Plan 4
- Permanent Local Authority or Police CCTV surveillance equipment
- A footpath and / or cycleway that links to a road that has all night lighting

This Decision had not been considered in advance by the Scrutiny Committee. This was because the process of finalising the capital investment for the project included consideration of a number of options with a range of pay back periods. The majority of these options would have required an amendment of some sort to the street lighting policy before implementation. It was decided to wait until the capital investment was confirmed through an executive decision before proceeding with the finalisation of the street lighting policy. This reduced the risk of a resulting mismatch between the option decided upon, the funding being available and the policy.

Hence, this Decision was therefore subject to call in. However, no call in was made and so the Decision was implemented after the call in period.

13/06/2016 Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee receive an update on the implementation of the Street Lighting Transformation Project and consider proposals to further amend the Street Lighting Policy, taking into account public response to the part night lighting, so that part night lighting is only Dusk to 2400 then 0600 to Dawn.

18/07/2016 Policy Decision by the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT to adopt the changes discussed and recommended by the Scrutiny Committee on 13/06/2016.

12/09/2016 Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee receive an update on progress on the implementation of the Street Lighting Transformation Project.

27/02/2017 Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee receive an update on progress on the implementation of the Street Lighting Transformation Project.

1.4 Transformation Project Communications

In preparation for and during the implementation of the Transformation Project specific communications were undertaken through a range of proactive and reactive means. These were in addition to the fact that all the Scrutiny and Decision papers referred to above are publicly available.

Two editions of County News (which is delivered to every household in the county) carried articles on the Project, including details of the changes and where to find further information. This included a page on the County Council's website, accessible via www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/streetlighting. A number of press releases combined with social media articles were published by the Council's communications team.

The changes and Project were picked up extensively by the local media, resulting in a number of articles in local newspapers, and items and interviews on local radio and television. Responses were made by Officers and Members.

1.5 Transformation Project Outputs

The changes implemented through the Street Lighting Transformation Project have resulted in:

- More than 50% reduction in energy consumption by street lighting across the County
- Over 6,200 tonnes of CO₂ saved year on year
- Over £1.7M revenue saving from the street lighting budget.

2. Conclusion

The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Panel with background information on the transition to Part Night Street Lighting in Lincolnshire implemented as part of the Street Lighting Transformation Project between April 2016 and March 2017.

The Scrutiny Panel is invited to consider the background of the implementation of Part Night Street Lighting, and; Explore any additional avenues of investigation or information they would like to consider in the future.

3. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
APPENDIX A	STREET LIGHTING POLICY – As per Executive Decision I011656 Effective from 18 July 2016

4. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Street Lighting Policy Amendment (I011656) 18 July 2016	http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=308
Street Lighting Policy Amendments (I010733) 01 March 2016	http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=283
Street Lighting Policy Amendments (I010082) 04 November 2015	http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=254
Street Lighting Transformation Project Update - Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee Monday, 27th February, 2017	http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=492&MId=4763&Ver=4
Street Lighting Transformation Project Update - Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee Monday, 12th September, 2016	http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=492&MId=4521&Ver=4
Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee Monday, 13th June, 2016 - Street Lighting Transformation Project Update	http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=492&MId=4519&Ver=4
Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee Monday, 14th September, 2015 - Street Lighting Policy	http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=492&MId=4286&Ver=4

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