

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 November 2018

Report of the Head of Service, Highways

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
(All Divisions);

Street Lighting Budget Consultation

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

At Full Council on 8 February 2018, Full Council agreed to a saving of £0.446m relating to night time inspections, routine maintenance and inspections subject to consultation. We have now carried out an appropriate consultation and this report presents the outcome.

In conclusion there are no changes required to the agreed saving and it is therefore recommended that Cabinet agrees to move forward with the implementation of the change taking account of the considerations in this report. Full consideration has also been given to the Equality Analysis associated with this change which was considered by Full Council on 8 February 2018.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to note the outcome of the consultation and approve the ceasing of night time inspection for street lights and illuminated signs and extending the routine maintenance, visual structural inspections and periodic electrical testing from 5 to 10 years.

Background and Advice

At its meeting on 7 December 2017, Cabinet considered an update of the county council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 which contained budget proposals for consideration in relation to the street lighting service, including:-

- the ending of night inspections for street lighting and illuminated signs

- the extension of routine maintenance, visual structural inspections and periodic electrical testing from 5 to 10 years

It was resolved that the public be invited to comment on these proposals and that the outcome of this consultation be reported to Cabinet once complete.

At its meeting on 8 February 2018, Full Council agreed the proposals subject to consultation.

This report presents the outcome of the consultation which was carried out on-line and ran for an 8 week period between 23 April and 17 June 2018 during which 99 responses were received. A summary of the responses received is provided below:-

- In response to the proposal to stop night inspections, 57% of respondents were in agreement, 30% were against and 13% neither agreed nor disagreed.
- In response to the proposal to extend routine maintenance, visual structural inspections and periodic electrical testing from 5 to 10 years, 50% were in agreement, 30% were against and 20% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Full consideration has also been given to the Equality Analysis. Having analysed the responses received and considered the Equality Analysis associated with these changes, it is not considered necessary to amend the proposals originally presented to Cabinet in December.

Should Cabinet approve these proposals the Street Lighting Lifecycle Plan will be updated to take account of these changes.

Consultations

Full details of the public consultation associated with these proposals are included at Appendix 'A'.

A significant proportion of respondents recognise that LED lighting is more reliable than its predecessors and that it is reasonable for public reporting to be a way of identifying lights not working and to extend the maintenance regime generally from 5 to 10 years. Some respondents were concerned about anti-social behaviour, the impact on vulnerable people and on road safety should fewer street lights be working as a consequence of the proposals. It is considered that significant reductions in lighting levels would be rare and highly likely to be readily reported and restored.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There is a risk of increased complaints about lights out which is mitigated by the recent and ongoing installation of LED lamps, across much of the network.

Any risks could be mitigated through consultation on the establishment of a new policy and its communication to stakeholders.

Financial

The ending of night time inspection for street lights and illuminated signs and extending the routine maintenance, visual structural inspections and periodic electrical testing from 5 to 10 years will result in recurrent savings of £0.446m from 2019/20 onwards.

Equality and Cohesion

The Equality Analysis was considered by Full Council on 8 February 2018. The consultation did not identify any issues which required the original Equality Analysis to be updated.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		