



CABINET – 11TH DECEMBER 2012

SUBJECT: WYLLIE ACCESS - COMMUNITY CONCERNS

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek members' views on long-standing community request to return 12 part night lighting units to full night time operation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 3rd March 2010 Council approved a policy to implement a programme of part night street lighting on all interconnecting routes between towns and villages along with industrial estates. Since its implementation officers have consistently received community concerns in respect of the access road to Wyllie.
- 2.2 There have been strong representations from local Members and the community of Wyllie, which resulted in a petition being submitted at council on 15th March 2011. This was given due consideration at the time but did not alter the street lighting regime.
- 2.3 In 2006 a feasibility study was undertaken regarding options to improve the access road to Wyllie. One of the considerations was erection of a safety fence in the location of the quarry. Resources were restricted at that time and a decision was taken that whilst this location was not one of highways highest priorities it would be retained for future consideration.
- 2.4 Since the introduction of the part night lighting policy local concerns have increased. These concerns coincided with the development of a Vehicle Restraint System (VRS) policy.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 To maintain to a satisfactory safety standard the developed integrated, efficient local and regional transport system on which public transport, cycling and walking networks operate.
- 3.2 To assist in mitigating the effects of climate change through improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses within the county borough, whilst taking steps to adapt to the local effects of climate change.
- 3.3 The report links directly to the council's priority to improve the look and feel of its streets and to make Caerphilly a safer place to live and work.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Strong representations have continued to be made via a local member in relation to the need to return the 12 street lighting columns to full night time operation along with requests to upgrade the fencing in the location of the quarry along this road.

- 4.2 Approximately 12 months ago, a timber post and pig mesh fence was erected at the location considered to be most at risk in order to protect pedestrians from straying off the road towards a steep incline/drop-off to an old quarry area.
- 4.3 Since the review of this location over 12 months ago, there have been further representations from the local members. These have again requested that the pig mesh fence be upgraded to a vehicle restraint system (VRS) and that the part night lighting be restored to full night time operation for safety reasons.
- 4.4 Recently Scrutiny has approved a VRS policy, which details approaches and guidance to assess sites to consider whether they meet the VRS implementation requirements.
- 4.5 Wyllie access road has been assessed under the policy and does not meet the required criteria. The consequence of the VRS policy is that this location will not now be retained for future consideration for the provision of a VRS. This means that a safety feature will not now be erected at this location unless a review of policy is undertaken. This is unlikely to occur for many years.
- 4.6 Given the new information that the site does not comply with the requirements for installation of VRS and given the continuing local disquiet Members may wish to reconsider the request to return 12 part night lighting units to full night time operation at this location.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An EqlA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance and no potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EqlA has not been carried out.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There will be a one-off cost of £300 to convert the street lighting columns from part night lighting to full night time operation.
- 6.2 There will be an ongoing additional annual energy cost of £300/year to retain these columns at full night time operation.
- 6.3 This amount can be incorporated within the current Street Lighting budget.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 See list below.
- 8.2 The results of consultations have been included in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 As a result of long-standing and wide community concern and revision of policy on the provision of VRS Members views are sought on the request to return 12 columns on Wyllie access road to full night time operation.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is recommended that members note the concerns raised within the report. These cumulative concerns provide a cluster of issues that are incomparable to any other location within the authority and can be considered unique and unmatched.

11. STATUTORY POWERS

- 11.1 Highways Act 1980.

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