

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills  
Executive Director for Environment & Economy**

Report to:	<b>Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>27 February 2017</b>
Subject:	<b>Street Lighting Transformation Project Update</b>

**Summary:**

Lincolnshire Council Council (LCC) manages street lighting to make sure it is efficient, sustainable and relevant for the county. Where possible, the council is looking to make savings on these costs whilst making sure roads and communities remain safe. The project started to deliver changes on 4 April 2016.

The county wide invest to save project is currently due to complete by the end of March 2017. It is on target to achieve the projected savings of £1.7m following a budgeted £6.4m capital investment (3.6 year payback).

The project has adjusted 47,815 lights to date and has delivered over 40% reductions in street lighting electricity usage so far. The project is currently due to underspend by approximately £650,000 which is in part due to value engineering efficiencies by the Kier street lighting crews – as part of the Highways Alliance.

This paper provides a progress update on the project up to 26 January 2017.

Further information can be found on the LCC Website:  
[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/streetlighting](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/streetlighting)

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the report.

**1. Background**

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) manages street lighting to make sure it is efficient, sustainable and relevant for the county.

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 CO<sub>2</sub>, reduce light pollution and ongoing maintenance needs. The project started to

deliver changes from 4 April 2016 and is due to complete by the end of March 2017.

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.

This savings will be achieved by the:

- Conversion to LED of approximately 17,000 lights, which are currently rated at 90W or above. These will also be dimmed in accordance with policy.
- Introduction of 'part-night' lighting to approximately 38,000 street lights, mainly in residential areas, where street lights will switch on at dusk and stay on until around midnight. They will then come back on at 6am (providing lighting levels require it) until dawn.
- Switching off of up to 3000 lights on roads away from built up areas, following careful assessment by Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

## 2. Project Update

The Street Lighting Transformation Project is currently due to complete by March 2017 and has achieved the following changes as at 26 January 2017.

13,628 LED lantern conversions completed.

33,482 Part Night conversions completed.

705 street lights have been fully switched off after careful assessment alongside colleagues at Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

These changes convert into the following annualised savings being achieved so far:

Item	Annual Energy Reduction	Annual £ Saving
Project Totals	9,793,600 kWh	£989,154
456 new Items since 01/04/16	-97,200 kWh	-£9,818
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>9,696,400* kWh</b>	<b>£979,336</b>

\*of 12,500,000 kWh predicted annual reduction.

Street lighting crews are now completing the changes in the final areas in and around Boston, Skegness, Mablethorpe, Spilsby and Horncastle. The intention is to complete the introduction of part night lighting by week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017. At this point the street lighting crews will focus on investigating and repairing outstanding non-emergency faults; with a view to completing, those within our control, by 31 March 2017. At this point normal street lighting fault response times will resume.

The project is currently due to underspend by approximately £650,000 which is in part due to delivery efficiencies by the Kier street lighting crews – as part of the

Highways Alliance. Delivery against the agreed programme, and attaining the projected underspend, has been achieved having also managed the need to revisit 2,500 lamps due to the agreed change from 10pm to Midnight switch offs part way through the programme.

### **3. Communications**

The project has issued press releases to local media on an area by area basis, in advance of changes being made, and has also been highlighted within the Spring and Autumn editions of County News – copies of which are distributed to households across the county.

Parish and Town Councils, along with LCC Councillors, have been updated throughout the project. Some have also shared information with their residents through local newsletters etc. These have also been specifically written to in advance of street lights being completely switched off (following careful assessment) in their areas.

These forms of communications have raised awareness of the project to residents, whilst also addressing the perception of increased crime and road traffic collisions. However, we are aware that some residents may still have an increased fear of crime as a result of the changes.

Whilst the country wide Lanterns Project assessed the impact of part night lighting, dimming and the use of LED on accidents on an extensive scale; and found that there is no evidence that reduced street lighting is associated with increases in road traffic collisions or crime, other authorities have also done their own analysis.

Warwickshire County Council has specifically analysed crime data since the introduction of part night lighting in their area and have reported that domestic burglary has reduced by 24% and anti-social behaviour has reduced by 29%. Their report is available at <http://news.warwickshire.gov.uk/blog/2014/07/03/15703/> Lincolnshire County Council proposes to conduct similar analysis once all the changes to street lights have been in place for 12 months. This timescale allows for seasonal variations in crime levels.

Closer to home, Neil Rhodes, Chief Constable of Lincolnshire Police, was recently questioned about the changes to street lights whilst on the BBC Radio Lincolnshire 'Hot Seat' programme. He stated that "...the impact is virtually nil and extra policing patrols are not having to be put in place as a consequence of street lights going off...the impact in terms of crime is not something that we are seeing".

### **4. Conclusion**

The project is progressing well and is due to complete by March 2017 following which the Street Lighting budget will be reduced by £1.7m. The project currently projects an underspend of £650,000.

## **5. Consultation**

### **a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out??**

Yes

### **b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

An Equality Impact Assessment was conducted and considered as part of the decision making process.

## **6. Background Papers**

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

This report was written by Richard Hardesty, who can be contacted on 01522 550393 or [richard.hardesty@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.hardesty@lincolnshire.gov.uk).