

Annex A: Motion agreed by Council, 10 December 2024

This Council, being extremely concerned about the lack of political governance in relation to 'Dark Skies', the administration's plan to switch off many of the county's streetlights between 11pm - 6.30am, which could have had significant adverse consequences for public safety across parts of our county, especially our urban centres, had it proceeded.

Recognising the need for the Council to safeguard public money, support our rural parishes in their aspirations to curtail unwanted light pollution and protect and local wildlife in our villages, this Council calls on the Cabinet to:

- i. carry out a full consultation before bringing this back for delegated decision-making by the Cabinet Member,. Such consultation to include all county councillors alongside community groups and particularly those working with women, and girls, and shift workers in our hospitality and other key sectors, who the Council's own report recognises may have been disproportionately affected by this decision;
- ii. ensure that all county councillors are fully briefed, whether through their locality meetings or by way of an all-member briefing, before any streetlights are switched off; and
- iii. ensure that a fuller Equalities Impact Assessment takes place in connection with future decision-making on such matters of public safety, the previous one in Annexe 5 being lacking.

In future, this Council asks that Cabinet consult elected members more fully on matters of public safety in future.

This Council further notes that pre-scrutiny of such important matters would be beneficial to ensure greater democratic oversight.