
By: Mike Austerberry, Executive Director, Environment Highways & Waste

To: Nick Chard, Cabinet Member, Environment Highways & Waste

Subject: Kent Highway Services Street Lighting Policy and Strategy

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report seeks Executive approval for the Kent Highway Services Street Lighting Policy and Strategy documents

1. Introduction

- 1(1) The Street lighting policies and strategy have been developed to
- Promote the reduction of CO₂ emissions associated with this asset
 - Maintain and deliver a quality service to the residents of Kent
 - Provide an efficient and best value street lighting service across the county
- 1(2) The Street Lighting Policy outlines the basic standards and principles applying to lighting and all other items of illuminated street furniture provided on the public highway. Lighting existing on the public highway under the responsibility of District, Town or Parish Councils and the Highways Agency falls outside the scope of this document.
- 1(3) The Street Lighting Strategy strikes a balance between the need to reduce the environmental impact of street lighting and the need to provide lighting for the safe use of the highway and for the community in general.

2. Background

- 2(1) Kent Highway Services provides and maintains approximately:
- 113,000 street lights
 - 14,000 lit signs
 - 5,500 lit bollards
- for the benefit of highway users and to aid crime prevention.
- 2(2) Over 20% of the calls to the Highways Contact Centre are related to street lighting highlighting the importance of this service to the general public.

3. KCC Strategic and Initiatives

- 3(1) The street lighting policies and strategy support the aims and objectives of other Kent County Council strategies and initiatives.
- 3(1) (a) On the 1 April 1967, under the provisions of the **Local Government Act 1966**, KCC assumed responsibility for the maintenance and operation of highway lighting throughout the County generally, including the provision of new installations. Kent County Council is under a duty of care to ensure that, where street lighting is provided, it is maintained in accordance with all its legal

obligations and that it adheres to professional guidance and good industry practice.

- 3(1) (b) Street Lighting plays a vital part in supporting the aims of the **Vision for Kent** by contributing to the provision of safer communities, supporting regeneration, helping to keep Kent moving and being a key factor in improving the environment.
- 3(1) (c) Street Lighting forms an integral part of the **Local Transport Plan** with appropriate, well maintained lighting impacting on many of the aims and objectives including reducing road casualties and improving opportunities for walking, cycling and high quality public transport.
- 3(1) (d) KCC ensures quality residential and industrial development through its local planning guidance, **Kent Design**. Street lighting is a key element in developments, both for safety and aesthetics.

4. Implications

- 4(1) There is no statutory requirement on highway authorities to provide public lighting, therefore the proposed policy and strategy documents defines the ways in which lighting will be provided and maintained in Kent.

5. Consultation

- 5(1) The proposed policy and strategy documents were approved by the Kent Highway Services Alliance Executive on 22nd September 2009 and, by the Kent Highway Services Alliance Board on 25th September 2009.

6. Conclusion

- 6(1) The proposed street lighting policy and strategy documents have been developed to ensure an energy and cost efficient service that delivers affective maintenance across the county. Both documents define an approach to the provision and maintenance of lighting that supports the aims and objectives of key KCC strategies and initiatives.

7. Recommendations

- 7(1) The Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste is asked to approve the Kent Highway Service Street Lighting Policy and Strategy documents as detailed in Appendix A and B to this report.

8. Author Contact Details

Norman Bateman, Head of Technical Services

✉ Norman.Bateman@kent.gov.uk ☎ 01622 69 6255

Background Documents: None