

# minutes



Meeting STREET LIGHTING SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 17 September 2007 (commencing at 1.30 pm)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLORS

John Knight (Chair)  
Andy Stewart (Vice-Chair)

	Jen Cole	A	Ken Rigby
	Vince Dobson		David Shaw
A	Jim Napier		Kevan Wakefield
	Philip Owen		

## CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The appointment by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 May 2007 of Councillor John Knight as Chair of the Committee and Councillor Andy Stewart as Vice-Chair was noted.

## MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the committee, as set out above, was noted.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Napier and Rigby.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

## STREET LIGHTING: SCENE SETTING REPORT

Gary Wood, Service Manager, Policy and Standards, Communities Department, gave a presentation about the goals, objectives and policies for street lighting. He related these to the County Council's strategic plan, and identified the service's specific objectives. He gave information on the county's stock of equipment, which included three different types of lighting source. A computerised database was used to manage the stock. He outlined the demands and conflicts on the service and the revenue and capital budgets available. He went on to identify a number of improvement actions which were currently being undertaken.

Councillor Owen asked about the definition of green energy. Mr Wood replied that the department's renewables team would be able to provide one. In response to Councillor Cole, David Beniston, Lighting and Signals Manager, explained that white light came in various shades. The equipment was expensive, but was used in PFI lighting schemes. Councillor Cole referred to her perception of light pollution, and saw value in seeking the views of environmental groups. Mr Beniston observed that the department received most complaints when low pressure sodium (SOX) equipment was replaced with less polluting high pressure sodium (SON) units.

In reply to questions from Councillor Wakefield, Mr Wood explained that brown energy came from conventional fossil fuels, and possibly nuclear energy. Mr Beniston stated that concrete columns had been installed until the late 1970s. Mr Wood indicated that the County Council had a policy of allowing columns to be used for hanging baskets and seasonal decorations, except on poor quality columns.

Councillor Knight asked about the advantages and disadvantages of white light. Mr Wood replied that changing from sodium to white light was not a cheap or simple conversion, since columns might need to be at different spacings from the current ones. Mr Beniston explained that the white light used many years ago had come from tungsten or mercury vapour lamps, which had been expensive to run and needed frequent replacement.

There was discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of switching off lights for part of the night.

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

The report provided the scope of the review, as agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 May, and suggested dates for future meetings. It was agreed that the topics to be the focus of the review should include:

- environmental aspects of street lighting, including sources of energy
- lighting streets for part of the night only

It was also agreed that witnesses should include:

- Energy and road safety officers from the Communities Department
- Nottinghamshire Police
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)
- Essex County Council (to give evidence about part night lighting)

The proposed dates were agreed, and members gave their apologies for some of the meetings.

The meeting closed at 2.25 pm.

## **CHAIR**