

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet 7 April 2014

ITEM 5(a) Street Lighting Review – Part Night Switch Off

Portfolio(s): Housing and Environment
Sustainable Development
Finance and Resources

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Harrison
Cllr John Stirling
Cllr Ray Glindon

Report from: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the recommendations of the Environment and Culture Sub-Committee in relation to its street lighting review in relation to part night switch off.
- 1.1.2 In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet are required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within two months. In providing this response Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

- 1.2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet consider and formulate a response to the recommendations presented to them as a result of the overview and scrutiny review of street lighting into part night switch off.

1.3 Forward plan:

- 1.3.1 The report was included in the forward plan for the period 24 March 2014 – 31 July 2014 under the matters arising from Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its sub committees heading.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

- 1.4.1 This report links to 'Our North Tyneside' Council Plan, particularly to Priority 2 – Our Places - to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint, as outlined in the 2013/14 Action Plan.

1.5 Information:

Background information

- 1.5.1 A sub-group of the Environment and Culture Sub-committee was established in June 2013 to explore the different options for street lighting with a view of reducing energy consumption and to achieve efficiency savings. On completion of the review the sub-group presented their findings and four recommendations to Cabinet at its meeting on 13 January 2014. After consideration Cabinet accepted all four recommendations, these recommendations and the associated actions can be found in the main report at Appendix A.
- 1.5.2 Given the tight timescale for the initial review, the sub-group did not have enough time to investigate in detail whether part night switch off was a viable option for selected non-residential areas of the borough, but did agree that this was something that should be considered as a longer term option. The sub-group recommended that Cabinet give further consideration to the option of part night switch off in non-residential areas (recommendation 4 in the original report). Cabinet responded by asking the sub-group to reconvene and to work with officers to investigate the options available for part night switch off and then report back to Cabinet with their findings and recommendations.
- 1.5.3 A sub-group of the Environment and Culture Sub-committee was established and reconvened to carry out the study. Members of the sub-group included:
- Cllr Brian Burdis
Cllr Gary Bell
Cllr Cath Davis
Cllr David Ord
- 1.5.4 The sub-group met with Andrew Gate, Senior Manager for Commercial Partnerships and Vicky Taylor, Major Contracts Officer on two occasions, 26 February 2014 and 13 March 2014. This enabled the sub-group to gather evidence and discuss the options for part night switch off in order to help them formulate recommendations. In total two recommendations in support of trialling part night switch off was identified.

Recommendation 1: That Cabinet considers implementing a trial of part night switch off between midnight and 5.30am in the non-residential areas listed in the revised scheme attached at Appendix B and that this is facilitated through extending the Mayflower Central Management System to these areas.

Recommendation 2: That Cabinet ask the Senior Manager of Commercial Partnerships to seek feedback from residents and local businesses once the part night switch off trial has been in operation for three months.

- 1.5.5 The full report which outlines the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review is attached at Appendix 1.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may accept the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 2

Cabinet may not accept the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 3

Cabinet may accept part of the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above and reject the rest.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

- 1.7.1 Option 1 is recommended by Overview and Scrutiny.
- 1.7.2 The approval of the recommendations by Cabinet will facilitate the reduction of energy consumption and make both carbon and financial efficiency savings.
- 1.7.3 As outlined in the main report attached at Appendix 1 (paragraph 4.2), if the revised scheme was implemented for part night switch off between midnight and 5.30am this would create an estimated savings of £140,000 and a reduction of 739 tonnes of CO₂.
- 1.7.4 Cabinet are asked to provide reasons for any recommendations which are not approved.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Report: Street Lighting Review - Part Night Switch Off (March 2014)

1.9 Contact officers:

Sharon Ranade, Scrutiny Advisor 643 5614
Andrew Gate – Senior Manager for Commercial Partnerships 643 6450
Vicky Taylor - Major Contracts Officer 643 6551

1.10 Background information:

- 1) Overview and Scrutiny Report: Street Lighting Review - Part Night Switch Off (March 2014)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications at this stage.

2.2 Legal

2.21 In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet are required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within two months. In providing this response Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Consultation was undertaken with council officers.

2.3.2 Officers have also recently consulted the Police on the revised scheme who are broadly supportive of this provided that it is Mayflower controlled so they can instruct the Council to leave lighting on in any areas covered by the scheme that they fear may become crime hot spots or in response to road traffic accidents. The Police are analysing the list of roads and footpaths in detail and will come back to the Council with any amendments to the revised scheme that they would like to see. In discussion with officers they indicated for example some of the industrial estates could be targeted by burglars if the lights were part night switched off.

2.4 Human rights

There are no direct issues relating to human rights arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no direct issues relating to equalities and diversity arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no direct issues relating to risk arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

2.7.1 Currently there is a lack of research into the long term impact of part night switch off on crime and safety.

2.7.2 In relation to the trial of part night switch off on the A189 dual carriageway, there has not been an increase in road accidents since the trial started in May 2012.

2.7.3 Northumbria Police are currently analysing in detail the roads and pathways in the revised scheme and will come back to the Council with any amendments that they would like to see.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

2.8.1 If Recommendation 1 is accepted and part night switch off is implemented between midnight and 5.30am across the non-residential areas listed in the revised scheme, this would result in an estimated reduction of 739 tonnes of CO₂.

PART 3

The following officers and Members have been sent a copy of the report for their information:

- Mayor/Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager, Policy, Partnerships, Performance and Communications