

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting5th August 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

Street Lighting Policy

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented Cabinet with a new street lighting policy, which included requirements for the provision, installation and maintenance of all types of external public lighting. It also aligned the Council's street lighting service with its corporate objectives to reduce energy consumption and associated CO2 emissions.

The Council had no formally approved street lighting policy. Lighting systems had been implemented on the basis of custom and practice, developed over a number of years and in accordance with the legislative framework and British Standards for the design of lighting for roads and public amenity areas.

It was explained that to ensure that the Council met its requirements under the terms of the Highways Act 1980 (constructing and maintaining such lamps, columns and posts and other essential works) and its obligations resulting from the Crime and Disorder Act, each request for the provision of lighting and the adoption of potential lighting, including those to be funded by others, was to be considered on its merits. This would include both Council funded installations and, also, lighting constructed to adoptable standards by private developers covered by Section 38 and 278 Agreements of the Highways Act 1980.

The new policy included the following key components.

- Lighting provision;
- Dimming of street lighting
- Selection of lighting levels;
- Passively safe lighting (lighting susceptible to RTA impact/damage)
- Energy and CO2 emissions;
- Maintenance;
- Seasonal lighting
- Private or off highway lighting.

- Public Art and Cultural Lighting
- Consultation and Community Engagement

The key fundamental changes to the practices were related to dimming, part night lighting and the use of passively safe columns, such that:

- Dimming would be introduced on street lighting units to enable the Council to meet its corporate targets for the reduction of CO₂ and energy consumption.
- Generally, street lighting levels would be reduced from 12 midnight to 5/6am subject to suitability for implementation by assessment
- New technology allowed the Council to control and monitor street lighting at the office from a central management system (CMS). This allowed the Street Lighting Team to switch on and off street lights, monitor faults and dim up or down based upon need.
- The successful implementation of the CMS would mean that the Council may not be required in the future to patrol street lights to locate faults as they could be centrally managed.

Cabinet noted some positive outcomes of the policy:-

- Establishment of Environmental Zones and compliance with the current standards would ensure a consistent framework for installation, reduce obtrusive light and contribute to energy and CO₂ reduction commitments.
- Installation of passively safe lighting through assessing risk would reduce the consequences of collisions.
- Introduction of Borough-wide Central Management Systems would enable greater control of lighting levels and reduce CO₂.
- Dimming of street lighting would make a major contribution to the Council energy and Carbon reduction commitment.
- There would be greater control of seasonal attachments and off-highway lighting.
- Improvements in communication and consultation and the evaluation of customer satisfaction levels would contribute toward service improvements.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve and adopt the Street Lighting Policy.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Council had no formally approved street lighting policy. Lighting systems had been implemented on the basis of custom and practice, developed over a number of years and in accordance with the current legislative framework and British Standards for the design of lighting for roads and public amenity areas. The approval and adoption of a policy will formalise street lighting design and maintenance for the Council as Highway Authority.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday 13 August 2010.

Proper Officer
09 October 2010