

minutes



Meeting STREET LIGHTING SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 10 December 2007 (commencing at 1.30 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

John Knight (Chair)

A Andy Stewart (Vice-Chair)

A Jen Cole

A Vincent Dobson

Jim Napier

A Philip Owen

Ken Rigby

A David Shaw

Kevan Wakefield

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 November 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cole, Dobson, Owen and Shaw.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

INSTITUTION OF LIGHTING ENGINEERS

David Coatham from the Institution of Lighting Engineers gave a presentation on the Institution's perspective on current developments in street lighting. He reminded the committee of local authorities' legal responsibilities. Options for reducing the impact of lighting, and CO² emissions included making a careful choice of the standard of lighting and equipment, good maintenance and minimising energy consumption. The impact of existing lighting could be reduced by removing redundant lighting (for example where a bypass was built) replacing SOX with SOX-E lamps, and changing the on-off ratio for photocells. The use of illuminated signs and bollards could be reviewed in the light of new regulations.

Asked for his view of Essex County Council's part-night lighting pilot, Mr Coatham said that in both his personal and the Institution's professional opinions, there was no justification for switching lights off at midnight. He referred to the need for people (including pedestrians) to travel safely at night, and to the demise of police patrols. He pointed out that people would be tempted to install their own, generally less efficient, exterior lighting.

Councillor Napier asked if the County Council's officers had heard anything new. Gary Wood, Service Manager, Policy and Standards said that much of the presentation's content was familiar, though there were some emerging themes. He felt there might be value in having a critical friend to review the County Council's practice. Councillor Rigby asked about changes in lighting technology. Mr Coatham referred to more efficient lighting. He pointed out that using LEDs in street lighting was at least five years away. He observed that some PFI schemes meant replacing lights several years before the end of their life. A planned replacement programme was preferable in his view. Councillor Knight believed that the idea of a peer review merited further consideration.

WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a letter from a member of the public which suggested replacing 55 watt SOX lamps on 5 metre columns with 35 watt SOX lamps. David Beniston, Lighting and Signals Manager, replied that current lamps had a five year life, and that all new schemes met new European standards and used white light. The member of the public pointed out that some estate roads were better lit than others in the same area. Mr Beniston stated that there were standards for lighting in different types of location.

REVIEW CONCLUSIONS

A draft final report had been circulated. Some members were unconvinced that part-night lighting was to be recommended, though Councillor Wakefield suggested that it be reconsidered in the future. Councillor Napier suggested a watching brief on the Essex County Council pilot.

Councillor Knight favoured an officer-led peer review, with its findings to be reported to members. Councillor Stewart pointed out that consolidating energy supply contracts did not automatically bring benefits. Gary Wood informed members that officers were looking at how much the County Council complied with the Regional Centre of Excellence's guidance on procuring energy supplies.

The final report would be presented to the select committee's last meeting on 21 January 2008.

The meeting closed at 2.20 pm.

CHAIR