

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER MEETING – JOBS, ECONOMY AND  
TRANSPORT**

**4 March 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**2014/15 PROGRAMME OF PART NIGHT LIGHTING SCHEMES  
AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval for the 2014/15 programme of part night lighting schemes and the associated community engagement arrangements.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Up to December 2013, part night lighting risk assessments have been carried out in 120 towns and parishes engaging with 67,300 households resulting in 450 comments, the installation of 4,600 part night lighting controls and switching off 220 street lights. This reduces energy consumption by over 900,000kWh in electricity and 500 tonnes of carbon annually.

Appendix 1 to this report details the 44 parishes and towns where part night lighting could be implemented during 2014/15.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> year of implementation would see a further 30,000 lighting units risk-assessed for part night lighting and potentially deliver an additional energy reduction of over 2,000,000kWh in electricity and 1,000 tonnes of carbon annually.

**Scheme Risk Assessment**

The Cabinet report of 31 January 2012 identified broad criteria for determining locations where part night lighting schemes would be less appropriate; these are utilised in the development of schemes. The Cabinet Member Report of 17 April 2012 set out details to ensure that community safety concerns are fully considered as part of the risk assessment process.

**Community Safety**

An assessment has been carried out by reference to Safer Derbyshire Research and Information performance data to gauge if any changes in the

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level of reported crime and antisocial behaviour have occurred since the implementation of the Part Night Lighting programme.

Overall, there has been very little change within the part night lit areas in both reported crime and antisocial behaviour since the implementation of the schemes. In some areas, crime and antisocial behaviour calls for service have fallen and in others that have experienced an increase, the actual change has generally been very small and unlikely to be linked to the Part Night Lighting schemes.

As there has been very little change in relation to crime and antisocial behaviour within the part night lit areas there does not appear to be any concrete evidence to suggest that the schemes should not continue. The data available is, however, only for a 12 month period in connection with the first 10 parishes which historically already had very low levels of crime and antisocial behaviour. Some of the relatively insignificant low level volume changes are considered to be more a result of random fluctuations than the introduction of an external factor that may change or facilitate criminal behaviour in the longer term and therefore crime and antisocial behaviour levels will continue to be monitored at periodic intervals.

### **Road Safety**

Discussions with the Road Safety team indicate that no specific assessment of the impact of Part Night Lighting implementation will be possible until a minimum of three years data is available. Information currently available does not indicate any areas of initial concern. The Insurance team also reports that no claims have been received specifically related to the part night lighting project time period when lighting is switched off.

### **Community Engagement**

The existing process of community engagement involves a letter delivery company being employed to deliver letters outlining the scheme and how to view and comment on the details to every household within a specified area. Of the 67,300 letters produced and delivered, the level of response, including both positive and negative comments, has been just 0.7%. At a cost of £11,300, this appears disproportionate to the level of response generated.

The proposed implementation areas identified in Appendix 1 would see over 100,000 letters produced and delivered at a cost of £16,000. At the current rate, this would generate just 800 responses.

As an alternative, the publication 'Your Derbyshire' is produced and delivered to households on a quarterly basis and could be utilised in conjunction with the County Council website to advise on the areas where part night lighting is to be introduced and how to comment on these proposals saving the above cost to the project. In addition, the 'Your Derbyshire' publication is delivered by

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Royal Mail and has a more reliable and comprehensive coverage than has been perceived by the use of external delivery companies.

The existing engagement process with Parish/Town Council and Local Member would continue with a greater emphasis on increasing community awareness of the project.

(3) **Financial Considerations** An 'Invest to Save' street lighting capital allocation was approved by Cabinet on 25 January 2011 of £1.2 million, to provide photoelectric cells to enable the scheme to be implemented. Full implementation of the part night lighting would realise annual savings of £400,000, providing a quick return on the investment.

(4) **Legal Considerations** As a Highway Authority, the Council has a power, not a duty, under the Highways Act 1980 to provide and maintain road/street lighting. Where it is provided, it must be provided to the standard set in the County Council's Street Lighting Policy. In exercising its powers in respect of the extent, operation and maintenance of lighting, a Highway Authority should act reasonably. Street lighting is provided for the safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles using the highway after the hours of darkness.

In exercising its powers, a Highway Authority has a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to exercise its functions with due regard to their effect on crime and disorder in its area.

(5) **Equality and Diversity Considerations** A detailed equality impact assessment was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 31 January 2012. The Council has received no additional concerns to those already identified as part of that assessment.

(6) **Property Considerations** Any street lights which are switched off permanently and remain in-situ will still require an annual structural condition assessment and electrical safety check until removed.

There is a requirement by the Electricity Company's Connection Agreement for the complete removal of their apparatus from any street lights left permanently switched off for more than three years.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

(7) **Key Decision** No.

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(8) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(9) **Background Papers** Report to Cabinet dated 31 January 2012. Reports to the Cabinet Member – Highways and Transport dated 17 April 2012 and 19 March 2013. Officer Contact details – Debbie Anderson extension 38670.

(10) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

10.1 Approves the programme of areas where part night and permanent switching off of lighting will be implemented during 2014/15.

10.2 Approves the revised means of community engagement utilising 'Your Derbyshire' where appropriate together with further information available on the County Council's website, reducing overall project cost.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**

## Appendix 1 Parishes to be considered for Part Night Lighting during 2014/15

Parish_Name	District_Name
Alfreton Parish	Amber Valley
Codnor Parish	Amber Valley
Denby Parish	Amber Valley
Ironville Parish	Amber Valley
Riddings (unparished)	Amber Valley
Shipley Parish	Amber Valley
Smalley Parish	Amber Valley
Somercotes Parish	Amber Valley
Swanwick Parish	Amber Valley
Ault Hucknall Parish	Bolsover
Barlborough Parish	Bolsover
Blackwell Parish	Bolsover
Glapwell Parish	Bolsover
Hodthorpe and Belparish	Bolsover
Pinxton Parish	Bolsover
Pleasley Parish	Bolsover
Scarcliffe Parish	Bolsover
South Normanton Parish	Bolsover
Tibshelf Parish	Bolsover
Whitwell Parish	Bolsover
Brimington Parish	Chesterfield
Staveley Parish	Chesterfield
Cromford Parish	Derbyshire Dales
Matlock Town Parish	Derbyshire Dales
Tansley Parish	Derbyshire Dales
Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish	Erewash
Risley Parish	Erewash
Sawley Parish	Erewash
Buxton (unparished)	High Peak
Glossop (unparished)	High Peak
Green Fairfield Parish	High Peak
New Mills Parish	High Peak
Callow Parish	North East Derbyshire
Dronfield Parish	North East Derbyshire
Eckington Parish	North East Derbyshire
Grassmoor, Hasland and Winswick Parish	North East Derbyshire
Killamarsh Parish	North East Derbyshire
North Wingfield Parish	North East Derbyshire
Sutton cum Duckmanton Parish	North East Derbyshire
Temple Normanton Parish	North East Derbyshire
Tupton Parish	North East Derbyshire
Castle Gresley Parish	South Derbyshire
Overseal Parish	South Derbyshire

