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**Date: 27th March 2023**

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee** will be held in the Chamber, Penallta House and via Microsoft Teams on **Monday, 3rd April, 2023 at 6.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Members of the Public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

This meeting will be live-streamed and recorded and made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

Members are reminded that if they have any specific issues they wish to raise at the meeting they should advise the Clerk prior to that date in order that a response can be made available.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy', enclosed in a large, loopy oval shape.

**Christina Harrhy**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## AGENDA

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of Interest.

Pages

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Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

3 Community Council Liaison Sub Committee held on 27th July 2022.

1 - 6

4 Matters Arising.

To discuss the following issues raised by the Town and Community Council Liaison Committee: -

5 Briefing Note on Matters Raised by Town and Community Councils.

1. Park Event Charges.
2. Civil Parking Enforcement.
3. Community Safety.
4. Street Lighting.

#### **Circulation:**

Councillors A. Angel, Mrs P. Cook, K. Etheridge, A. Gair, C.J. Gordon, D. Ingram-Jones, T. Heron, A. Hussey, L. Jeremiah, P. Leonard, A. McConnell, T. Parry, J.A. Pritchard, C. Thomas, L.G. Whittle and J. Winslade

Cabinet Member: N. George (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Property)

#### **Community/Town Councillors**

D. Berry (Aber Valley Community Council), M. Stretch (Aber Valley Community Council), H. Llewellyn (Bargoed Town Council), C. Morgan (Bedwas Trethoms & Machen Community Council), G. Edwards (Blackwood Town Council), P. Bevan (Caerphilly Town Council), D. Davies (Blackwood Town Council), P. Roberts (Darran Valley Town Council), K. Standworth (Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry Community Council), C. Moss (Gelligaer Community Council), A. Stone (LLanbradach and Pwllypant Community Council), Mrs G. Davies (Nelson Community Council), B. Gingell (New Tredegar Community Council), B. Allen (Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community Council), D.T. Williams (Rhymney Community Council), J. Leek (Van Community Council) and T. Graham (Van Community Council)

Clerks to all Community/Town Councils and Appropriate Officers

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## COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBER, PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT

Councillors:

A. McConnell, A. Gair, A. Hussey, J. Winslade, N. George, C. Gordon, L. Whittle, P. Cook, C. Thomas, T. Heron

Community Councils:

J. Rao, G. Davies, A. Gray, B. Campbell, C. Moss, F. Green, P. Bevan

Also Present:

H. Lancaster, V. Doyle, L. Lane, E. Sullivan, R. Barrett.

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The Committee Services Officer reminded those present that the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website [Click Here to View](#).

**1. TO APPOINT A CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

It was moved and seconded that C. Councillor J. Rao be appointed Chair of the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee for the ensuing year and by show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that C. Councillor J. Rao be appointed Chair of the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

**2. TO APPOINT A VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**

It was moved and seconded that Councillor A. Hussey be appointed Vice Chair of the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee for the ensuing year and by show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Councillor A. Hussey be appointed as Vice Chair of the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Councillors: A. Angel, K. Etheridge, D. Ingram-Jones, L. Jeremiah, P. Leonard, T. Parry, J. Pritchard.

Community Councils: J. Hold (Clerk) and C. Councillor G. Edwards (Blackwood Town Council), J. Lloyd (Clerk) Aber Valley Community Councillor, A. Birkinshaw (Clerk) and Community Councillor P. Rosser (Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council), H. Williams (Clerk) and Community Councillor H. Llewellyn (Bargoed Town Council), C. Mortimer (Clerk – Llanbradach and Pwllpant Community Council and Gelligaer Community Council) and Community Councillor A. Stone (Gelligaer Community Council), D. Gronow (Clerk) and Community Councillor B. Gingell (New Tredegar Community Council), J. Garland (Clerk) (Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry Community Council), R. Hares (Clerk) (Maesycwmmmer Community Council), L. John (Clerk) (Nelson Community Council), A. Pallister (Clerk) (Darran Valley Community Council), H. Treherne (Penyrheol, Treceenydd and Energlyn Community Council), P. Davy (Clerk) (Caerphilly Town Council).

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at the start or during the meeting.

**5. MINUTES – 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes were received and noted.

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**7. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND – PRESENTATION**

The presentation updated the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee on the Community Empowerment Fund. The Officer explained that over a number of years the Council has run regular Household Surveys or as they are now known the Caerphilly Conversation Resident Survey, one of the questions within that survey was around whether or not our communities felt that a community budget such as this one would be a good thing and more than three quarters of respondents thought that it would be a good idea and 98% of those in favour thought that opportunities like this would encourage communities to take even greater pride in where they live.

The establishment of the fund was agreed and a funding pot of just over £28,000 was allocated last year, this year it was noted that there had been a slight uplift with an allocation of just over £41,000 for this financial year to support community led initiatives. The Officer explained that Members agreed that the fairest way to allocate the fund was to divide it by the number of elected Members so last year it was split 73 ways and this year it has been split 69 ways in order to align the allocation to the number of County Borough Councillors there are now. This equates to an allocation of £4940 for every Councillors to work with their communities and spend on community projects.

The Sub Committee noted that due to the late launch of the fund in the Autumn of 2021 and the impact of the pre-election period only a couple of application rounds had been completed, and this meant that in several wards there have been underspends and it has been agreed that money from this first year would be rolled over into this year's allocation. Those Members who didn't spend some or all of their previous fund may find they have significantly more than £4940 in their fund pot.

The Officer outlined the type or themes of projects that would meet the funding criteria which were noted to be deliberately broad in order to invite in as many projects as possible within the 8 themes.

The Liaison Group noted the areas that could not be funded such as running costs, rents, energy or water bills etc. However newly formed groups that have come into existence within six months of them submitting an application can use funding for their start-up costs. However, that same project could not then reapply for year-on-year funding and retrospective costs could also not be recouped via the fund. Officers confirmed that as a Council, we were encouraging local groups to formally constitute themselves as this puts them in a stronger position to apply for various funding streams not just this one.

The Officer explained how the grant was very much targeted at grassroots community organisations and the voluntary sector and they must be non-profit making and based within Caerphilly County Borough. Groups must be incorporated and have an adopted constitution and must have a bank account in their own name. Charitable incorporated organisations which are registered with the Charity Commission can also apply if it can be shown that any profits are put back into the organisation itself.

It was noted that the maximum any group can apply for is generally £4940, the annual allocation for each Member, but the level of allocation would be a matter of discussion between the group with the individual Member as they may wish to support multiple projects and might not wish to give the funding to one group. Larger projects can approach the fund in a number of ways including match funding with a fund from another source or from their own funding. The Liaison Group noted that multiple ward Members can pool their allocation and give a greater sum to a single organisation. The minimum application under the fund was £1000 but this can be composed of mini projects making up that minimum requirement.

In terms of Community Councils although they were not eligible in their own rights to make an application, they did have an important role to play in successfully delivering the fund as their knowledge of community groups and organisation would be essential to raising awareness of the fund in communities.

Community Councils would be aware of community groups operating quite informally within communities that they might be able to work alongside to get on a more formal footing. There were also a number of support avenues available to groups including GAVO and the Council's Caerphilly Cares Team who would work alongside them to get them into a position where they would be able to bid into the Community Empowerment Fund.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the presentation and for their attendance.

Clarification was sought on the amount of money currently available in the fund, and concerns were expressed that this funding should not just sit in the Council's budget reserves unallocated. Members were advised that there was approximately £229,000 to be shared amongst the various wards, around £4940 per member. However, some wards would have considerably more than others and Officers would be working with these Members to try and identify projects to come forward and utilise the funding available. Officers agreed with the concerns raised and assurances were given that the Council would be working hard to get this money out to communities and making a difference. The Member then queried who made the final decision on funding approval and the Officer confirmed that an Officer Panel would consider every

application that comes in, should there be a need the Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer would have overall responsibility.

Clarification was sought in relation to declarations of interest and what would happen if the County Borough Member proposing a project had a close association with the community group. It was noted that a lot of Councillors sat as Chairs and Vice Chairs of Community Projects. Officer confirmed that an in-depth session on declarations of interest had been a key element of the process, there was a special form that Members could complete, and it should always be remembered that applications may be supported by a fellow Ward Member. There was also the option to appeal to the Standards Committee for a dispensation and advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer.

Members queried whether Communities would be advised on what projects were or were not successful and the rationale for a refusal. Officers confirmed that the Community would be informed. Members agreed that they would like to see successful projects promoted.

Officers advised that very few projects were not supported, if a proposal meets the application criteria and is supported by the Local Ward Member then it would be funded. Members noted that the aim was to get as much money as possible out of the door and into communities.

Reference was made to the Area Forum Budget and any funding remaining within it and Members were advised to contact Tina McMahon for further information.

Officers emphasised that they wanted to see this money spend in Communities but were reliant on applications coming in and asked both County Borough and Community Councillors to promote the fund to any groups in their areas.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the presentation.

## **8. BRIEFING NOTE ON ISSUES RAISED BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

### **Code of Conduct Training**

The Liaison Officer confirmed that a second Code of Conduct training session had been arranged for 4pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

### **Cost of Living Support**

Members expressed their concern over the length of time being taken to answer calls made to the Council and for those residents who did not have bank accounts or digital connectivity.

The Officer confirmed that she would feedback the points raised to Financial and Customer Services and advised that an option to use Post Office vouchers was being explored and asked Members to be mindful that thousands of applications were being processed in a short space to try and get as much money out to as many people as possible in a short space of time and therefore wait times were inevitable.

### **Charging for Community Events in Council Parks and Sports Pitches**

The Clerk of Risca Town Council outlined how they had been charged for an event at Tredegar Park, Risca and expressed his disappointment in the charge made and the requirement for the bond payment to be made by cheque.

The Liaison Officer noted the concerns raised and confirmed that although she did not know the rationale behind the charging structure the 'bond' or deposit was put in place in case restitution works were required as a result of any damaged caused by the event.

The Clerk to Risca Town Council considered it to be unfair that the community were being charged to hold a community event in a community park. A Member suggested that a further report come forward on charging and perhaps an Officer from the Parks Section be invited to attend the next meeting. The Liaison Officer confirmed that she would make the request.

Community Council representatives expressed their frustration at the lack of Senior Officer presence at the meeting and the general lack of attendance at Liaison Committee meetings.

The Liaison Officer agreed to work proactively with Officers to see if she could raise Officer presence at meetings to ensure that any topics brought forward by Community Councils could be fully questioned and answers provided.

The content of the briefing note was considered and accepted.

Meeting closed 19.26pm

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## COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE – 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2023

### BRIEFING NOTE: MATTERS RAISED BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS



#### 1. UPDATE ON CHARGING FOR EVENTS HELD IN CCBC PARKS

It has been confirmed that there be no charge of the use of Tredegar Park.

In terms of the refundable bond, following completion of an ESAG application, Officers will assess the risks and decide whether a bond is actually required to cover any potential damage/reinstatement works. General wear and tear is expected and if that is all that arises from the assessment a bond may not be needed or if requested would be returned in its entirety. If a bond is assessed as being necessary, then the amount of the bond would vary and would be based on the nature of the event being held up to a maximum of £500.

Examples of where a bond would be utilised include: - where large amounts of litter are left behind that require collection and disposal, which falls outside Parks general maintenance, then there would be a charge; excessive damage to grassed areas that require reinstating, perhaps a vehicle has caused ruts etc.

An example from last year was the 'Beach Party' held in Risca Park, approximately 40 tonne of sand was imported, killing off the grass as no membrane had been laid to protect the area. This cost approx. £1200 to reinstate, had full details been set out in the ESAG application extreme damage like this could have been avoided as Officers would have been able provide advice to the event organisers.

Officers will be in attendance to take questions.

#### 2. UPDATE ON CCBC'S PARKING ENFORCEMENT SERVICE

Community Councils raised the following issues in relation to Parking Enforcement.

Parking Services Officer will be in attendance.

- Where is the income being spent?
- Can we see the areas' target plans?
- How many parking attendants are there, are they mobile and where are they deployed?

- How many staff are currently employed on the service?

### **Response from Officers**

- The income covers the cost of delivering the service (i.e. staff costs and equipment). There is no surplus.
- For the purposes of enforcement, the borough is split into areas as follows:  
North – Bargoed, New Tredegar, Rhymney etc.  
South – Caerphilly, Bedwas, Machen etc.  
Central – Blackwood, Ystrad Mynach, Pontllanfraith etc.  
East – Risca, Newbridge, Crosskeys etc.

The main towns are prioritised each day to maintain the safe flow of traffic, with outlying areas visited at least twice per week.

Each Officer ties to visit one school at drop off and one school at pick up times each day.

There are no targets for Penalty Charge Notices

- The CPE team is currently comprised of the following staff (a full complement of Civil Enforcement Officers is 8 FTEs)  
Parking Enforcement Supervisor x 1  
Civil Enforcement Supervisor F/T x 4  
Civil Enforcement Supervisor P/T x 2  
Current Vacancies - Civil Enforcement Supervisor F/T x 2

Recruitment is very challenging at present with an almost rolling job advertisement this year.

The team is mobile and deployed throughout the borough with each officer deployed to one of the above areas each day. Officers visit locations that are requested by the public using our on-line form as often as our resources allow.

The CPE service receives 1200+ requests for enforcement per year.

- In addition to the above staff, the following staff are employed on the service:  
Parking Services Supervisor  
Parking Services Assistant (Admin) P/T x 2

### **3. UPDATE ON CCBC'S COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDENS SERVICE**

Community Councils raised the following issues in relation to Community Safety. Officer will be in attendance.

- How many wardens are there, are they mobile and where are they deployed?
- When can more wardens be employed?
- Can the wardens be given more powers for enforcement?
- Current CCBC street notices/signage are incorrect for enforcement. When will the notices be corrected and displayed on street?

- Can we have more/adequate street notices/signage placed out in the communities to assist the wardens in their role?

### **Response from Officers**

- How many wardens are there, are they mobile and where are they deployed?  
There are currently 10 Community Safety Wardens which includes one Supervisor post. The Wardens are mobile and are deployed throughout the county borough to identified priority areas.
- When can more wardens be employed?  
The recruitment process has now been completed and all vacant posts have been filled.
- Can the wardens be given more powers for enforcement?  
The Wardens currently have various powers for enforcement of anti-social behaviour including issuing fixed penalty notices for breach of Public Space Protection Orders which include dog fouling, littering, off road bikes, drinking of alcohol etc., so are sufficient for their role.
- Current CCBC street notices/signage are incorrect for enforcement. When will the notices be corrected and displayed on street?  
The only notices the Community Safety Team install are to notify that an area is covered by a Public Space Protection Order and these are in place already. The Wardens have recently been erecting new signage in some areas as they have recently been added to the PSPO list. Not aware of any that are incorrect.
- Can we have more/adequate street notices/signage placed out in the communities to assist the wardens in their role?  
As above all areas that are covered by a PSPO for anti-social behaviour and drinking alcohol currently have signage in place.

## **4. STREET LIGHTING REVIEW**

A copy of the Street Lighting Review Cabinet (16<sup>th</sup> November 2022) report is attached at Appendix 1 of this briefing note.

Officer will be in attendance

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Street Lighting Review – Cabinet Report 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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## CABINET - 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

**SUBJECT: STREET LIGHTING REVIEW**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT**

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on a high level review of street lighting undertaken in lieu of the employment of LED and Part Night Lighting which was fully introduced across the County Borough in February 2021 and the Climate Emergency that has been declared by the Council.
- 1.2 To provide Cabinet with feedback and recommendations from the Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held on 25th October 2022 and to seek a Cabinet decision on the future street lighting strategy for the County Borough.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 To meet the challenges of carbon reduction commitments and rising energy costs in May 2018, the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee recommended a programme to Cabinet for the installation of LED lighting and implementation of a part night-lighting (PNL) strategy. This programme was subsequently agreed by Cabinet and was rolled out across the County Borough over a 20 month period between April 2019 and February 2021. The system has been operational since with full LED infrastructure and PNL between the hours of midnight and 5.30am.
- 2.2 The Council has declared a climate emergency, so the reduction in carbon emissions is a commitment to the prevention of the long-term threat of climate change to which energy reduction plays a key role. Whilst other activities affect climate change more than lighting, it is still a very strong contribution from a single industry sector. Experts agree that we will not meet our goals for mitigating climate change without reducing the amount of Carbon being emitted into the atmosphere. Something must be done to restore the resilience of our planet to off-set the changes in our environment.
- 2.3 In addition to the experiences of climate change which are now evident across the world, Caerphilly County Borough Council's resources are inevitably finite both operationally and financially. This, combined with rising energy costs reinforced the need for a proportionate response in terms of street lighting service provision.
- 2.4 The strategy that was supported by Scrutiny and Cabinet has resulted in carbon savings of circa 2836 tonnes per annum as well as significant financial/future cost avoidance savings which are outlined in the Financial Implications at section 8 below.

- 2.5 The highways infrastructure provides local access to all road users be that for education, leisure, business or wider authority and regional connectivity. It shapes the character of an area adding to the social, well-being and quality of life in a community.
- 2.6 The total number of street lights across the Authority has increased over the last 5 years and now stands at 27,373. This increase in the street lighting asset has coincided with a period of MTFP savings, increasing energy costs and the very real threat of climate change being felt by our communities.
- 2.7 Following the implementation of the LED and Part Night Lighting Policy approved in 2018, CCBC has 22,344 street lights that are switched off at midnight for five and a half hours, 2684 illuminated signs and 711 flexible bollards. Signs continue to remain lit through all hours of darkness and bollards are no longer illuminated.
- 2.8 This report sets out the parameters of a high level review undertaken by officers which considered a number of alternative options and examined the resultant carbon and financials of each.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is asked to consider the feedback from the Scrutiny Committee (including its suggested recommendations outlined in section 10 below) and the officer recommendations below and offer its views on the future street lighting strategy for the Authority.

Officer recommendations are that: -

- 3.1 The existing street lighting policy is maintained.
- 3.2 Officers continue to work with their colleagues in Gwent Police in accordance with the existing, agreed protocol relating to crime.
- 3.3 Issues relating to fear of crime are recognised by the Authority and where these issues are considered to be significant an individual response is offered through the Community Safety Partnership which will include a number of wider interventions, such as security advice and guidance.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To ensure the Council continues to reduce its impact on the climate through maintaining its commitment to reduce carbon emissions.
- 4.2 To ensure the impacts of rising energy costs are managed effectively as part of the overall financial strategy for the Authority.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 To meet the challenges of Carbon reduction commitments and rising energy costs within Highways street-lighting, the Regeneration & Environment 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. This followed on from a 2010 initiative where the street lights on inter-urban routes connecting towns and villages were previously altered to part-night lighting from midnight to 5.30am. This inter-urban routes PNL initiative therefore operated seamlessly for a period of 10 years prior to the latest LED/PNL initiative.

5.2 In late 2021/22 the then Leader of Council gave a commitment that the street lighting strategy would be reviewed after the revised service had been operational for at least 12 months.

5.3 In undertaking any review, the following factors have been taken into consideration:-

- National data & reports on the links between removal of night lighting and crime.
- Complaints data.
- Gwent Police crime data and outcomes of regular meetings between Gwent Police and Highways Infrastructure staff.
- Data on joint work with Gwent Police in relation to the restoration of street lighting to support CCTV roll-out or temporary investigations of crime.
- Carbon & financial savings data for various alternative delivery options.

5.4 It is also important for the Scrutiny Committee to note that even though the Authority purchases all of its energy from renewable sources, carbon savings can only be accounted for against the Authority's Carbon reduction targets when there is an actual saving made (in street lighting terms the combination of LED and PNL has achieved this). Removing PNL would therefore result in additional carbon being emitted and would be detrimental to the Authority's carbon targets.

#### 5.5 **Complaints**

In undertaking any review the number of "complaints" received by the Authority needs to be taken into consideration.

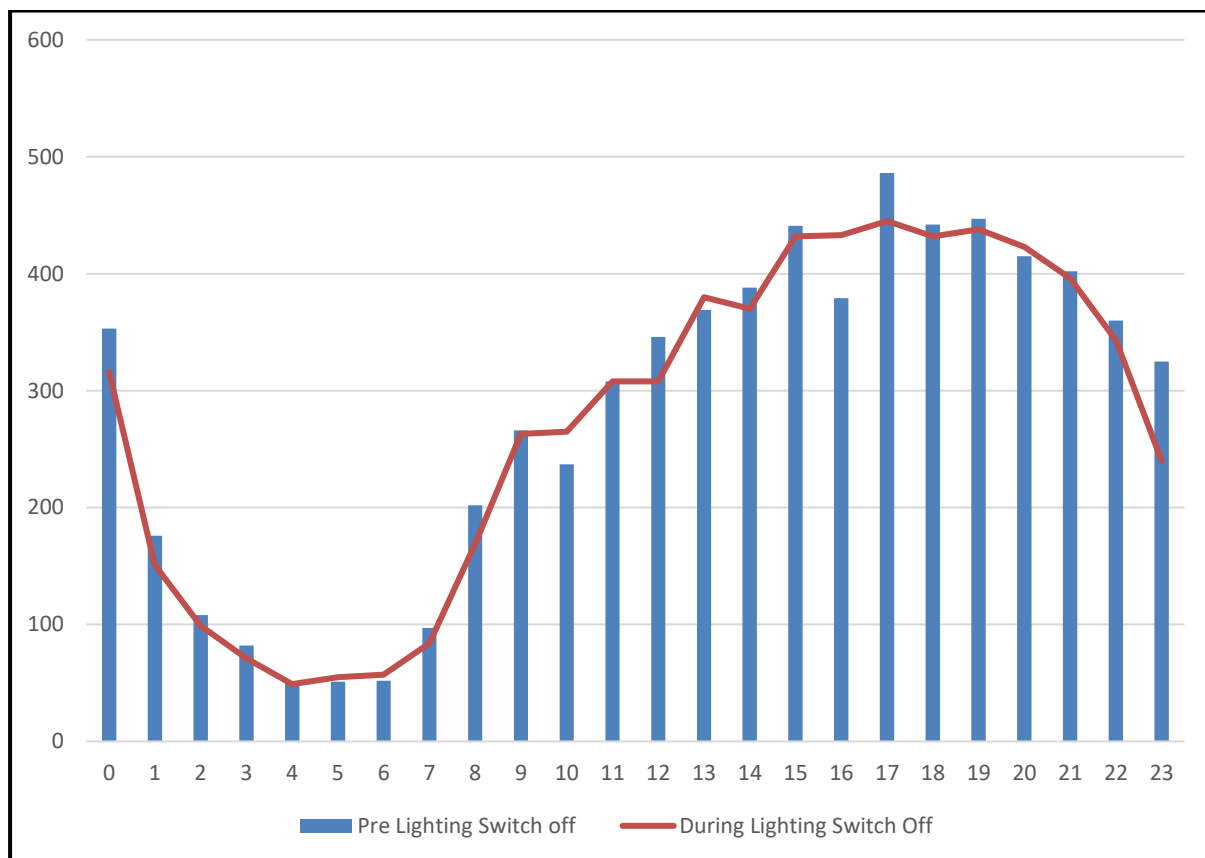
Following the implementation of the change to LED street lights and the reduction in street lighting operating hours policy, a total of 316 complaints from CCBC residents have been received (this equates to 0.18% of residents) and are itemised below:

- 147 directly against the policy.
- 86 that the LED lighting is over bright.
- 56 that the LED lighting does not provide enough illumination
- 22 that the times of operation are problematic and
- 5 following last years well publicised attack on Sarah Everhard.

5.6 Scheduled meetings are in place between Highways Managers and Senior officers from Heddle Gwent Police to review crime statistics for the hours of reduced street lighting operation. These meetings provide an effective collaboration method where the police can request temporary night time switch on where crime investigations are underway (a recent example has been the Pengam ward where a hate crime investigation was underway) or where new CCTV infrastructure is being introduced which requires permanent night lighting (a recent example of this is Rhymney). To date there is no associated link that has been established between the occurrence of crime and the reduction in street lighting operating hours policy. The

graph below provides an indication of crimes by hour of day for the period July 2020 to June 2021 (ie: pre, during and for 4 months post PNL introduction).

Crimes by hour of day – July 2020 to June 2021



5.7 In undertaking the review, officers have considered 4 potential options in addition to the status quo (i.e. lights switched off in residential areas and inter urban routes between midnight and 5.30am) prevailing. All of these additional options involve the employment of “dimming” technology (in the form of a central management system or CMS) to centrally control LUX levels.

5.8 **Central Management System (CMS) and Dimming**

A CMS allows for the unlimited control of the street lighting equipment from a central point via a computer. In general, all CMS’s allow for the collection of data from individual lamps giving the switch times, energy use and operating status. Variable levels of dimming would also be possible on lanterns equipped with electronic gear. No energy or carbon dioxide savings would result directly from the installation of remote monitoring but increases in energy use and emissions would be dependent on the control settings selected.

5.9 If a CMS was supported for introduction, all street lights would require the installation of a CMS node. Although 4989 lanterns already have older CMS capability, to implement dimming of all LED lanterns these nodes would also require upgrading with a supply, installation and set up cost of **£1,640,000**



- 5.10 To enable the 2684 illuminated signs to operate via CMS would cost an additional **£129,000.**

There are 7,400 lanterns with LED gear trays installed in around 2010 that are not compatible with CMS dimming and these would also require upgrading at a cost of **£1,645,000.**

The purchase and installation of additional base stations would be required to ensure full radio coverage across the borough. The service provider – (Telensa) would be required to undertake a feasibility study of the actual number, but indications suggest at minimum an additional 32 base stations would be required at a cost to supply and install of **£112,000.**

An annual maintenance fee of **£39,640.00** would also be applicable.

- 5.11 **In summary the installation of a CMS would be circa £3.5m.**

- 5.12 Following installation of a CMS, it is assumed that the 4941 lanterns located at junctions, conflict areas and roundabouts will remain on at full output, as will the 2684 illuminated traffic signs and that the 5,368 street lights located on inter urban routes could be altered to allow for dimming regimes.

- 5.13 For the street lighting system to remain within compliance of BS5489 Requirements for road lighting, the lantern output can be reduced subject to highway use and primarily the vehicular traffic flows. As such data indicates that it would be possible to reduce the classification of street lighting subject to the following operating periods:

- 100% of lantern light output (lumens) dusk to 19.00.
- 75% of lantern light output (lumens) 19.00 to 21.00
- 50% of lantern light output (lumens) 21.00 to 00.00
- 25% of lantern light output (lumens) 00.00 to 05.30

- 5.14 The options examined by officers resulted in various carbon and financial impacts and are outlined in the table below.

#### **Review Options Compared to Status Quo**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Carbon Impact</b>	<b>Financial Impact/Payback</b>
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normal Lighting to 7pm</li> <li>• 7pm to 9pm dim to 75%</li> <li>• 9pm to midnight dim to 50%</li> <li>• Midnight to 5.30am dim to 25%</li> </ul>	Emission of additional 154tpa of carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional energy cost of £53,000pa.</li> <li>• No payback on £3.5m CMS investment.</li> </ul>
2.	As option 1 but lights switched off between 2am & 4am.	Emission of additional 33tpa of carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional energy cost of £11,000pa.</li> <li>• No payback on £3.5m CMS investment.</li> </ul>
3.	As option 2 + inter-urban routes switched off between midnight & 5.30am.	Further reduction in carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further savings in energy costs of £72,000pa.</li> </ul>

		emissions of 210tpa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48 year payback on £3.5m CMS investment.</li> </ul>
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm to 9pm dim to 75%</li> <li>9pm to midnight dim to 50%</li> <li>Midnight to 5.30am switch off (as status quo)</li> </ul>	Further reduction in carbon emissions of 233tpa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further savings in energy costs of £80,000pa.</li> <li>44 year payback on £3.5m CMS investment.</li> </ul>

5.15 Although fear of crime “complaints” linked to street lighting are minimal, it is recognised that there may be vulnerable residents for whom this is a potential issue.

5.16 Where fear of crime issues are linked to night time lighting switch persist then options involving collaboration between the Authority’s Community Safety Team and Gwent Police can be considered to include advice relating to the purchase and installation of a home burglary pack and ring doorbell combined with a home visit to review security and provide reassurance to the resident.

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 The financial implications (both in terms of savings and costs) are based on confirmed energy prices at 2021/22 rates. It is assumed that energy prices will at least double throughout the remainder of 2022/23 and into 2023/24

## 7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 As this report is a review of an existing policy which recommends the status quo, a new IAA has not been required.

## 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The switch to LED and PNL (the status quo) has resulted in cost savings of £1,160,000 at current prices. However, when considering the feedback from the public sector energy procuring organisation (Crown Commercial Services) it is likely that this saving will be circa £2,000,000 as a result of their energy price rise predictions as we move into the second half of the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 financial year (where the predictions are for price rises of circa 170%)

The table below illustrates the effect of the current strategy on street lighting energy costs:

Cost (at current prices) prior to PNL/LED	£1,710,00
Cost (at current prices ) post PNL/LED	£550,000
SAVING	£1,160,000

Street lighting energy price rises are predicted to increase all of the above figures by 170%

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 The Street Lighting Review was considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.

The Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation introduced the report.

The Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration & Climate Change then asked members of the Scrutiny Committee to consider the fact that this Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019. He argued the reduction in carbon emissions is a commitment to the prevention of the long-term threat of climate change to which energy reduction plays a key role. The Cabinet Member asked whether, in the face of a climate emergency, and at a time when the general public is actively reducing their own personal electricity and energy, it would be wise for members to support extra lighting during the hours of 12 midnight to 5:30am.

One Member offered the view that part night-lighting was implemented for financial not environmental reasons and that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent had expressed a personal opinion in a recent media article that streetlights should remain on at night. The member also questioned the validity of a county-wide policy in relation to street lighting.

One Member advocated adopting a Central Management System for streetlights like some neighbouring Local Authorities had, he also highlighted safety concerns around reports that sometimes the lighting did not come back on at 5:30am as planned and he also observed that on long terraced streets midpoint lighting should be provided during the hours of darkness. The Member also highlighted how the Rhymney area had received Safer Streets funding specifically for street lighting. The Member wished to know where this money had gone.

One Member observed that adopting a Central Management System would allow the Council to be more creative in terms of exploring dimming options, highlighting safety concerns for vulnerable people associated with the part night-lighting scheme and questioned if further options beyond midnight to 5:30am could be explored such as switching lights off for shorter periods during the night.

One Member questioned the environmental aspect highlighted in the report as all energy to power street lighting across the County Borough came from renewable sources. The Member was of the view that the current policy was only implemented for financial reasons.

In response, the Corporate Director stated that, even though we use green / renewable energy, we don't get the associated benefits when reporting our carbon emissions back to Welsh Government. When we report, there is still a carbon emissions factor associated with our consumption which has to be reported and an implied assumption that we are not using green energy, the intention being to encourage Councils to work harder at decarbonisation. Where any of our electricity passes through a metre for a commercial supply there is a consequential carbon

implication and we are expected to log that electricity in our carbon reporting as though it is not from a renewable source.

If we were to revert back to switching the lights on, apart from the increase in costs, it would create additional electrical demand on the grid. At times when renewables are not able to meet this demand, this could result in electricity being generated from fossil fuel sources such as gas power stations or nuclear. In view of the above, if our streetlights were switched back on between midnight and 5.30 am then the result would be an increase in carbon emissions of circa 470 tonnes per annum which we would need to report to Welsh Government.

One Member highlighted that residents could explore buying personal head torches and solar powered lighting for their properties if they had any concerns regarding the current policy.

One Member asked a question on antennas on top of street lighting columns within the County Borough which if operational would allow dimming by a management system allowing some light and reducing the carbon footprint. The Head of Infrastructure advised that the installation of a Central Management System (CMS) would cost circa £3.5M and have a payback of approximately 40 years depending on the option chosen. He also highlighted how the nodes currently on columns are designed to regulate switch on/off times and not dimming options.

The Head of Infrastructure also highlighted the way that renewable (solar) energy can be stored and utilised at different times of day and night along with some minor irregularities in the switching times during the time when the clocks go forward or back one hour during the Autumn and Springtime.

It was also explained that the current policy allows for streetlights to be turned back on following the regular review and consultation that is undertaken between officers and Gwent Police colleagues should there be a clear evidence base. Examples were provided and are highlighted within the report and it was also emphasised that the evidence to date is that there is no increase of crime as a result of the part night lighting policy.

The Head of Infrastructure further explained that the levels of complaint from residents in regard the part night light policy is exceptionally low.

One Member observed that a measured approach where certain streets / areas could be switched on at night rather than the current County Borough wide policy would also reduce our carbon footprint and increase night-time safety on streets.

A Member proposed a Motion that the recommendations be amended to include: ***“Cabinet is asked to review the Street Lighting Policy and look at implementing the Central Management System so that the policy is fit for purpose.”*** This was seconded by another Member and a vote was taken by means of roll call. In noting that there were 9 votes FOR and 5 votes AGAINST, the amendment was agreed by a majority of Members present.

Committee Members were advised that the amendment negated recommendation 3.1 above – that “the existing street lighting policy is maintained.” Having noted the content of the report, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendation be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 12 for, 2 against and 0 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

**The Scrutiny committee therefore recommended to Cabinet that:**

**1. Cabinet Members are asked to review the Street Lighting Policy and look at implementing the Central Management System so that the policy is fit for purpose.**

**2. Officers continue to work with their colleagues in Gwent Police in accordance with the existing, agreed protocol relating to crime.**

**3. Issues relating to fear of crime are recognised by the Authority and where these issues are considered to be serious, taking account of the vulnerability of the complainant then an individual response is offered through the Community Safety Partnership which will include a number of wider interventions, such as security advice and guidance.**

10.2 The report reflects the views of the other listed consultees.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Acts

11.2 Highways Act 1980 and associated Codes of practice/British Standards.

Author: Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment

Consultees: Christina HARRY, Chief Executive  
Councillor James Pritchard, Deputy Leader and  
Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration & Climate Change  
Councillor Julian Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation  
Councillor Tudor Davies, Chair of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny  
Committee  
Councillor Adrian Hussey, Vice Chair of Environment and Sustainability  
Scrutiny Committee  
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer  
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure  
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services

Background Papers:-

[Link to Report to Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee – Street Lighting Review, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022](#)

[Link to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Report – 15th May 2018 – Future Lighting and Energy Saving Proposals](#)

[Link to Cabinet Report - Future Lighting and Energy Saving Proposals – 28th November 2018](#)

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