

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR HARBOROUGH**

10TH MARCH 2010

STREET LIGHTING ENERGY REDUCTION PROJECT

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the existence of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction project

Background

2. On 15th December 2009, the Cabinet approved the implementation of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project. This project will reduce levels of street lighting in the County by implementing the following measures:
 - dimming of approximately 2000 lights (250W) on main routes between 2200hrs and 0700hrs
 - switching off permanently approximately 1000 lights in rural areas or on roads where houses have no frontage
 - part-night lighting scheme to switch off up to 40,000 lights between 2400hrs and 0530hrs in residential streets
3. The energy cost for the County Council's street lighting and illuminated signs has increased dramatically in the last few years. In 2005/06 the cost was £1.53m, and this rose to £3.1m in 2008/09.
4. The business case for the Project estimates that it will deliver up to £700,000 in annual cash savings. It will also deliver a reduction of up to 3000 tonnes of carbon per annum, and would contribute about 4% to the Council's target of a 30% reduction in carbon emissions within 5 years. Light pollution will also be reduced.
5. Various parish councils have been approached to participate in a part-night lighting scheme and those in Dunton Bassett, Thurlaston, Quorn, Swannington, Lubenham, and Smeeton Westerby have indicated that they would like to take part.
6. Since announcement of the project, public feedback and press coverage has generally been positive, with a majority of respondents to our online feedback form being in favour of the proposals.

Current Situation

7. Work is currently underway to establish a risk assessment process. Risk assessments for each site will commence in February, along with the preparation of proposed schemes. It is expected that consultation on proposals will start in March. Consultation on all the proposals will be carried out with the emergency services, and other stakeholders will be notified of the final proposals. All part-night lighting proposals will be subject to consultation with the affected parish councils.
8. Smeeton Westerby and Lubenham are the first villages likely to have part-night lighting introduced in the Harborough District, as part of the roll-out of these measures across the County. Various other sites in the area may also be identified as possible candidates for dimming and permanent switch-off of lighting. However, these need to be confirmed by the risk assessment and consultation process. It is anticipated that the first changes will not be implemented on the ground until the spring.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted.

Officer to Contact

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Background Papers

Report to Cabinet dated 15 December 2009 – Energy Reduction for Street Lighting Project
Report of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Street Lighting – Management and Maintenance of Street Lighting, to Cabinet on 8 May 2007.