



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Environment, Regeneration and Streetcare Services
Scrutiny Committee
19th July 2024**

**Report of the Head of Streetcare
M. Roberts**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Part-Night Lighting Pilot

Purpose of the Report:

To seek endorsement of a proposed part-night street lighting pilot to look at the feasibility of switching off street lights in places during the early hours to save on energy costs.

Executive Summary:

The cost of energy to the Council has increased significantly since the 22/23 financial year and, despite an above inflationary increase in the funding allocation and energy saving measures to date, the current street lighting energy budget of £1.18M is predicted to outturn some £150K over budget this year. In the current financial context an ongoing budget deficit for energy would be very difficult to sustain.

Earlier this year the Council considered a number of lighting energy saving strategies including extra dimming of lighting and part-night lighting. The extra dimming was approved but there were Member concerns regarding the part-night lighting and it was acknowledged in the decision report that further work was needed to complete a satisfactory impact assessment in relation to such savings. This included a pilot exercise, details of which were required to be submitted for scrutiny and approval.

This report provides details of the proposed pilot scheme to facilitate further consultations and impact assessment.

Background:

The cost of energy to the Council has increased significantly since the 22/23 financial year and, despite an above inflationary increase in the funding allocation and energy saving measures to date, the current street lighting energy budget of £1.18M is predicted to outturn some £150K over budget this year. Furthermore, in the current financial context an ongoing budget deficit for energy would be very difficult to sustain

On 24th March 2024 the then Cabinet Board discussed the implementation of energy saving strategies relating to additional dimming of lighting and part-night lighting. The extra dimming was approved but there were Member concerns regarding the part-night lighting and it was acknowledged in the decision report that further work was needed to complete a satisfactory impact assessment in relation to such savings. This included a pilot exercise, details of which were required to be submitted for scrutiny and approval.

Further to previously commissioned consultancy work it has been initially assessed that part-night lighting could include switching off up to around 14,000 lanterns during the small hours

Pilot Scheme Proposals

No of proposed sites: 7

Proposed location of sites and the number of lights in each location: This information can be found in Appendix A. The locations have been selected for geographic spread throughout the authority, are predominately self-contained, and should not affect surrounding areas not participating in the trial. Further to the earlier consultation, locations do not currently include any locations flagged by the Community Safety Team/Police as hotspots for anti-social behaviour, or locations forming part of 'Operation Sentinel' which are subject to increased presence from the Police and community safety partners. Furthermore, the trial has concentrated on urban, more densely populated areas and no rural or isolated locations have been chosen for the pilot, and the pilot areas do not include any main arterial routes and associated vehicle/pedestrian 'conflict' areas. Prior to commencement there will be further dialogue with the Community Safety Team / Police team to ensure the most up to date information is being used and to ensure full engagement with the Lighting Team in the monitoring process.

Timing and duration of the pilot study: It is proposed the pilot would run for the month of November. In dialogue with partners, the pilot can be terminated early in individual locations if need be.

Times when the lights will be turned off: It is proposed lights in the pilot areas will be turned off between 01:00hrs and 05:00hrs.

Additional consultations with stakeholders including organisations such as THRIVE, as previously raised by Members will be undertaken alongside implementation in the pilot areas. The pilots will also be advertised inviting public feedback.

Financial Impacts:

It is estimated that part-night lighting has the potential to save up to around £180,000 annually. This estimate would be refined after the pilot exercise is concluded

Integrated Impact Assessment:

This pilot exercise is proposed to assist with completing a full Integrated Impact Assessment.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

There is a potential for valley communities, as elsewhere in the County Borough, to be affected by part-night lighting if proposed to be implemented subsequent to the pilot being implemented and assessed.

Workforce Impacts:

Employees, as citizens, may be affected by part-night lighting.

Legal Impacts:

Further to guidance issued by the Institution of Lighting Professionals, the Council has a duty, where street lighting is installed, to ensure such lighting is maintained. However, there is nothing to stop part-night lighting proposals being implemented in appropriate circumstances.

Risk Management Impacts:

Part-night lighting could give rise to some increased exposure to potential claims from the public. On the other hand, any savings

implemented would reduce financial risk on the Council going forward.

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

This pilot exercise is proposed to help assess Crime and Disorder impacts in terms of both crime and fear of crime and explore issues further with the Police and community Safety partners.

Counter Terrorism Impacts:

There is not expected to be any impact on counter terrorism arising from part-night lighting.

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

This pilot exercise is proposed to help any assess impacts in this regard and will include specific consultation with THRIVE.

Consultation:

Some formal consultation has already been completed but as set out above additional consultation will be undertaken alongside the pilot.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members of Scrutiny support the details of the proposed Part-Night Lighting proposal contained in this report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

N/A

Implementation of Decision:

N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A – details regarding pilot locations

List of Background Papers:

None.

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