

## **Safe and Sensible Street Lighting Project - Review of Trial Switch-Off – Swale District**

### **Date of Review:**

### **Sites originally proposed for inclusion in the trial switch-off but subsequently withdrawn:**

Swanstree Avenue

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

Whiteway Road (17 lights)

### **Sites included in the trial switch-off:**

Sheppey Way (59 lights)

Queenborough Road (23 lights)

Western Link, Ospringe (49 lights)

A2 London Road, Ospringe (14 lights)

Swale Way, Sittingbourne (22 lights)

Barge Way, Sittingbourne (14 lights)

Love Lane, Faversham (6 lights)

Graveney Road, Faversham (6 lights)

Site location	Sheppey Way	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	59	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	23/05/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 23/05/2014-23/05/2015	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: 47 SLIGHT, 15 SERIOUS, 2 FATAL  After switch-off: 1 SERIOUS – LIGHT- WET: Veh1 overtook several vehicles on wrong side of the road. Veh1 came to brow of a hill into a left hand bend and collided head on with Veh2. Veh4 collided with Veh3 trying to avoid initial collision. 1 FATAL – DARK – UNLIT: Veh1 (cyclist) travelling as part of a group, rider lost control and fell from bicycle, sustaining substantial serious head injuries.	Although the fatal crash since switch-off occurred during darkness, there has been no suggestion that the absence of lighting was a contributory factor.
Traffic Schemes remarks	None.	-
Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)	<b>Enquiry No. 130128 (13/11/14):</b> Resident who cycles along this road regularly after work reported lights out, and was advised that it was a trial.	Noted.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows columns installed in or after 2005.	At 10 years old or less, these columns are around a third of the way through their expected lifespan.

<b>Highway Operations</b>	No issues raised.		-	
<b>Developments</b>	No issues raised.		-	
<b>Other relevant issues</b>	None.		-	
<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>	✓	<b>NO</b>	✓
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>		<b>Cost over 15 years</b>	
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£41,005	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£39,530	
	Remove columns		£29,500	
<b>Remarks</b>	<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>As the columns at this site are under half-way through their expected lifespan, they are unlikely to need replacing within the next 15 years. Notwithstanding this, removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £12,000 over this period, with further savings in the longer term when these columns would need to be replaced. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Remove columns.</b>			
<b>JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Members suggested that either alternative lights or automatic sensors are installed along the Sheppey Way to provided lighting in fog and emergencies.</p> <p>Members also expressed concern about safety issues for late night/shift workers using any of the sites where it is proposed to remove lighting.</p> <p>In general, Members were supportive of night sky initiatives and reduction of carbon emission and encouraged more lights to be switched off.</p>			

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<b>Response to JTB Remarks</b>	Kent has many roads similar in character to Sheppey Way which have no lighting, and in any case street lighting offers little benefit to drivers in foggy conditions. Whilst Members' concerns about late night/shift works are noted, the single enquiry received would suggest that there is no reason to change the recommendation for this site.		
<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>			
<b>Final Recommendation</b>			
<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>		<b>Date</b>	

Site location	Queenborough Road	Remarks
<b>No. of lights switched off</b>	23	-
<b>No. of lights converted to part night</b>	0	-
<b>Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)</b>	23/06/2014	-
<b>Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues</b> Period: 23/06/2014-23/06/2015	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.
<b>Police remarks</b>	None.	-
<b>Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)</b>	Before switch-off: 18 SLIGHT, 3 SERIOUS, 1 FATAL.  After switch-off: None.	The absence of lighting at this site has not led to an increase in crashes.
<b>Traffic Schemes remarks</b>	None.	-
<b>Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)</b>	<p><b>Enquiry No. 111244 (24/6/14):</b> resident unhappy with the trial switch-off and feels he was not consulted. There are no pavements here, and he believes the lack of lighting is dangerous, also there are elderly people living in the road who now feel unsafe.</p> <p><b>Enquiry No. 17025507 (25/6/14):</b> resident, who is disabled, is concerned about lack of lighting during the trial switch-off. The road is used as a short cut by traffic, some of it travelling at high speeds.</p> <p><b>Enquiry No. 111469 (25/6/14):</b> resident unhappy with the trial switch-off and feels he was not consulted. He is</p>	These enquiries were all received within the first month of the switch-off. Since then, no further enquiries have been received, indicating perhaps that residents are largely accepting of the change.

	concerned about his and his neighbours' safety, and the safety of people walking along or crossing the road, and also about fly-tipping.		
<b>Street Lighting</b>	Inventory shows columns installed in or after 2005.		At 10 years old or less, these columns are around a third of the way through their expected lifespan.
<b>Highway Operations</b>	No issues raised.		-
<b>Developments</b>	No issues raised.		-
<b>Other relevant issues</b>	None.		-
<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>NO</b> ✓
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>		<b>Cost over 15 years</b>
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£15,985
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£15,410
	Remove columns		£11,500
<b>Remarks</b>	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, and although a small number of enquiries were received within a month of the lights being switched off, none have been received since June 2014, suggesting that Kent's residents are largely accepting of the switch-off.</p> <p>As the columns at this site are under half-way through their expected lifespan, they are unlikely to need replacing within the next 15 years. Notwithstanding this, removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £4,000 over this period, with further savings in the longer term when these columns would need to be replaced. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p>		

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Remove columns.</b>		
<b>JTB Remarks</b>	Members expressed concern about safety issues for late night/shift workers using any of the sites where it is proposed to remove lighting, but made no specific comments relating to this site. In general, Members were supportive of night sky initiatives and reduction of carbon emission and encouraged more lights to be switched off.		
<b>Response to JTB Remarks</b>	Whilst Members' general concerns are noted, the small number of enquiries received would suggest that there is no reason to change the recommendation for this site.		
<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>			
<b>Final Recommendation</b>			
<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>		<b>Date</b>	

Site location	Western Link, Ospringe	Remarks
<b>No. of lights switched off</b>	49	-
<b>No. of lights converted to part night</b>	0	-
<b>Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)</b>	19/05/2014	-
<b>Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues</b> Period: 19/05/2014-19/05/2015	One year period prior to switch-off: None reported.  One year period since switch-off: 2 crimes.	This site has seen an increase in crime since lights were switched off.
<b>Police remarks</b>	None.	The police have not suggested that the statistical increase in crime is linked to the switch-off of lighting.
<b>Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)</b>	Before switch-off: 5 SLIGHT, 1 SERIOUS, 1 FATAL.  After switch-off: 1 SERIOUS – LIGHT – DRY: Veh1 collided with Veh2 as Veh2 turned right into junction.	Crash after switch-off occurred during daylight, so the absence of lighting was not a contributory factor.
<b>Traffic Schemes remarks</b>	None.	-
<b>Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)</b>	<b>Enquiry No. 17031926 (27/11/14):</b> customer rang to report lights not working and was advised they were part of a trial switch-off. He was not happy with this, and suggested considering solar panels or motion sensors as alternative ways of saving money.  <b>Enquiry No. 133815 (8/12/14):</b> customer reported lights not working, and was advised they were part of a trial switch-off, which she felt was inappropriate as the road is busy and has many lorries travelling along it.  <b>Enquiry No. 17034270 (5/1/2015):</b> customer rang to report lights not working, and was advised they were	The number of enquiries received is small in relation to the number of people using this road, and the crash data does not support suggestions that the switch-off of lighting is dangerous or inappropriate.



	part of a trial switch-off.  <b>Enquiry No. 139954 (19/1/15):</b> customer reported lights not working, making the road, which he uses as part of a running route, dangerous. He was advised this was part of a trial switch-off.		
<b>Street Lighting</b>	Inventory shows columns installed in 1985.		At 30 years old, these columns are at the end of their expected lifespan.
<b>Highway Operations</b>	No issues raised.		-
<b>Developments</b>	No issues raised.		-
<b>Other relevant issues</b>	None.		-
<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>NO</b> ✓
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>		<b>Cost over 15 years</b>
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£83,055
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£81,830
	Remove columns		£24,500
<b>Remarks</b>	<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 number of enquiries received is small in proportion to the number of people using this road, suggesting that Kent’s residents are largely accepting of the switch-off.</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 £59,000 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>		

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Remove columns.</b>		
<b>JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Concerns were raised at a lack of lighting alongside at the Western Link. Apparently a development and proposed new roundabout have been approved, and Members requested that officers find out more to see whether this will affect the need for lighting.</p> <p>Members also expressed concern about safety issues for late night/shift workers using any of the sites where it is proposed to remove lighting.</p> <p>In general, Members were supportive of night sky initiatives and reduction of carbon emission and encouraged more lights to be switched off.</p>		
<b>Response to JTB Remarks</b>	<p>In respect of the development proposals, the development team has advised that a scheme including a roundabout onto Western Link north of the railway bridge and a couple of pedestrian refuges is about to receive outline planning approval, but that details have yet to be discussed, and the start of construction is likely to be at least a year away. Any roundabout will require lighting designed to illuminate the new road layout, and it is unlikely that the proposals would incorporate use of the existing lighting columns which are, as noted above, at the end of their lifespan.</p> <p>Whilst Members’ concerns about late night/shift works are noted, the small number of enquiries received would suggest that there is no reason to change the recommendation for this site.</p>		
<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>			
<b>Final Recommendation</b>			
<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>		<b>Date</b>	

Site location	A2 London Road, Ospringe	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	14	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	23/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 23/06/2014-23/06/2015	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: 7 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)	<b>Enquiry No. 17032635 (4/12/14):</b> caller from Syndale Park Motel (which has access from the area included in the trial) is concerned that lack of lighting will cause a serious accident.	Noted; however, crash data suggests that these concerns, whilst understandable, are unfounded.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows columns installed in 1985.	At 30 years old, these columns are at the end of their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-
Other relevant issues	None.	-

<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>NO</b>	✓
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>		<b>Cost over 15 years</b>	
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£23,730	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£23,380	
	Remove columns		£7,000	
<b>Remarks</b>	<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 at the end of their lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £17,000 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>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Remove columns.</b>			
<b>JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Members expressed concern about safety issues for late night/shift workers using any of the sites where it is proposed to remove lighting, but made no specific comments relating to this site.</p> <p>In general, Members were supportive of night sky initiatives and reduction of carbon emission and encouraged more lights to be switched off.</p>			
<b>Response to JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Whilst Members’ general concerns are noted, the single enquiry received would suggest that there is no reason to change the recommendation for this site.</p>			
<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>				
<b>Final Recommendation</b>				
<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>			<b>Date</b>	

Site location	Swale Way, Sittingbourne	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	22	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	19/09/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 19/09/2014-Present	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: 2 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)	None.	Kent's residents have not commented on these lights being switched off.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows 9 of these columns installed in 1995, the remainder in 2005.	These columns are around two-thirds and one-third, respectively, of their way through their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-


<b>Other relevant issues</b>	None.	-
<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b> ✓
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>	<b>Cost over 15 years</b>
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)	£24,290
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on	£23,740
	Remove columns	£11,000
<b>Remarks</b>	<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>Whilst only some of these columns are likely to need replacing within the next 15 years, removing them all immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £13,000 over that period, with further savings in the longer term when the remaining columns would need to be replaced.</p>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Remove columns.</b>	
<b>JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Members expressed concern about safety issues for late night/shift workers using any of the sites where it is proposed to remove lighting, but made no specific comments relating to this site.</p> <p>In general, Members were supportive of night sky initiatives and reduction of carbon emission and encouraged more lights to be switched off.</p>	
<b>Response to JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Whilst Members' general concerns are noted, no enquiries have been received, suggesting that there is no reason to change the recommendation for this site.</p>	
<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>		
<b>Final Recommendation</b>		

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<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>		<b>Date</b>	
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Site location	Barge Way, Sittingbourne	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	14	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	23/05/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 23/05/2014-23/05/2015	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: 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 installed in 1995 except for one installed in 2010.	At 20 years old, all but one of these columns are two-thirds of the way through their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-
Other relevant issues	None.	-



<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>NO</b>	
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>		<b>Cost over 15 years</b>	
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£22,730	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£22,380	
	Remove columns		£7,000	
<b>Remarks</b>	<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>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 £16,000 over this period, with further savings in the longer term.</p>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Remove columns.</b>			
<b>JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Members expressed concern about safety issues for late night/shift workers using any of the sites where it is proposed to remove lighting, but made no specific comments relating to this site.</p> <p>In general, Members were supportive of night sky initiatives and reduction of carbon emission and encouraged more lights to be switched off.</p>			
<b>Response to JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Whilst Members' general concerns are noted, no enquiries have been received, suggesting that there is no reason to change the recommendation for this site.</p>			
<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>				
<b>Final Recommendation</b>				
<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>			<b>Date</b>	

Site location	Love Lane, Faversham	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	6	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	23/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period:	One year period prior to switch-off: 1 crime. One year period since switch-off: 1 crime.	The absence of lighting at this site has not caused an increase in crime, which remains constant at 1 before and 1 after switch-off.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 1 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)	<b>Enquiry No. 17037140 (9/2/15):</b> Customer queried why these lights had been selected for inclusion in the trial and expressed the view that the lack of lighting was a hazard for pedestrians, particularly as the footway was in poor condition. <b>Enquiry No. 42400552 (17/2/15):</b> Resident concerned that lack of lighting has made road dangerous after she hit a parked lorry and damaged her car.	Noted. The condition of the footway is not a street lighting issue, whilst the fact that only two enquiries have been received suggests that the lack of lighting at this location is not a particular issue for the majority of pedestrians or drivers.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows 5 of these columns installed in 2005, the remaining one in 1990.	At 10 years old, all but one of these columns are around a third of the way through their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-

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<b>Developments</b>	No issues raised.		-	
<b>Other relevant issues</b>	None.		-	
<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>NO</b>	✓
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>		<b>Cost over 15 years</b>	
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£5,370	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£5,220	
	Remove columns		£4,500	
<b>Remarks</b>	<p>Although there has been no increase in crime or crashes since switch-off, and few of Kent's residents have expressed concerns, this trial site now appears anomalous in that it is a very short length of unlit road linking two lit roads. It also provides access to a cemetery and to a nursing home providing care for people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>As the columns at this site are under half-way through their expected lifespan, they are unlikely to need replacing within the next 15 years, and the savings to Kent County Council by removing them would be less than £1,000 over the next 15 years. Taking all these factors into consideration, it is recommended that these lights are switched back on immediately and converted to LED in due course.</p>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course).</b>			
<b>JTB Remarks</b>	Members noted the report and welcomed the reinstatement of lighting at this location.			
<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>				
<b>Final Recommendation</b>				
<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>			<b>Date</b>	

Site location	Graveney Road, Faversham	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	6	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	23/05/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 23/05/2014-23/05/2015	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.  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)	<b>Enquiry Nos. 141447, 141451, 141452 (27/1/15):</b> customer reported that lights were off in the evening rather than switching off after midnight. Message left to say the lights were part of a trial switch-off.	Noted.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows these columns installed in 2005.	At 10 years old, these columns are around a third of the way through their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-
Other relevant issues	None.	-

<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>NO</b>	✓
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>		<b>Cost over 15 years</b>	
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£4,170	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£4,020	
	Remove columns		£3,000	
<b>Remarks</b>	<p>There has been no increase in crime and no crashes since switch-off, and the only enquiry received appears to have been satisfactorily addressed by providing information about the trial, suggesting that there is no need to continue providing lighting to this part of the highway.</p> <p>As the columns at this site are under half-way through their expected lifespan, they are unlikely to need replacing within the next 15 years. Notwithstanding this, removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £1,000 over the next 15 years, with more substantial savings in the longer term when these columns would need to be replaced. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Remove columns.</b>			
<b>JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Members expressed concern about safety issues for late night/shift workers using any of the sites where it is proposed to remove lighting, but made no specific comments relating to this site.</p> <p>In general, Members were supportive of night sky initiatives and reduction of carbon emission and encouraged more lights to be switched off.</p>			
<b>Response to JTB Remarks</b>	<p>Whilst Members' general concerns are noted, the single enquiry received would suggest that there is no reason to change the recommendation for this site.</p>			
<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>				
<b>Final Recommendation</b>				

Review of Trial Switch-Off – Swale District

<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>		<b>Date</b>	
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