

ANNEX 2 – Case Studies

- 1) The UK College of Policing promotes Street Lighting as being effective in reducing crime.
- 2) The Cambridge Research Group (CRG) though remark that an inference cannot be drawn from evidence pointing towards the benefits in crime reduction of streetlights being introduced that withdrawing lighting would result in a reverse effect, and that within published research there is no evidence for such a conclusion.
- 3) Indeed, the paper on which the College of Policing advice is based “*did not consider the impact on crime of recent changes in lighting technology, such as the introduction of LED lamps, or changes in lighting schedules such as part-night lighting*”. This is noted by the College as a consideration on their website.
- 4) The 2015 LANTERNS (Local Authority collaborators’ National Evaluation of Reduced Night-time Streetlight) project looked at data on road traffic collisions and crime in 62 local authorities in England and Wales.
- 5) The results provided no evidence that switch off, part-night lighting, dimming, or white light adaptations to street lighting were associated with night-time traffic collisions.
- 6) The results also provide no evidence that these lighting strategies are associated with an increase in crime at an area level.

Local Authorities – Warwickshire County Council

- 7) A Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Overview & Scrutiny Committee paper in 2019 reported that since part-night lighting was implemented in 2012/13, several analytical exercises had been undertaken to understand whether there was an impact on crime during the hours the lighting is off.
- 8) The paper cites reports from November 2013, July 2014 and September 2015 along with additional pieces of work looking at specific areas of the County. All these exercises reportedly concluded that there is no evidence to support a link between the WCC Lighting Policy and rates of crime.
- 9) Similarly, the WCC paper states that analysis conducted on levels of reported Road Traffic Injuries operating part night lighting for over five years shows that there has not been any statistically significant change in reported Road Traffic Injury incidents.

Local Authorities – Leicestershire County Council

- 10) A Leicestershire County Council paper in 2016 reported that their evidence showed that part-night lighting had no overall detrimental effect on crime or road traffic collisions. In fact, for 97% of the County’s population, crime decreased more in part-lit areas than it did in areas where there was no change to street lighting

- 11) The only exception to this was found to be for “Constrained City Dwellers”; a proportion of the population as defined by census survey data. The County Council’s analysis found that this group experienced an increase in crime through the period of the introduction of part night lighting. At the time of the report the group reportedly accounted for 2.4% (15,898 people) of the Leicestershire population.

Local Authorities – Lincolnshire County Council

- 12) A 2018 report by Lincolnshire County Council records that there had been no noticeable change in the number of overnight burglary, vehicle and personal robbery offences across the county as reported by Lincolnshire Police.
- 13) The number of reported criminal damage offences had increased, although not consistently across the county and that it could not be concluded that street lighting had impacted on levels of criminal damage recorded.

Local Authorities – Southampton City Council

- 14) In February 2023 Southampton City Council implemented part night lighting. The Council reports that having carefully monitored the impacts of the part-night lighting initiative with Hampshire Constabulary, no noticeable rises in criminal activities or changes in policing issues were found.
- 15) Southampton City Council are now extending their hours of non-illumination from 01:00-04:00hrs to 01:00-05:30hrs.

Police Forces – Leicestershire Police

- 16) Intelligence Analysts at Leicestershire Police undertook a review of crime and anti-social behaviour in Leicester Forest East in 2014 and found no evidence of an increase in crime or any change in the pattern of recorded crime that could be attributed to part night lighting.

Police Forces – Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC)

- 17) A report commissioned by the office of the PFCC for Essex concluded that there is no evidence of a relationship between part night lighting and levels of crime, anti-social behaviour or road traffic accidents resulting in death or serious injury in areas where part night lighting had been adopted, when compared with control areas that never took up the initiative. The report goes on to state that these findings support previous research conducted by Essex Police.

Police Forces – Lincolnshire Police

- 18) A 2017 report by the Lincolnshire Police found no connection between varying levels of crime and the introduction of part night lighting.

Part Night Lighting Reversals

- 19) Some local authorities have reversed either wholly or in part their decisions to implement part night lighting.

- 20) Nottinghamshire County Council, who implemented a part night scheme in 2010 opted to turn their lights back to all night operation in 2013 after concerns around the perceived risk of crime and personal safety from residents.
- 21) Similarly, a 2015 consultation by Kent County Council found that when given the option residents expressed a preference for a return to all night lighting, which was subsequently enacted by the Council.
- 22) Cambridgeshire also reverted street lighting to be illuminated all night due to concerns of safety after only a few months of implementation, despite their own research showing no such evidence of a link to crime.
- 23) Derbyshire County Council started a programme of part night lighting in 2012, but stopped implementation of the measures in 2015. The majority of the lights already converted at that point continue to operate without being reversed. DCC state that they have monitored crime and accident statistics since the start of the project. Despite them reportedly receiving a low level of complaints and a lack of evidence to link those concerns with increases in crime or accidents, the Council has nevertheless opted not extend the scheme since.

Police Requests

- 24) Several instances of very local reversals across the country have occurred as a direct request from the Police. These reversals vary from temporary to permanent and are locally restricted instances rather than being wide.

Fear of Crime

- 25) Clearly the incidence of increased fear of crime, or for personal safety is real as has been experienced by other authorities that embarked earlier in implementing PNL based initiatives.
- 26) It seems that even in the absence of firm evidence to substantiate those feelings, they have been nevertheless sufficient for some authorities to pause, stop, or reverse the implementation of part night lighting schemes.