

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION****DECISION TAKEN BY:**

**Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member – Environment and Transport**

**DECISION NO:**

15/00066

**For publication**

**Subject:**

**Criteria for determining community requests for changes to current neighbourhood lighting**

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport, I agree to the criteria for determining community requests for changes to neighbourhood lighting, in accordance with the expectations set out in the report.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Kent County Council is one of the largest lighting authorities in the UK and has 118,000 street lights and some 25,000 lit signs and bollards. The current annual cost of illuminating and maintaining the stock is over £9.5m, a cost that keeps rising.

Measures were implemented to reduce the County Council's energy consumption through the Safe and Sensible Street Lighting (SSSL) project which introduced Trial Switch Off of Surplus Street Lights (Phase 1) and conversion of a significant number of street lights to Part Night Lighting (Phase 2). A report outlining these proposals was submitted to all Joint Transportation Boards during spring 2013.

In August 2013, the County Council began to implement Phase 1 of the project and started to switch off identified surplus street lights at 68 sites. In December 2013, the County Council began converting approximately 60,000 street lights to Part-night (PN) operation under Phase 2.

These measures were completed by autumn 2014 and have reduced annual energy costs by around £1m and carbon emissions by 5,000 tonnes.

Since implementing these measures the County Council has received a number of requests to return some street lights that are currently operating for part of the night, to all night lighting. This decision establishes a transparent process for dealing with such requests in the future.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

This proposal was the subject of a report to the meeting of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 21 July 2015 and Members endorsed the decision.

**Any alternatives considered:**

None

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

None

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signed

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date