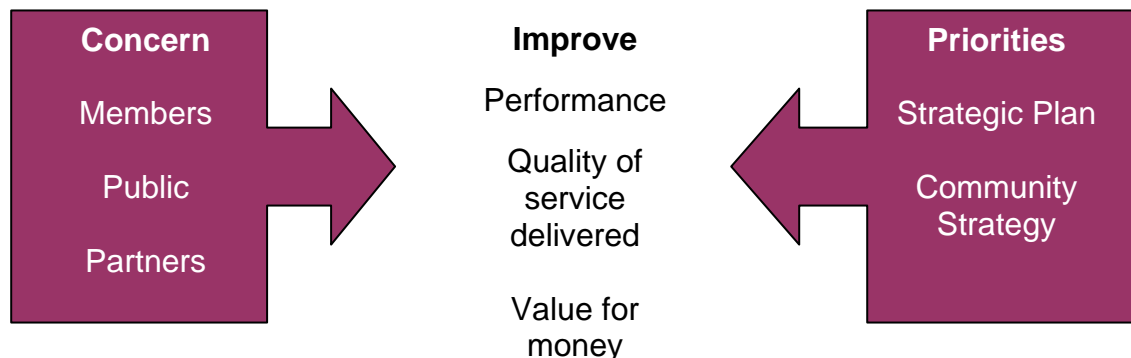


Scoping Questions – Street Lighting

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the following questions when scoping a Scrutiny review:

Issues for Scrutiny should reflect:

- i. Concern of Members, the Public or Partners
- ii. Strategic Priorities for the delivery of services and
- iii. Clear Outcomes to improve performance, value for money or to change the priorities of the Council.



A. Aims

What are the aims of the review (key question)?

To identify and feed into emerging areas of street lighting policy development as well as examining existing policies

How does the review link to priorities?

This thematic area links to priorities in relation to carbon management, road safety and crime reduction issues.

How does the review link to community concern?

Particularly around crime reduction issues but also light pollution.

What outcomes are sought?

Robust evidence based recommendations to inform policy development.

Which specific areas will the review examine?

- Part-night lighting/dimming/ invest to save/carbon management/ light pollution
- Street lighting energy reduction and procurement
- Lighting standards
- Criteria for provision of new lighting – fear of and crime reduction schemes/accident reduction schemes / public request / to aid CCTV etc

- Routine maintenance issues, value for money and the procurement of equipment

Key Lines of Enquiry

- What can we improve?
- How do we compare with others?
- Are we delivering value for money?
- What are the community's priorities?
- Are we doing what users / non users / local residents want?
- Is there effective partnership working?
- Who is the most appropriate deliverer of the service?

B. Timetable

When will the review commence?

17 September 2007

When will the review conclude?

21 January 2008

C. Information and consultees

What information do Members require to enable them to start work on the review?

General briefing from departmental officers on street lighting policy

Are there any key witnesses/visits/documents?

The Select Committee may wish to invite representatives of Essex County Council who are pioneering a part-night lighting scheme.

The Select Committee may wish to undertake study visits at night in order to view particular lighting schemes or equipment firsthand (to be identified).

The Select Committee may wish to gather evidence (written or in person) from the Institute of Lighting Engineers.

Documents which may be of use to the Select Committee include: Maintaining a Vital Asset and Well-lit Highways: Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management

How will the review involve the public?

While considering issues around part-night lighting the Select Committee may wish to consult Local Authorities in Nottinghamshire on their views and identify potential volunteers willing to participate in part-night lighting experiments

D. Resources

Are there any specific resource implications for the review?

Departmental officer, Scrutiny Officer and Councillor time.

E. Departmental View

What does the department responsible say about the review?

The Authority maintains over 90,000 lighting units across the County. Clearly lighting has a positive impact in terms of both road and community safety. Ongoing maintenance and capital investment is essential if the benefits that well-lit highways provide are to continue.

Emerging policy developments around part-night lighting and dimming, prompted by the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and energy bills need to be carefully considered. The potential impact of part-night lighting on community and road safety need to be carefully weighed against other benefits.

Street Lighting has recently been the subject of a value for money exercise by both internal audit and externally through "Use of Resources" exercise by the Audit Commission in terms of its revenue commitment to the service.

The Department looks forward to working together with members to inform their overview and scrutiny of this topic area.