

QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

“The Council’s Energy Saving Programme was estimated to save the Council £1.25 million per year at 2010/11 electricity prices.

Please could the Chairman inform the Council how much the u turn to switch street lights back on in certain areas will effect the overall Savings Programme?”

Councillor Alan Rhodes

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson, Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee

“Councillor Rhodes question refers to a “U- turn”. There has been no U-turn. We are continuing to deliver our street lighting energy saving programme. We are developing solutions to meet the needs of each individual community and recognising that some issues may arise after a scheme has been introduced. This may result in some lights in a community being restored to full night lighting, for example in Bingham and Keyworth where approximately 20% are being switched back on. Even after such changes, energy and therefore cost savings and carbon reduction are still being achieved through these schemes.

It has always been our policy that every scheme will be reviewed after six months of operation to take account of any problems that may arise.

There was never any intention to switch off street lighting in areas of higher than average crime rates, for example, Worksop. Nevertheless, it was fair to carry out consultation in all areas and the response from Worksop people endorsed our view.

It has been the policy of this Council for many years to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and reduce damage done to the environment. We shall continue to consult as we roll out the programme. This will be Member led, with detailed maps supplied for information. Using past experience this is likely to result in streetlights being left on at bus stops, junctions, old people’s complexes, traffic calmed areas and other locations where this is deemed sensible by the community.

A full report on progress towards the savings target will be brought to the Transport & Highways Committee in due course, but the Council’s overall savings programme will be delivered

Given that past Labour administrations were only too happy to preach about energy saving and environmental issues, it is unfortunate that some of their Members are so keen to scaremonger and misrepresent a policy that seeks to deliver.”