

Cllr Glynis Phillips – CMD Deputy Leader - 14 November 2024

Thank you for deferring a decision about turning off street lighting between the hours of 11 and 6.30 in the morning.

However, it's difficult to accept your explanation that you thought this was a technical document and a framework document when the recommendation in the papers was 'approve the proposed Highways Street Lighting Profiles specifically with regard to operational hours and illumination levels.' The paper also estimated savings of approximately £400k. Where have these figures come from if you had not expected to roll out across the county? Not a technical framework document at all but specific costed and operational.

The lack of consultation with the District Councils, charities supporting women and girls, police and every individual who is afraid to walk in the dark is worrying.

I am also concerned about the governance of this decision. It is not right that one man is able to make a decision which affects every community in this county without having discussed the implications with those communities. It may be allowed in the Constitution but common sense should have said to you that one man should not make this decision, especially when the voices of vulnerable people especially women and girls had not been heard.

The residents of Oxfordshire are sceptical about whether you listen and act on what residents tell you and the outcry which this proposal has generated should be your wake-up call. You are a member of a minority administration representing a third of councillors and an even lower fraction of the population.

The opposition to this proposal shows that you are out of touch with residents. You got this badly wrong and Labour will continue to support 'keeping the lights on.'