

**CABINET**  
**25 MARCH 2025**  
**Response to Council Motion on Part-night Lighting by**  
**Councillor Brighthouse**

**Report by Director of Environment and Highways**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**1. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**

- a) Note the proposal to undertake a full and thorough consultation, including early engagement with key community groups as set out and presented to Place Scrutiny on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 ([Place and Overview Scrutiny report: Review of Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets policy framework proposals for part night lighting](#))
- b) Approve a community led approach to any part-night lighting proposal, through an application made by the town/parish council (if there is one) and the local county councillor, which following this request will include an area specific public consultation.
- c) Request that officers;
  - i. Keep councillors informed through regular updates on progress of this work, through locality meetings and/or by way of an all-member briefing.
  - ii. Ensure that there is full engagement from a cross section of users in the update of the Street Lighting Policy and development of Part night lighting regime framework.
  - iii. Undertake a full, thorough and robust Equalities Impact Assessment for the updated Streetlighting and illuminated assets policy, as well as the Part night lighting framework and during each stage/element of a project.
  - iv. Bring the proposals to Cabinet in the summer for decision together with any wider changes to the council's existing Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets policy

**Executive Summary**

- 2. This report is a response to a motion that was passed at Council on 10 December 2024 (at Annex A) and sets out the proposed action to meet this and outlines the proposals developed to date following the deferral of original proposal published for the 14<sup>th</sup> November Cabinet Member Decision Meeting.

3. This paper sets out how the council plan to refine proposals for a part-night street lighting framework for the county and review the wider Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets policy, engaging with stakeholders and communities to update the policy and develop a suitable part-night lighting framework, as well as inform a revised Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA).
4. New proposals are expected to be presented for decision by Cabinet in July 2025, alongside any wider changes to the council's existing Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets policy.

## **Background**

5. The motion passed, was in response to Dark Skies – Street Lighting Illumination Proposals, presented to Cabinet Member Decision on 14th November 2024.
6. The council has since proposed a new enhanced approach to updating the Streetlighting and illuminated assets policy, detailed in [Place and Overview Scrutiny report: Review of Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets policy framework proposals for part night lighting](#).
7. The council is currently engaging with stakeholders and impacted groups, this engagement will be followed by a full consultation.
8. A timeline for engagement and consultation are detailed in [Place and Overview Scrutiny report: Review of Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets policy framework proposals for part night lighting](#)
9. The updated Streetlighting and illuminated assets policy is planned to be presented to Cabinet for agreement in July 2025 and this will be informed by the updated data from engagement and consultation and include an updated and more comprehensive EIA.

## **Corporate Policies and Priorities**

10. The council's proposal for engaging with stakeholders and communities aligns with the council's values of inclusivity and community involvement.
11. The council's commitment to keeping councillors informed through regular updates supports the council's values of transparency and accountability.
12. The proposed Part-night lighting initiative, if adopted, and applied in a robust way will consider matters of personal safety along with contributing to the County Council's Priorities concerning the Climate Emergency, and increasing biodiversity & nature recovery.

## Financial Implications

13. There are no new budgetary implications arising from this report in response to the motion. The development of part-night proposals and the wider review of the council's street lighting and illuminated assets policy is being funded through existing service budgets.

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## Legal Implications

14. There are no new legal implications arising from this report in response to the motion. There is no general requirement or obligation for the county council to light the highway. Oxfordshire has set its own policy based on the council's priorities and general guidance and good practice.
15. The legislation and guidance to which the council must have regard when exercising its power to light the highway includes:
  - a. Section 97 of the *Highways Act 1980* gives the county council the power to provide street lighting, along with other provisions that similarly provide the power to light highways and highway features.
  - b. Regulation 5 of *The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999* requires that road humps are illuminated.
  - c. Section 17 of the *Crime and Disorder Act 1998* places on the county council the duty to consider crime and disorder implications of exercising its various functions.
  - d. Section 39 of the *Road Traffic Act 1988* imposes upon the county council a responsibility for taking measures to prevent road traffic accidents.
  - e. The *Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016* require some traffic signs to be directly illuminated when within a system of street lighting. Traffic sign illumination will not be affected by this initiative.
  - f. The design requirements in BS 5489 allow road lighting levels to be lowered during periods of low traffic volumes
16. The proposed changes to the operational provision of street lighting are within the powers of the county council.

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## Staff Implications

17. There are no new staffing implications arising specifically from this report in response to the motion. The development of part-night street lighting framework for the county and the review the wider street lighting and illuminated assets policy is being funded through existing service budgets.

## Equality & Inclusion Implications

18. The council recognise the implications that these proposals may have on the physical and psychological safety of many residents, including those who are marginalised and vulnerable.
19. The council accept that the EIA, in its current form, did not capture the needs of our residents, including those who are marginalised and vulnerable. The proposed consultation and engagement with stakeholders and communities, as set out in this report, will work to update the policy and develop a suitable part-night lighting framework, as well as inform and update to the current EIA through identifying the impacts that communities might face.
20. The updated EIA will include robust and proportional mitigations and interventions to reduce any negative impact of this proposal may have on Oxfordshire's communities.
21. The EIA is a living document, and the council will continue to engage with communities to ensure that it is truly reflective of the diversity within Oxfordshire.

## **Sustainability Implications**

22. There are no new sustainability implications arising specifically from this report in response to the motion. There is already a climate impact assessment associated with the council's street lighting and illuminated assets policy. This is a living document and will need ongoing updates to reflect the implementation of the proposed new framework for part-night street lighting.

## **Risk Management**

23. There are no new risks arising specifically from this report in response to the motion. The council recognises that there may be risks for vulnerable stakeholders and community groups in relation to part-time lighting that need to be considered.. The council also recognise the risks of engaging and working with vulnerable stakeholders and community groups. Officers will take appropriate actions to protect the interests and wellbeing of the residents and stakeholders.

## **Consultations**

24. To date no formal consultation has been undertaken in respect of the contents of this report. The report presented to Place Overview Scrutiny Committee on 5 February 2025 sets out a robust two-phase approach to consultation and engagement in respect to the development of part-night street lighting framework for the county and the review the wider street lighting and illuminated assets policy

Paul Fermer, Director of Environment and Highways

Annex: Annex A - Motion

Background papers: [Place and Overview Scrutiny report: Review of Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets policy framework proposals for part night lighting](#)

[Streetlighting policy](#)

Other Documents: None

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