

Divisions Affected – All

CABINET 21 October 2025

Update to the Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets Policy with respect to Part Night Lighting Report of Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to —
 - a) Note the recommendations contained in the body of this report and to consider and determine its response to the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and
 - b) Agree that relevant officers will continue to update Scrutiny for 12 months on progress made against actions committed to in response to the recommendations, or until they are completed (if earlier).

REQUIREMENT TO RESPOND

2. In accordance with section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee requires that, within two months of the consideration of this report, the Cabinet publish a response to this report and any recommendations.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

3. The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the Update to the Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets Policy with respect to Part Night Lighting at its meeting on 24 September 2025, prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 21 October 2025.
4. The Committee would like to thank Cllr Liz Leffman, Leader of the Council, Cllr Andrew Gant, Cabinet member for Transport Management, Paul Fermer, Director of Environment and Highways, Sean Rooney, Head of Highways and Road Safety, Caroline Coyne, Project Manager, for attending the meeting and responding to questions.

SUMMARY

5. The Leader introduced the item and reminded the Committee that the Council had introduced a street lighting and illumination policy in 2022 and that, in November 2024, a framework had been proposed. This had been controversial and had caused significant public disquiet. The Leader explained that the Council had decided not to proceed with that framework and had sought further public engagement so as to understand both concerns and benefits more deeply. The Leader noted that the Oxford Mail's recent headline referenced "shock results from consultation" when the recent consultation showed general support for part-night lighting.
6. The Cabinet member for Transport Management described the process leading to the publication of the proposed report as a good example of the Council listening to feedback and acting on it. He noted that there was a list of exemptions which meant that the policy would not apply universally and emphasised that, for any area to be considered, the support of both the parish or town council and that of the local county councillor.
7. The Committee discussed the exemptions and how they related to size and shape of conurbations; the process for application and decision; the importance of consultation and engagement; cats' eyes and road lining; LED lights and biodiversity; funding.
8. The Committee makes only recommendation which is about the importance of ensuring that town and parish councils are supported to be informed and engaged when considering submitting proposals.

RECOMMENDATION

9. The Committee discussed at some length the importance of ensuring that the diverse wishes and preferences of individual areas are taken into account. The Committee explored how the decision-making process might work if the county councillor and the parish or town council disagreed on whether or not to apply for part-night lighting.
10. The Committee was told that there would be negotiation but, ultimately, the impact on local residents was key and that it was local residents' views that would be paramount. The Committee recognises the legitimacy of this approach whilst nonetheless highlighting the democratic mandate that divisional members have.
11. The Committee was keen that residents were appropriately engaged when consideration was being given to the question of whether to apply for part-night lighting. Members recognise that a key part of their role is to engage with their communities and with the work of parish and town councils within

their divisions. However, members need the support of the Council more widely to ensure that communications are clear and focused.

12. The Committee was pleased to hear that both the engagement team and street lighting offers would offer support, guidance, and prompts to help parish and town councils to identify and address the needs of different user groups. This would be intended to offer a thorough and inclusive consultation process.
13. The Committee was of the view that this was both necessary and important. The diverse needs of people even within parishes should be thoroughly taken on board before any application is made.

Recommendation: That the Council should ensure it engages fully with town and parish councils to ensure that the needs of local communities are thoroughly considered when applications for part-night lighting are made.

FURTHER CONSIDERATION

14. The Committee does not anticipate considering this matter again during this municipal year.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. Under Part 6.2 (13) (a) of the Constitution Scrutiny has the following power: 'Once a Scrutiny Committee has completed its deliberations on any matter a formal report may be prepared on behalf of the Committee and when agreed by them the Proper Officer will normally refer it to the Cabinet for consideration.
16. Under Part 4.2 of the Constitution, the Cabinet Procedure Rules, s 2 (3) iv) the Cabinet will consider any reports from Scrutiny Committees.

Anita Bradley, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex:	Pro-forma Response Template
Background papers:	None
Other Documents:	None
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