



meeting **STREET LIGHTING SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **26 November 2007** **agenda item number** **4**

Report of the Chair of the Street Lighting Select Committee

Work Programme

Purpose of the report

1. To provide an introduction to Keith Tovee, Principal Engineer, Street Lighting and Laurence McKeogh, County Roads Manager, Highways and Transport from Essex County Council who are attending the Select Committee to discuss the results of their pilot project for part night lighting.
2. To inform Members of a verbal update regarding the lighting of signs and bollards by Gary Wood – Service Manager Policy and Standards, Environment.
3. To present background information produced by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA). This summarises ROSPA's view on street lighting and road safety, attached as appendix 1.

Background

4. On 26th March 2007, Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a Select Committee to examine the issue of street lighting repair performance by E-ON (Central Networks). This review concluded on 11 June 2007 with a final report received by Cabinet on 25 July 2007.
5. Further to the Street Lighting Repair Review, on 21 May 2007, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a wider review of street lighting issues to identify and feed into emerging areas of street lighting policy development as well as existing policies.

Presentation by Essex County Council Keith Tovee and Lawrence McKeogh, Essex County Council

6. Part night lighting is being considered by several highways authorities across the country in an attempt to reduce CO₂ emissions, to be more energy efficient and to generate savings in energy costs. However, the issues of potential increases in road traffic and pedestrian accidents and in

crime and fear of crime have to be assessed before schemes are considered. Essex County Council decided in July 2006 to switch off street lights at midnight GMT and on again at 0500 GMT, implementing a pilot project in the first instance, measuring local reaction and evaluating success of the initiative. A number of potential risks were identified and measures were taken to reduce these risks:

- only street lights were part night controlled. Signs , bollards, beacons and underpasses/subways continued on full night lighting
- at traffic accident sites , where improved lighting had been chosen as the preferred method of accident reduction, consideration was given to leaving these areas as full night operation

Representatives from Essex County Council are attending the meeting at the Select Committees invitation to inform Members how the pilot is progressing, their experiences in undertaking the trial and how this has fed into policy

Gary Wood - Service Manager Policy and Standards Environment

7. At it meeting on the 22nd October it was noted that the criteria for the lighting of signs and bollards has changed over time and there may be some scope through changes to legislation to consider reductions. Members requested additional information regarding this issue.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that Members –
 - Consider and ask questions about the information provided in the presentation to the Select Committee
 - Agree any issues around the future work programme

**Councillor John Knight
Chair of the Street Lighting Select Committee**

Background papers: Appendix 1.