

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member – Environment and Transport

DECISION NO:

15/00065

For publication

Subject:

Proposed consultation on the revised policy on Street Lighting post-LED conversion

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport, I agree to the consultation approach, in accordance with the expectations set out in the report. This includes:

- It is proposed that the County Council will adopt a mixed approach to ensure it attracts a suitable audience, including focus groups and deliberative workshops.
- The consultation will take between 8 – 10 weeks; the findings will help develop the Street Lighting policy that is due to be implemented during the LED conversions works.

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 £9m, a cost that keeps rising.

Innovations in street lighting technology mean that Light Emitting Diode (LED) products and controls deliver ultra-efficient street lighting at affordable prices. Manufacturers now guarantee their LED products for up to twenty years. LED coupled with a Central Management System (CMS) enable complete management of street lighting including dimming, switch on/off, fault reporting, metering, etc. It will also provide complete flexibility with regard to future policy change.

Further work showed that converting Kent's street lights to LED with CMS would reduce the energy and Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) costs by a further 60% and significantly reduce maintenance costs. The conversion works would cost around £40m and deliver a significant savings annually. The estimated cost is the result of extensive research and engagement with the market and manufacturers of LED and CMS products and will be confirmed once tender process completed, which is expected in October.

Due to the benefits of CMS, the County Council has an opportunity to manage its street light asset with a flexible approach that can deliver savings and provide suitable lighting provision to the Kent resident. Prior to the commencement of these conversion works it is proposed that it is timely to review the Street Lighting policy for which a consultation will take place.

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