

Open Report on behalf of Executive Director for Environment & Economy

Report to:	Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee
Date:	13 June 2016
Subject:	Street Lighting Transformation Project Update

Summary:

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) manages street lighting to make sure it is efficient, sustainable and relevant for the county, which includes upgrading lights to LED ones where possible. Where possible, the council is looking to make savings on these costs while making sure communities and roads are safe. The project started to deliver changes from 4 April 2016 and is due to complete by the end of March 2017.

The county wide project is slightly ahead of programme and is currently due to complete by March 2017, from when it will deliver the proposed benefits.

This paper provides a progress update on the project up to 31 May 2016.

Further information can be found on the LCC website:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/streetlighting

Actions Required:

Members of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the report and highlight any recommendations or further actions for consideration.

1. Background

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) manages street lighting to make sure it is efficient, sustainable and relevant for the county, which includes upgrading lights to LED ones where possible.

We are transforming the way we provide street lighting in Lincolnshire to save over £1.7m per year, reduce LCC's carbon footprint by over 6,000 tonnes of CO₂, reduce light pollution and ongoing maintenance needs. The project will started to deliver changes from 4 April 2016 and is due to complete by the end of March 2017.

This savings will be achieved by the:

- Conversion to LED of approximately 17,000 lights, which will also be dimmed later at night
- Switching off of up to 3000 lights on roads away from built up areas.
- Introduction of 'part-night' lighting to approximately 38,000 street lights in residential areas – where street lights will turn on at dusk, but switch off at around 10pm or midnight and on again at 6am (should lighting levels require so).

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We recognise that it wouldn't be appropriate to make changes in certain areas, therefore there will be some places where lights will remain switched on, such as where the location:

- Has a significant record of night-time road traffic accidents, as advised by the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.
- Has a significant record of night-time crime, as advised by the Police or Community Safety Partnership.
- Has a care/nursing home, sheltered housing, or warden controlled accommodation.
- Has operational emergency service facility, including Fire, Ambulance, Police, Coast Guard, or Hospital with 24 hour A&E.
- Has safety road features, such as traffic calming, speed humps, zebra crossings etc., as originally installed by the county council.
- Is the centre of a major urban area or larger town as referred to in [LTP4](#) with a night time economy.
- Has permanent local authority or police CCTV surveillance equipment.
- Is a footpath and/or cycleway that only links to a road that has all night lighting.

The changes are being implemented in line with Lincolnshire County Council's street lighting policy which has been approved through the political decision making process.

Project Update

The delivery of the on street changes is slightly ahead of programme as at Monday 31 May 2016:

2653 LED lantern conversions (2384 planned)

5032 Part Night conversions (4940 planned)

Separately, 84 street lights have been switched off after careful assessment alongside colleagues at Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

Communications

The changes were referred to within the recent edition of 'County News', a copy of which was distributed to all households within Lincolnshire. The project has also been proactively promoted via the LCC website and social media, as well as press releases which appeared in local newspapers and radio. Discussions have taken place with Lincolnshire Police, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership as well as the 7 'district' authorities within the County. All Parish and Town Councils have been written to in order to notify them of the changes. LCC Members have been briefed both in writing and at the recent Member Engagement sessions in the Highways Divisions.

Articles are due to appear in the next editions of the Highways Alliance, Divisional and Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils Newsletters.

Parish Councils, and the relevant local LCC Councillors, are being written to in advance of any street lights being completely switched off (following careful assessment) in their areas.

We are proposing to carry out further targeted communications on a town by town basis in advance of changes being made, whilst also addressing the perception of increased crime and road traffic collisions caused by reduced street lighting.

Residents' Concerns

Since the commencement of the works a number of residents have contacted the authority via either the CSC or the LCC Highways Defect Portal. The majority of these relate to perceived safety issues, mainly that of home security and personal safety as a result of the 10pm or midnight part-night conversions.

Whilst there is no statutory duty to provide street lighting at all locations, the prime purpose of LCC owned street lights is to provide light to the publicly maintainable adopted highway, based on traffic volumes and levels of use. The changes that are being made on each road align with traffic lows and ensure that the required savings can be made whilst minimising the risk of causing inconvenience or affecting the safety of the majority of road users.

Once the project is complete, around 41% of LCC's street lights will remain lit throughout the night. It is worth noting that there are significant areas of the county's highway network, including many residential areas, where there is no LCC street lighting at all.

Similar changes have been introduced by Local Authorities across the UK since 2007. Recently many Local Authorities contributed their time and effort in providing the LANTERNS project with historic inventory data to enabled them to research the impact of part night lighting, part night dimming and the use of LED white light had on accidents and crime. The report found that there is no evidence that reduced street lighting is associated with increases in road traffic collisions or crime.

2. Conclusion

The project is slightly ahead of programme and is currently due to complete by March 2017, from when it will deliver the proposed savings.

We will continue assessing the proposed 'switch offs' (on high speed roads) with Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

The project will continue to install LED and part night conversions, in accordance with the Street Lighting Policy, across the county as indicated by the programme which is available within the FAQ Document at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/streetlighting

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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