

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 12 th November 2019
Report Subject	Review of Street Lighting Policy
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council owns and maintains approximately 21,000 street lights and 4,100 illuminated signs, bollards and street furniture assets across the County and in addition the Council maintains the Trunk Road Street Lighting on behalf of Welsh Government and some Town and Community Council lights also on their behalf.

There is no statutory requirement on the Council to provide Street Lighting at any location other than those defined in the Highways Act 1980 however, where lighting is provided the Council has a statutory obligation to maintain the system in a safe state of repair. The Council also has a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to exercise its lighting function with due regard to their effect on crime and disorder in an area.

Cabinet approved the current Street Lighting policy in April 2015 however, since that date there have been significant developments in the service, particularly in terms of energy saving options and the consequential improvements in the efficiency of the electrical equipment used on the network and a further review of the policy is now required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Scrutiny recommends Cabinet approval of the revised Street Lighting policy (Appendix 1)
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND TO THE STREETLIGHTING POLICY
1.01	<p>There is no statutory requirement on the Council to provide Street Lighting at any location other than those defined in the Highways Act 1980 however, where lighting is provided the Council has a statutory obligation to maintain the system in a safe state of repair. The Council also has a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to exercise its lighting function with due regard to their effect on crime and disorder in an area.</p>
1.02	<p>Road lighting (illumination) encompasses the lighting of all types of highway and public thoroughfares and improving traffic safety along these routes. It has a wider social role, helping to reduce crime and the fear of crime, can contribute to improved commercial and social use at night in town centres, shopping areas and tourist locations.</p>
1.03	<p>The Council owns and maintains approximately 21,000 street lights and 4,100 illuminated signs, bollards and street furniture across the County and in addition the Council also maintains approximately 3,000 street lights and street furniture assets for the Trunk Road on behalf of Welsh Government.</p>
1.04	<p>Some Town and Community Councils (T&CC) own and maintain their own footway lighting columns which total approximately 3,200 units. Approximately half of the T&CC's subsequently contract the Council to carry out the necessary repairs and maintenance on their behalf with the remaining T&CC's contracting the work to private contractor's or organisations.</p>
1.05	<p>The Council is responsible for the structural integrity of the street lighting columns as well as the electrical apparatus within them. Any faults which may occur with this equipment are repaired by the Council, utilising the Council's in-house Street Lighting Team within Streetscene.</p>
1.06	<p>The annual consumption of electricity for these units has fallen from approximately 8 million kilowatt hours (kwh) in 2015 to approximately half that figure by the introduction of energy efficient LED lighting units, following successful bid applications to Welsh Governments (WG) SALIX fund.</p>
1.07	<p>The main changes to the policy are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="368 1733 1378 2024">1. Evening Inspections. The new LED lights are obviously far more energy efficient but also provide a greater operating life which reduces the number of faults and the need for regular evening inspections, particularly during summer months when the inspections need to commence late in the evening which restricts operations the following day. The new standard will be to undertake night inspections during the autumn/winter period only (October – April).

	<p>2. Scheduled Inspections. The current policy requires for a physical inspection of each light or sign to be carried out every two years. Given the changes to the upgrade to the lanterns and the introduction of LED lighting arrangements, the system has become more resilient as they require less components which may be subject to failure. It is proposed therefore that the frequency of inspections should be reduced to once every three years.</p> <p>3. Electrical test. There is a statutory requirement to test every electrical on-street item every 7 years however, the current policy states that Flintshire will undertake the test every 6 years in order to comply with this. It is now proposed that the test will be carried out during the three yearly scheduled inspection. This will improve the efficiency of the operation allowing both activities to be undertaken concurrently and ensure that all assets are captured during the inspection visit.</p>
1.08	The revised Street lighting policy is attached to this report (Appendix 1)

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The resources needed to deliver the service within the standards set by the revised policy are budgeted within the Streetscene service.
2.02	The Streetscene Street Lighting Team consists of 4 operatives and 1 apprentice with a single works Supervisor.
2.03	The management of the Street lighting network is the duty of the Street Lighting Manager also based in the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio in Alltami.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Cabinet will consider the revised policy in their November meeting

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The new policy has been impact assessed and does not disproportionately impact on any of the protected groups.
4.02	The policy will ensure the Council maintains the network in an appropriate state.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Street Lighting policy October 2019.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None. Contact Officer: Stephen Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: Stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	WG – Welsh Government.