

Meeting: Environment Sub Committee

Date: 11 March 2015

Title: Street Lighting Review –
Monitoring response to Cabinet recommendations

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Service: Commercial Services

Service Area: Commercial and Business Redesign

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 9 June 2014 regarding street lighting.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to note the progress update in this report and the latest position on the Implementation of the scheme and if appropriate forward comments/ suggestions to the Cabinet.

3. Details

3.1 At its meeting on 9 June 2014, Cabinet resolved (Minute CAB7/06/14) to:-

- (i) implement a trial of part night switch off of street lights between midnight and 5.30am in the non-residential areas listed in the scheme.
- (ii) 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.

Installation

3.2 Installation of the scheme commenced in Weetslade Ward on Monday 27 October 2014 with 8 street lights being converted on Dudley Lane.

- 3.3 Columns included in the scheme are turned off from Midnight to 5.30am each night. Every second column along a footpath or road included in the scheme has a sticker warning passers by that the lighting is part night.
- 3.4 The lights are controlled remotely by the Mayflower Central Management System so they can be set back to on all night at any time in response to any incidents occurring or in advance of any planned special events.
- 3.5 The PFI service provider, SSE Enterprise (Lighting) is continuing with the installation programme. To date 1,801 columns have been installed (see appendix 1). The programme is due to be completed in the first quarter of the new financial year.

Feedback

- 3.6 Residents and local businesses are able to give feedback, make comments and register complaints through the specific street lighting freephone number 0800 085 7307 and interactive website www.lightsoninnorthtyneside.co.uk and via the normal Council corporate systems such as the Contact Centre. 10 complaints have been received to date. The details of which are set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.7 Officers from the Commercial Services team and two operatives from SSE Enterprise (Lighting) (the service provider) were present at the well attended Mayor's Listening Event for Weetslade ward held at John Willie Sams Centre on 27 January 2015. Andrew Gate, the Senior Manager of Commercial Partnerships, informed those present about the Street lighting initiatives that had taken place within the Weetslade ward and in particular the part night switch off programme. Residents were encouraged to feedback any comments or concerns.
- 3.8 In response to this several compliments were received agreeing with the introduction of the scheme. An Air Cadet said he was also in favour but also enquired if consideration could be given to installing lighting for the currently unlit footpaths within Lockey Park. Another resident stated we were not going far enough. In his opinion the Council should turn off every second street light across the Borough permanently.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1- Number of Street lighting Columns converted to date by Ward.
Appendix 2- Detail on Part Night Complaints Received

5. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

Cabinet Report Item 7(a) 9 June 2014.

Appendix 1

Number of Street lighting Columns converted to date by Ward

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Converted</u>
Battlehill	18
Benton	16
Camperdown	200
Chirton	70
Collingwood	309
Cullercoats	8
Howdon	19
Killingworth	247
Longbenton	128
Monkseaton North	38
Monksaeaton South	20
Northumberland	53
Preston	13
Riverside	143
St Marys	13
Tynemouth	32
Valley	213
Wallsend	114
Weetslade	139
Whitley Bay	8
Total	1801

Appendix 2

Detail on Part Night Complaints Received

To date officers have received 10 complaints and enquiries regarding the Part Night Scheme across the borough of North Tyneside. By way of comparison during the Autumn, officers received in excess of 100 complaints and enquiries about the earlier scheme in residential estates whereby hours of streetlight operation were 'trimmed'.

The complaints in relation to Part Night schemes have been from residents who live in:

Frater Terrace	Howdon
Primrose Close	Dudley
Monkseaton Drive x 2	Whitley Bay
Gleneagles Court	Whitley Bay
Shiremoor	Shiremoor
Headlam view	Wallsend
Alder Road	Battlehill
Beach Road	Cullercoats
Archer Street	Wallsend

The scheme is being implemented in non residential areas. The above residents were therefore commenting on lights converted to part night on footpaths and main roads near to their properties and not directly outside of their properties.

The following response has been used to reply to residents:

- *Thank you for contacting North Tyneside regarding your concern with the Street lighting along XXXXXXXXXXXX.*

Street lighting was identified as an area within the Authority to make large savings without a reduced service. The council have liaised with councillors, Northumbria police, emergency services and the traffic unit in order to recommend the reduced minutes of illumination in the early mornings and evenings. The trimming (as it is known) of the streetlights was presented to Cabinet in 2014 and was an agreed course of action across the borough. In addition we have switched off certain lights from Midnight until 5.30am on reduced traffic routes as noticed by yourself along parts of XXXXXXXXXXXX. This was also approved by Cabinet in 2014.

We fully understand the concerns you are having and are in no way wishing to compromise the safety of the residents by turning off the streetlights. Currently there are over 70 roads and paths included in the scheme across the Borough, however it is important to note these areas are footpaths, wagon ways and roads which aren't within residential estates.

As you can appreciate the more columns we adjust back the less the carbon and financial savings are made. The standard and brightness of our current lighting and initiatives have been recognised nationally in the APSE Public Sector awards as we are still above national average in lighting standards.

We will continue to monitor the area in question however if you still feel concerned please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the Street Lighting Manager Andrew Gate and we can investigate further in working out a solution for everyone involved,

So far we have received no further feedback or complaint after this response has been sent.

With regard to Archer Street, it was agreed that the part night switch off on Archer Villas was too close to residential houses and that Archer Villas had been included in the scheme in error. As such 12 lights were put back to all night operation. No other adjustments have been made in response to the queries raised to date.

One of the Monkseaton Drive complaints above was from a resident whose older teenage daughters had been walking home on Friday Night from a night out in Whitley Bay along Monkseaton Drive when the lights went out at midnight causing anxiety to his daughters (who did then get home safely). Members of the Committee may wish to suggest to the Cabinet that officers investigate the feasibility of changing the switch off times on Monkseaton Drive on a Friday and Saturday Night to be one hour later between 1am to 6.30am.

A number of roads on industrial estates and business parks have been converted including the road outside of Quadrant. To date no businesses have contacted the Council to say they have been adversely affected by this.