

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 9 OCTOBER 2013

PORTFOLIO: OVERALL STRATEGY & POLICY DIRECTION

REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**SUBJECT: CONSULTATION FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
REGARDING 'PART NIGHT' STREET LIGHTING**

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 That the Executive determine the Council's response to the consultation.

2 DETAILED CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The County Council has now notified the District Council of its intention to roll out the 'Part Night' Street Lighting initiative across the remainder of the county, with Rochford to be included from January 2014. Details of the scheme, the implementation timetable and exception criteria are attached as an appendix to this report.
- 2.2 The County Council is now seeking comments on this proposal, particularly in terms of those sites and areas that should fall within the exceptions policy.
- 2.3 From an officer's perspective, those areas that should be notified to the County Council as falling within the exclusions policy include the main town centre areas of Rayleigh, Rochford and Hockley, the areas around the railway stations and those footpaths across the District, which run from the town centres and link the residential areas.
- 2.4 Members' comments and suggestions will be reported verbally on the night, together with any feedback from the Parish and Town Councils and the local police.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

The decision should be taken as a matter of urgency and not subject to call-in because of the consultation deadline set by the County.

SMT Lead Officer Signature: _____

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Paul Warren (Chief Executive) on:-

Phone: 01702 318199

Email: paul.warren@rochford.gov.uk

If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

Dear Members, Essex MPs, Leaders and Chief Executives,

Consultation regarding Part Night Street Lighting in your area

I am writing to you as Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to consult you on proposals to introduce 'part night' street lighting in your area.

The Council has recently undergone a programme to modernise the ECC owned street lights across Essex. We have installed a 'Central Management System' (CMS) that allows the remote controlling of street lights and improved fault monitoring. This means that we are now in a position to turn specific lights off at specific times.

The Council successfully introduced part night lighting in Maldon and Uttlesford Districts in 2007, where lights are switched off between midnight and 5am. Part night lighting brings with it a number of benefits, including:

- Reducing the burning hours of street lights resulting in significant reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions
- Significant reduction in light pollution, 'sky glow', across Essex
- A more responsive service - e.g. lights can be programmed to stay on later on New Year's Eve or other key events during the year

I recognise that some of you will be concerned about the possible effect that this rollout could have on crime levels, the 'fear of crime' and accident rates, and I can assure you that our pilot part night lighting schemes in Uttlesford and Maldon have shown no evidence to support such a link. Indeed, crime rates in both of those districts have fallen broadly in line with the rest of the county during since 2007. In addition, surveys commissioned by the Council show that the percentage of people who feel safe outside after dark has also increased in Maldon and Uttlesford since 2007.

The success of the scheme in these areas has given us the reassurance to expand the scheme across the county.

It is proposed that lights in locations meeting the following exception criteria will continue to be lit through the night. This amounts to around 30% of streetlights:

- Sites where there are a large number of conflicting traffic movements (eg roundabouts) which are on significant routes (generally those lit by columns greater than 6m high).
- Sites where street lights are installed as a result of accident remedial measures.
- Town Centre areas where there is one or more of the following features:
 - Publicly maintained CCTV
 - A high proportion of high security premises (eg banks, jewellers); areas of high crime risk;
 - High concentration of people at night such as transport interchanges, nightclubs etc.
- Main approaches to town centre areas where there is a mix of development between residential and commercial/industrial

- Sites where the police can demonstrate that there is likely to be an increase in crime if the lights are switched off during part of the night (or that there will be a decrease in crime if the lights are switched back on).
- Remote footpaths and alleys linking residential streets.
- Where there is a statutory requirement to provide lighting

Additionally, we are considering the position of the A13 and A127 dual carriageways. On a trial basis we intend to switch the lights on these roads to part night lighting unless they meet one of the above criteria.

Part night lighting was introduced in the Braintree District and the City of Chelmsford on 1 September 2013, and we are planning to introduce part night lighting in the remaining parts of Essex according to the following timetable:

- 1) **1 November 2013:** Basildon and Colchester Boroughs.
- 2) **1 December 2013:** Epping Forest District and Castle Point Borough.
- 3) **1 December 2013:** A13 and A127 trial.
- 4) **1 January 2014:** Rochford and Tendring Districts.
- 5) **1 February 2014:** Brentwood Borough and Harlow District.

Before we make the final decision we are writing to consult you on the proposal. In particular we would welcome any suggestions from you which highlight areas that you think may meet the exception criteria within your area. Your views will then be used to inform the final decision. These plans will be published on the ECC website in advance of the switch over to part night lighting.

If you feel there are areas where street lights should be left on all night please can you email the address below noting:

- The location of the light(s), including street and settlement name.
- The reason you feel the light(s) meet the exception criteria.

Your feedback will then be used to supplement the information our engineers currently hold on the street lights that should be considered exempt from the switch over to part night lighting.

As part of our consultation plan we are contacting Parish, District and Borough Councils and the emergency services, asking them to identify any areas that meet the exception criteria to help inform the final plans for part night lighting across Essex. I am happy to hear your view on the scheme and if you require any additional information please do let me know. Please can you feedback your views to partnightlighting@essexhighways.org. To allow enough time to consider your view please can you provide feedback by **27 September 2013**.

Yours Sincerely,



Rodney L Bass CC
Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation
Essex County Council