



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1ST OCTOBER 2020

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – REVIEW DECISION TO SWITCH OFF
STREET LIGHTS**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE
SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report and make an appropriate recommendation to Council. In accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Constitution.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor K. Etheridge and is supported by Councillors A. Farina-Childs, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, R. Gough, C. Mann, T. Parry, G. Simmonds, J. Roberts and B. Owen.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and is in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure in now referred to Scrutiny for consideration.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the Notice of Motion outlined in paragraph 5.1 and make an appropriate recommendation to Council.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Notice of Motion

Councillor K. Etheridge requests in his Notice of Motion that Council: -

Consider a review into the decision to switch off street lights following the representations we have received from our residents.

Members are also concerned that this decision has been based on historic consultation that is therefore likely to be currently unrepresentative of communities across the county. This decision has also been based on outdated studies and a lack of robust assessment of protected categories of groups in communities as categorised under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties Wales) Regulations 2011. Members are further concerned that this decision could undermine other key council objectives.

1. Supported by specific questions targeted at protected categories of groups in communities and also other groups in communities in particular occupations, for instance emergency service staff, NHS staff, taxi drivers, social workers and hospitality workers.
 2. Supported by specific questions for vulnerable people living in communities so that responses received may be used to assess the impact on other key council objectives such as preventing domestic abuse, addressing poverty and supporting community safety.
 3. That clearly identifies how any decision to reduce part night lighting will be monitored to measure ongoing impact on communities and also ensures the monetary savings and the carbon emission reductions targeted are delivered.
- 5.2 The Notice also requests that a current and proactive consultation and engagement exercise with the public is completed across Caerphilly County Borough Council.

5.3 **Part-Night Lighting**

The following information is provided in relation to the position of part-night lighting: -

In 2018, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet endorsed a programme to implement LED installation and part night lighting between the hours of midnight and 5.30am, to all lighting, except at junctions and in major town centres.

Prior to implementation there was widespread communication and continuous updates have been provided in relation to the programme of works including a street lighting web-page.

Meetings have taken place with Gwent Police to discuss any concerns they have noted with any levels of increased crime etc. in the areas where part night lighting has already been introduced. Gwent Police confirmed that they had not noted any change in increased patterns of crime as a result of the part night lighting introduction. They further confirmed that they would continually monitor the situation and provide information to Caerphilly CBC Officers if there appeared to be any significant change.

A further site specific meeting recently took place on the 27th July 2020 in regard concerns raised by local members relating to perceptions that there was increased crime at Lansbury Park. The meeting included the respective Cabinet Members, local members, Leader of Council, Community Safety officer, Highway officers and Gwent

Police neighbourhood police officers. The Gwent police officers in attendance confirmed that there had been no increase in crime as a result of the introduction of part night lighting, this was more perception from residents and not substantiated by actual incidents or statistics.

The part-night light initiative was to convert 22,698 columns to part night lighting between midnight and 5.30am. To the end of July 14,200 columns have been converted (63%) around the borough and the remainder are scheduled to be completed prior to December 2020.

There have been 227 complaints regarding the installation of the part-night lighting since the commencement of the programme between April 2019 and August 2020. The complaints are predominantly centred around access to properties and security of properties and vehicles parked on the highway. There have been no Equality issues raised from any of the complainants.

There has been one compliment received for the initiative relating to carbon reduction and that it will positively contribute to improving dark skies.

The Authority has declared a climate emergency and this initiative goes a long way to supporting the authorities desire to become carbon neutral. The programme of works is planned to be complete by December 2020 which is well ahead of programme. This will allow the authority to benefit from both carbon and financial savings a lot earlier than initially anticipated.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 As a notice of motion is a procedural matter and must be dealt with in accordance with Council's Constitution, no assumptions have been made.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution as adopted in May 2002. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision making roles and responsibilities which will impact on future generations.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 The Notice of Motion is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the act as it complies with the rules and regulations of the Council's Constitution which sets out a clear framework for how the Council operates in particular decision making responsibilities which will consider the positive and negative impacts on future generations, long term resilience, economic, environmental and social capital.
- 8.2 Efficient Street lighting strategies positively contribute to the authority's sustainability targets for carbon reduction and Well Being Objective 4.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific equalities implications that directly affect the Council arising from the report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 There has been no consultation undertaken.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Local Government Act 2000

Appendices: Appendix 1 Signed copy of Notice of Motion.