

Safe and Sensible Street Lighting Project - Review of Trial Switch-Off – Shepway District

Date of Review:

Sites originally proposed for inclusion in the trial switch-off but subsequently withdrawn:

Spitfire Way, Canterbury Road and Alkham Valley Road, Hawkinge (IN PART)

Hill Road Sandgate Esplanade Lydd Road/Romney Road (Hammonds Corner)

Sites originally proposed for inclusion in the trial switch-off but subsequently modified to part-night lighting:

Spitfire Way, Canterbury Road and Alkham Valley Road, Hawkinge (IN PART)

Dover Hill, Folkestone (39 lights)

Dymchurch Road, Hythe (43 lights)

Dymchurch Road, Dymchurch (27 lights)

Hythe Road (23 lights)

Marine Parade, Littlestone (1 light)

Grand Parade, Littlestone (4 lights)

The Parade, Greatstone (30 lights)

Coast Drive, Greatstone (11 lights)

Coast Drive, Lydd (26 lights)

Sites included in the trial switch-off:

Ashford Road, Cheriton (44 lights)

North Road, Folkestone (6 lights)

Marine Parade & Lower Sandgate Road (26 lights)


Churchill Avenue (38 lights)

Royal Military Avenue (5 lights)

Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne (12 lights)

West Road/Hospital Hill, Folkestone/Hythe (30 lights)

| Site location | Ashford Road, Cheriton | Remarks |
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| No. of lights switched off | 44 lights | - |
| No. of lights converted to part night | 0 | - |
| Lights switched off/ converted (DATE) | 31/03/2014 | - |
| Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 31 st Mar 2014-31 st Mar 2015 | One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported. | The absence of light at this site has not caused an increase in crime. |
| Police remarks | None. | - |
| Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015) | Before switch-off: 25 SLIGHT, 10 SERIOUS. After switch-off: 1 SLIGHT – LIT – DRY: Driver took attention away from road to light a cigarette and left the carriageway, colliding with a post. | Absence of lighting was not a contributory factor to the crash which took place after switch-off. |
| Traffic Schemes remarks | None. | - |
| Enquiries received following implementation (site specific) | Enquiry no. 15809582 16/03/2015 – Calling on behalf of Eurotunnel explaining they have had a number of complaints about lights turned off on A20 next to Eurotunnel site. Explains a lot of their staff work night shifts and are concerned about walking along this road late at night on their own. Asked for update regarding these lights and LED conversion to pass on to Eurotunnel employees. | Following discussion with Eurotunnel, the lights close to their entrance and those under the bridge were excluded from the trial switch-off. |
| Street Lighting | Inventory shows these columns as having been installed between 1995 and 2004. | Assuming the earlier date, these columns are likely to be around two-thirds of the way through their expected lifespan. |

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| Highway Operations | No issues raised. | | - | |
| Developments | No issues raised. | | - | |
| Other relevant issues | None. | | - | |
| Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact? | YES | | NO |  |
| Options and financial implications | Option | | Cost over 15 years | |
| | Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course) | | £96,580 | |
| | Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on | | £95,480 | |
| | Remove columns | | £44,000 | |
| Remarks | <p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, and the single enquiry received, from Eurotunnel, has been substantially addressed by omitting lights from the proposed trial.</p> <p>These columns are over half-way through their expected lifespan and are likely to need replacing during the next 15 years, so removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £53,000 over this period, with further savings in the longer term. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p> | | | |
| Recommendation | Remove columns. | | | |
| JTB Remarks | Members noted the report. No issues were raised. | | | |
| Cabinet Committee Remarks | | | | |
| Final Recommendation | | | | |

Review of Trial Switch-Off – Shepway District

| Cabinet Member Decision | | Date | |
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| Site location | Churchill Avenue, Folkestone | Remarks |
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| No. of lights switched off | 10 | - |
| No. of lights converted to part night | 0 | - |
| Lights switched off/ converted (DATE) | 27/03/2014 | - |
| Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 27 th Mar 2014-27 th Mar 2015 | One year period prior to switch-off: 1 crime. One year period since switch-off: no crimes. | The absence of light at this site has not caused an increase in crime. |
| Police remarks | None. | - |
| Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015) | Before switch-off: 40 SLIGHT, 6 SERIOUS, 1 FATAL. After switch-off: 1 SLIGHT – LIGHT – DRY: Veh1 collided with rear of Veh2 when Veh2 braked suddenly. 1 SLIGHT – LIGHT – DRY: Veh1 collided with rear of Veh2 when Veh2 slowed down and pulled over to allow an ambulance to pass. | Both crashes which occurred after switch-off took place in daylight, so lack of lighting was not a contributory factor. |
| Traffic Schemes remarks | None. | - |
| Enquiries received following implementation (site specific) | Enquiry no. 102147 02/04/2014 – Caller unhappy with switch-off policy. Expressed concerns about safety on this road as it is very busy. Customer called for decision to be reviewed. Advised it will be reviewed 12 months after switch-off. Enquiry no. 17233304 07/11/2014 – Customer reporting lights out on this road. Advised this is a trial switch-off site. Customer expressed concerns that this is unsafe for | Noted; however, whilst understandable, these concerns would not appear to be supported by the crime or crash data. |

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| | <p>pedestrians at night.</p> <p>Enquiry no. 17444245 13/11/2014 – GovMetric Alert from resident asking that lights be reinstated on this road. Resident claims she uses this road to walk to and from work and no longer feels safe.</p> <p>Enquiry no. 15808858 26/11/2014 – Enquiry from Jennifer Childs of Folkestone Town Council asking that lights be switched back on at this site following a Town Council Meeting.</p> | |
| Street Lighting | Inventory shows these columns as having been installed in 1970. | At 45 years old, these columns are at, if not past, the end of their expected lifespan. |
| Highway Operations | No issues raised. | - |
| Developments | No issues raised. | - |
| Other relevant issues | None. | - |
| Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact? | YES | NO ✓ |
| Options and financial implications | Option | Cost over 15 years |
| | Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course) | £83,410 |
| | Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on | £82,460 |
| | Remove columns | £28,500 |
| Remarks | Whilst some of the local community have expressed concerns about safety and security, data received from the police indicates that the trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes. | |


Review of Trial Switch-Off – Shepway District

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| | <p>These columns are at the end of their lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £55,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p> | | |
| Recommendation | Remove columns. | | |
| JTB Remarks | Members noted the report. Councillor Gane drew attention once again to the concerns raised by the Town Council. | | |
| Response to JTB Remarks | The Town Council's concerns are not supported by crime and crash data, and in the circumstances we would not change the recommendation. | | |
| Cabinet Committee Remarks | | | |
| Final Recommendation | | | |
| Cabinet Member Decision | | Date | |

| Site location | Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne | Remarks |
|--|--|--|
| No. of lights switched off | 12 | - |
| No. of lights converted to part night | 0 | - |
| Lights switched off/ converted (DATE) | 26/03/2014 | - |
| Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 26 th Mar 2014-26 th Mar 2015 | One year period prior to switch-off: no crimes. One year period since switch-off: 3 crimes. | Compared to the year previous to switch-off, crime has risen from 0 crimes to 3. |
| Police remarks | None. | The police have not indicated that the increase in crime is linked to the absence of lighting. |
| Crashes (Jan 1993-Apr 2015) | Before switch-off: 9 SLIGHT, 2 SERIOUS. After switch-off: 1 SLIGHT – LIGHT – DRY: Veh1 collided with Veh2 who was waiting to turn right. Veh2 knocked into path of Veh3 travelling in opposite direction. | Crashes which occurred after switch-off happened during daylight hours so absence of lighting was not a contributory factor. |
| Traffic Schemes remarks | None. | - |
| Enquiries received following implementation (site specific) | None. | Kent's residents have not commented on these lights being switched off. |
| Street Lighting | Inventory shows these columns as having been installed between 1995 and 2004. | Assuming the earlier date, these columns are likely to be around two-thirds of the way through their expected lifespan. |
| Highway Operations | No issues raised. | - |
| Developments | No issues raised. | - |

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| Other relevant issues | None. | | - | |
| Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact? | YES | | NO | ✓ |
| Options and financial implications | Option | | Cost over 15 years | |
| | Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course) | | £20,340 | |
| | Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on | | £20,040 | |
| | Remove columns | | £6,000 | |
| Remarks | <p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crashes, there has been no suggestion by the police or local residents that the statistical increase in crime is linked to the absence of lighting, and Kent's residents have not commented on these lights being switched off, suggesting that there is no need to continue providing lighting to this part of the highway.</p> <p>These columns are at the end of their lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £14,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term.</p> | | | |
| Recommendation | Remove columns. | | | |
| JTB Remarks | Members noted the report. No issues were raised. | | | |
| Cabinet Committee Remarks | | | | |
| Final Recommendation | | | | |
| Cabinet Member Decision | | | Date | |


| Site location | North Road, Folkestone | Remarks |
|--|--|--|
| No. of lights switched off | 6 | - |
| No. of lights converted to part night | 0 | - |
| Lights switched off/ converted (DATE) | 25/03/2014 | - |
| Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 25 th Mar 2014-25 th Mar 2015 | One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported. | The absence of lighting at this site has not caused an increase in crime. |
| Police remarks | None. | - |
| Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015) | Before switch-off: 3 SLIGHT, 1 SERIOUS After switch-off: None. | The absence of lighting at this site has not led to an increase in crashes. |
| Traffic Schemes remarks | None. | - |
| Enquiries received following implementation (site specific) | None. | Kent's residents have not commented on these lights being switched off. |
| Street Lighting | Inventory shows these columns as installed between 1975 and 1984. These columns are supplied from MOD property, making them extremely difficult to maintain. Four of them have already failed structural testing and been 'necked' to make them safe. | At over 30 years old, these lights are the end of their expected lifespan, and four of the six have already failed structural testing. |

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| Highway Operations | No issues raised. | | - | |
| Developments | No issues raised. | | - | |
| Other relevant issues | Shorncliffe Camp, adjacent to North Road, is no longer required by the MOD, and is awaiting redevelopment. | | Any new development is likely to include new lighting requirements, and new lighting. | |
| Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact? | YES | | NO |  |
| Options and financial implications | Option | | Cost over 15 years | |
| | Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course) | | £8,475 | |
| | Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on | | £8,350 | |
| | Remove columns | | £2,500 | |
| Remarks | <p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, and Kent's residents have not commented on these lights being switched off, suggesting that there is no need to continue providing lighting to this part of the highway.</p> <p>The columns at this site are at or past the end of their lifespan, with 4 of the 6 already having been 'necked' to make them safe. The electricity supply to the columns comes from MOD feeder pillars to which the County Council has no access, making maintenance arrangements extremely difficult. In addition, the proposed redevelopment of the MOD site will bring new lighting requirements and, where appropriate, new lighting. Removing these columns immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £6,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term.</p> | | | |
| Recommendation | Remove columns. | | | |
| JTB Remarks | Members noted the report. Councillor Gane expressed concern about carriageway defects and flooding not being visible. Officers' response was that street lighting is not there to illuminate defects. Any defects that do exist are considered on their merits whether the street is lit or not. | | | |

Review of Trial Switch-Off – Shepway District

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| Cabinet Committee Remarks | | | |
| Final Recommendation | | | |
| Cabinet Member Decision | | Date | |

| Site location | Royal Military Avenue, Folkestone | Remarks |
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| No. of lights switched off | 5 | - |
| No. of lights converted to part night | 0 | - |
| Lights switched off/ converted (DATE) | 25/03/2014 | - |
| Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 25 th Mar 2014-25 th Mar 2015 | One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported. | The absence of lighting at this site has not caused an increase in crime.. |
| Police remarks | None. | - |
| Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015) | Before switch-off: None. After switch-off: 1 SLIGHT – LIGHT – DRY: Motorcycle rider testing new brakes. Brakes were too sharp and rider was thrown from the vehicle. 1 SLIGHT – LIGHT – DRY: Veh1 pulled onto Royal Military Avenue and collided with Veh2. Veh2 was pushed onto opposite side of the road. | Crashes which occurred after switch-off happened during daylight hours so absence of lighting was not a contributory factor. |
| Traffic Schemes remarks | None. | - |
| Enquiries received following implementation (site specific) | Enquiry no. 17143833 22/08/2014 – Caller concerned about pedestrians walking early in the morning at this site. Says it is difficult to walk along the uneven pavement with no light to highlight tree roots etc. Claims she had no consultation and no awareness of this happened until they were switched off. | Noted. |
| Street Lighting | Inventory shows these columns as installed between 1995 and 2004. | Assuming the earlier date, these columns are likely to be around two-thirds of the way through their expected lifespan. |

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| Highway Operations | No issues raised. | | - | |
| Developments | No issues raised. | | - | |
| Other relevant issues | None. | | - | |
| Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact? | YES | | NO |  |
| Options and financial implications | Option | | Cost over 15 years | |
| | Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course) | | £7,475 | |
| | Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on | | £7,350 | |
| | Remove columns | | £2,500 | |
| Remarks | <p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, and the single enquiry received suggests that Kent’s residents are largely accepting of the switch-off.</p> <p>These columns are over half-way through their expected lifespan and are likely to need replacing during the next 15 years, so removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £5,000 over this period, with further savings in the longer term. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p> | | | |
| Recommendation | Remove columns. | | | |
| JTB Remarks | Members noted the report. No issues were raised. | | | |
| Cabinet Committee Remarks | | | | |
| Final Recommendation | | | | |

Review of Trial Switch-Off – Shepway District


| Cabinet Member Decision | | Date | |
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| Site location | West Road/Hospital Hill, Folkestone | Remarks |
|--|--|---|
| No. of lights switched off | 30 | - |
| No. of lights converted to part night | 0 | - |
| Lights switched off/ converted (DATE) | 31/03/2014 | - |
| Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 31/03/2014-31/03/2015 | One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: 2 crimes. | Compared to one year period previous to switch-off, crime has risen from 0 crimes to 2. |
| Police remarks | None. | The police have not suggested that the statistical increase in crime is linked to the switch-off of lighting. |
| Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015) | Before switch-off: 10 SLIGHT. After switch-off: None. | The absence of lighting at this site has not led to an increase in crashes. |
| Traffic Schemes remarks | None. | - |
| Enquiries received following implementation (site specific) | Enquiry no. 102042 01/04/2014 – Customer objects to these lights being switched off. Claims road is dangerous, full of sharp turns and drivers regularly exceed the speed limit. Thinks road should be part-night if not all-night, as limiting residents to using road only during daylight hours is an encroachment of civil liberties. | Noted; however, the crash data does not support the concerns expressed. |
| Street Lighting | The inventory shows 11 of these columns as having been installed before 1975, with all but one of the remaining columns having been installed before 2004. The 18 columns in West Road are supplied from MOD property, making them extremely difficult to maintain. Two of them have already failed structural testing and | Over a third of these columns are already at, if not past, their expected lifespan, and two of them have already failed structural testing. |

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| | been ‘necked’ to make them safe. | |
| Highway Operations | No issues raised. | - |
| Developments | No issues raised. | - |
| Other relevant issues | Shorncliffe Camp, adjacent to West Road, is no longer required by the MOD, and is awaiting redevelopment. | Any new development is likely to include new lighting requirements, and new lighting. |
| Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact? | YES | NO ✓ |
| Options and financial implications | Option | Cost over 15 years |
| | Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course) | £47,850 |
| | Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on | £47,100 |
| | Remove columns | £15,000 |
| Remarks | <p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase crashes, there has been no suggestion by the police or local residents that the statistical increase in crime is linked to the absence of lighting, and the single enquiry received suggests that Kent’s residents are largely accepting of the switch-off.</p> <p>The columns at this site are at or past the end of their lifespan, with two already having been ‘necked’ to make them safe. The electricity supply to the 18 columns in West Road comes from MOD feeder pillars to which the County Council has no access, making maintenance arrangements extremely difficult. In addition, the proposed redevelopment of the MOD site will bring new lighting requirements and, where appropriate, new lighting. Removing these columns immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £33,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term. Taking these various factors into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p> | |
| Recommendation | Remove columns. | |

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| JTB Remarks | <p>Members noted the report. Concerns were raised regarding vehicle speeds, alignment, and sharp bends. Members requested that a number of lights be restored to lighting. Councillor Dearden tabled correspondence received from a resident of Helena Corniche concerned about the switch-off. Members were advised that requests for lights to be returned to lighting would be considered, but that they should note that lighting is designed to provide a uniform level of light at the road surface. Illuminating an isolated light or lights may create patches of dark and light which can be hazardous to road users. Martin Whybrow, Member, uses this road regularly and supports the switch-off.</p> | | |
| Response to JTB Remarks | <p>West Road/North Road: chevron signs are present for both directions of travel. The existing light has had no supply for several years so cannot be returned to lighting. There is no evidence of crashes, and no further action is recommended.</p> <p>West Road – Shornecliffe Military Cemetery entrance: vehicles travelling southbound would benefit from installation of a new chevron sign to complement the existing sign for northbound vehicles. There are also bend warning signs and ‘SLOW’ road markings. There is no evidence of crashes at this location, and in the circumstances the existing signs and road markings plus the additional chevron sign will provide sufficient warning of the bend.</p> <p>Hospital Hill: street lights in Hospital Hill are located in small clusters, and do not provide lighting fully along its length. Restoring lighting would create isolated patches of dark and light which can be hazardous to road users. There are road markings and traffic signs informing road users of bends ahead.</p> <p>In conclusion, these roads have not been adversely affected by the trial switch-off of street lights. With the addition of one chevron sign, there appears to be no reason to revise the original recommendation to remove the columns.</p> | | |
| Cabinet Committee Remarks | | | |
| Final Recommendation | | | |
| Cabinet Member Decision | | Date | |

| Site location | Marine Parade & Lower Sandgate Road | Remarks |
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| No. of lights switched off | 26 | - |
| No. of lights converted to part night | 0 | - |
| Lights switched off/ converted (DATE) | 25/03/2014 | - |
| Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 25/03/2014-25/03/2015 | One year period prior to switch-off: 18 crimes. One year period since switch-off: 13 crimes. | Compared to the one year period before switch-off, crime has fallen from 18 crimes to 13. |
| Police remarks | None. | - |
| Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015) | Before switch-off: 14 SLIGHT, 2 SERIOUS After switch-off: None. | The absence of lighting at this site has not led to an increase in crashes. |
| Traffic Schemes remarks | None. | - |
| Enquiries received following implementation (site specific) | <p>Enquiry no. 17141989 03/04/2014 – Customer calling to express concern about switch-off, claiming it is unsafe.</p> <p>Enquiry no. 108129 05/06/2014 – Customer calling to request lights be turned back on before funfair/airshow.</p> <p>Enquiry no. 11002256 13/09/2014 – Enquiry from Cllr. Barker calling for an immediate review of this site, claiming he believes it to be an oversight that this road was included in Phase 1 trial.</p> <p>Enquiry no. 17029041 24/10/2014 – Complaint from resident of Marine Crescent about trial switch-off. States ASB has increased dramatically both from nearby</p> | Noted. |

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| | <p>nightclub and beach opposite. Claims not one resident was consulted and elderly people are now housebound, too afraid to go outside.</p> <p>Enquiry no. 17233590 19/11/2014 – Resident lives next to the nightclub and some cars have been vandalised. Requested lights to be converted to part-night.</p> <p>Enquiry no. 157841 02/06/2015 – Resident calling for lights to be reinstated. Claims crime has significantly increased, including drug dealing. Has crime reference numbers.</p> | |
| Street Lighting | Inventory shows these columns as having been installed in 1991, except for one installed in 1995. | Most of these columns are 24 years old, so approaching the end of their 30-year expected lifespan. |
| Highway Operations | No issues raised. | - |
| Developments | No issues raised. | - |
| Other relevant issues | None. | - |
| Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact? | YES |  NO |
| Options and financial implications | Option | Cost over 15 years |
| | Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course) | £28,815 |
| | Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on | £28,390 |
| | Remove columns | £8,500 |
| Remarks | Although there has been no increase in crime or crashes since switch-off, a number of local residents have expressed concerns about safety and security, and this trial site now appears anomalous in that it forms an isolated | |

Review of Trial Switch-Off – Shepway District

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| | <p>unlit area close to Folkestone’s historic town centre and sea front, an area proposed for economic regeneration.</p> <p>These columns are approaching the end of their expected lifespan and are likely to need replacing during the next 15 years, so the cost of continuing to run them over this period would be around £20,000 more than the cost of removing them. Notwithstanding this, it is recommended that these lights are switched back on immediately and converted to LED in due course.</p> | | |
| Recommendation | Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course). | | |
| JTB Remarks | Members noted the report and were pleased that these roads have been returned to lighting. | | |
| Cabinet Committee Remarks | | | |
| Final Recommendation | | | |
| Cabinet Member Decision | | Date | |