

## **ANNEX 4 - Engagement**

### ***Key Stakeholders***

- 1) Whilst formal consultation will not be undertaken on the principles of reduced street lighting, key stakeholders will be invited to engage with the County Council when implementing each scheme.
- 2) The Town / Parish Council etc will be invited to review a proposal prepared by the County Council and make recommendations / comments based on local knowledge and community feedback.
- 3) Likewise, Thames Valley Police and District Council Community Safety departments will be asked to contribute to designating the extent of lighting considered to be in support of a nighttime economy such as that of Oxford City Centre.

### ***Elected Council Members***

- 4) County Council Members will be notified in advance of the works commencing in their respective division.

### ***Members of the Public***

- 5) A public facing campaign to raise awareness of the changes will be launched prior to delivery commencing. This will be done through the ordinary promotional channels of the County Council, including a dedicated page that will be made available on the County Council's website.
- 6) A notice of information will be affixed to each lighting column advising of the changes made and directing the reader to the County Council's website for further information.
- 7) Customers will be able to contact the County Council with queries or concerns, each of which will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Contact will be via the County Council's existing channels such as the Customer Contact Centre, and through web-form submission on the County Council's dedicated Street Lighting webpage.
- 8) Between 19 June 2024 and 21 July 2024, the County Council ran an interactive tool, encouraging residents and stakeholders to take on the role of councillors and create a balanced budget for 2025/26.
- 9) Residents and stakeholders were prompted to think about:
  - What services matter to you most?
  - Which services do you think we should protect?
  - Which services do you think we could reduce?
  - Would you raise council tax?
- 10) Just over half of respondents (52%) indicated support for a reduction in funding for street lighting in favour of other services.

- 11) Several comments received in the written section of the response suggested reducing street lighting to save costs and reduce light pollution. *“Switch the lights off after midnight, less light pollution, more environmentally friendly and a lower bill of running them.”*
- 12) Whilst this survey was not a direct gauge of public opinion for a reduction in street lighting, it does indicate that there is a willingness to reduce the provision of street lighting in the pursuit of improved or maintained levels of service for other Council functions.
- 13) Recent comments received during the planning process for the proposed Watlington Relief Road, which expressed objection to the provision of street lighting on the new road suggest further support for a highway environment that is not lit to what has previously been provided.