

**NOTICE OF
INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION**

ITEM NO.

IMD

TITLE

Part Night Lighting Trial

DECISION TO BE MADE BY

**Keith Baker, Executive member for Highways
and Transport**

DATE AND TIME OF DECISION

REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED ON

**INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION
REFERENCE IMD:**

TITLE	Part Night Lighting Trial
FOR CONSIDERATION BY ON TIME	Executive Member for Highways and Transport
WARD	All Borough Town and Parish Councils
LEAD OFFICER	Neil Badley, Head of Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree exemption criteria for trialing 'park night' lighting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve the proposed Exemption Criteria which defines sites that will not have their lights turned off during the trial.
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SUPPORTING INFORMATION To concisely provide in no more than two pages the necessary information to enable members to arrive at a decision. All sections below to be completed
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Background

Subsequent to the approval of the part night lighting trial as part of the ZBB initiative, it is essential that a set of criteria are agreed that will allow a consistent approach to evaluating whether individual lights are appropriate for conversion.
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There is no statutory requirement on local authorities in the UK to provide public lighting. The Highways Act empowers local authorities to light roads but does not place a duty. However, the Council has a duty of care to road users and has an obligation to light obstructions on the highway. The Council also has a statutory duty under the Highways Act to ensure the safety of the highway and this includes any lighting equipment placed on the highway. Finally, the Electricity at Work Regulations imposes a duty on owners and operators of electrical equipment to ensure its safety.

Analysis of Issues

To establish which street lights can be turned off an 'Exemption Criteria' has been developed. In developing the list officers have researched the criteria used by other councils who have already undertaken this kind of initiative. This criterion takes into account areas where it is felt that it could have a detrimental impact to crime and safety if the lights were switched off.

Below are the proposed principles for determining the exemptions to the 'part night' street lighting trial operation.

The general presumption will be that street lights will be altered to 'part night' operation unless covered by the following exemptions.
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- 1 Conflict sites e.g. roundabouts and major junctions
- 2 Sites where street lights installed for accident remedial measures
- 3 Town Centre type development where there is one or more of the following features:
 - a) CCTV sites
 - b) High proportion of high security premises e.g. banks, jewellers, Arborfield Garrison etc.
 - c) High concentration of people at night such as – Train stations, nightclubs etc.
- 4 Sites where the police can demonstrate that there will be an increase in crime if the lights are switched off e.g. Public Houses, specific residential areas.
- 5 Remote alleys linking residential streets
- 6 Where there is a duty of care
- 7 Traffic Islands and Build outs.
- 8 Pedestrian Crossings (zebras)
- 9 Footbridges and Subways
- 10 Areas where there is a high concentration of sheltered housing for the elderly.
- 11 Public car parks.
- 12 Bus stops
- 13 Level Crossings
- 14 Speed humps/road tables
- 15 Traffic Lights

This will be subject to consultation.

Corporate Implications (this must include Financial Implications)

The following risks need to be considered if the 'part night' trial is introduced.

- Street lighting is generally regarded as contributing to crime reduction and the general vitality and night time environment of towns and local communities. It provides a sense of security, in particular to the elderly and vulnerable and it aids persons with impaired vision. However having spoken with the Area Police Commander there is evidence that in other areas where there have been similar trials the crime rate has fallen. This will be carefully monitored in this trial, by working with the police and reported on at the end of the first 12 months experience.
- There may be increased number of complaints, and these will be monitored and subject to report to the Executive Member as the trial proceeds.
- Increase in insurance claims.

These risks will be in part mitigated by using appropriate criteria to assess the suitability of individual lights for inclusion. The risk will be further mitigated by each scheme being subject to an independent safety assessment

Reasons for Decision

To mitigate the risks arising out of part night lighting.

Alternative Options considered, if any

Do not have set criteria. This would leave the council vulnerable to criticism and would weaken any defence required if action was taken against the council as a result of the trials implementation.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

General Manager Business Services	Graham Ebers
Monitoring Officer	Susanne Nelson-Wehemeyer
Leader of the Council	David Lee
Town and Parish Councils	
To be completed upon receipt of comments	
Local Ward Members	
To be completed upon receipt of comments	

List of Background Papers

N/A

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Date 20 th March 2009	Version No. 1