
**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Transport and Planning**

15 November 2018

Report of the Corporate Director of Economy and Place

Street Lighting Policy

Summary

1. Following an officer review the Street Lighting Policy which was adopted by Cabinet (Autumn 2014) it is proposed to update the policy to reflect the changes identified in the review.
2. The key changes are
 - To strengthen the policy about sensitive areas of the city and differentiate between the historic core and conservation areas.
 - To improve the policy with regards to managing the risk between trees and lamp columns.
 - In the future when replacing 5 metre columns officers will see if the target light levels as outlined in the policy can be achieved with a different lantern on 5 metre columns in the same location and spacing rather than replacing with a 6 metre column.
3. The review highlighted that the Street Lighting Policy and the Streetscape Strategy and Guidance do not give consistent advice and therefore the Streetscape Strategy and Guidance needs to be confirmed as guidance.
4. This was considered at the Transport and Planning Decision Session on the 12 July meeting and was referred to scrutiny.

Recommendations

5. That the Executive Member, approves the redrafted Street Lighting Policy and confirms that officers discount the Streetscape Strategy and Guidance until such time as it is reviewed.

Reason: To ensure a proportionate and consistent approach to the management of street lighting across the city.

Background

6. A review of the Street Lighting Policy has taken place that identified a number of areas where the report could be strengthened. A copy of the new document is attached at Annex A
7. The previous policy did not differentiate between the historic core conservation area and other conservation areas. The redrafted policy clarifies that the Council will be flexible with light levels and equipment within the historic core. Outside the historic core we will aim for standardised light levels and column heights with new columns on the back of the footway. Within conservation areas we will install embellishment kits if that improves the match with adjacent lights.
8. The practice of placing columns to the back of the footway has highlighted a small number of occasions where this creates a conflict with street trees. The policy has therefore been changed to reflect that when we replace lamp columns we will put them to the back of the footway, but we will not do this if there is a public or private tree that will place the lamp head in the crown. In these instances we will keep the column at the front of the footway.
9. The review also identified that the Street Lighting Policy and the Councils Streetscape Strategy and Guidance are not complimentary. The Streetscape Strategy and Guidance document whilst a useful guide for officers in respecting and maintaining the character and quality of the City. It can only be considered as guidance given that it is unbudgeted and in some regards cuts cross our legal obligations in respect of procurement.
10. The proposed was considered by scrutiny on the 18 September 2018. The key themes that members raised at the scrutiny were
 - The future challenge around electric vehicles. One industry solution is fixing charging points on street lighting columns. Officers responded that obviously any pilots for street light based electric vehicle charging in the future will need to be accommodated by the Street lighting policy.

- The policy for standardising 6m columns was to provide uniformity of light. In certain areas, and Poppleton was given as an example, members considered these columns could be disproportionately high. Officers responded that when investing in new light columns the objective is to achieve as good light levels as possible and that a 6m column is a key way of achieving this. Historically shorter columns have increased cost or resulted in reduced light levels. Scrutiny asked that Ward Councillors were consulted about any changes from 5 to 6 metres. Whilst officers routinely consult ward members on traffic schemes; the issue of column height gives the ward members a binary decision to consider and as 5 metre column will either reduce light levels or increase costs to undertake such consultation would undermine the objectives of the street lighting policy for the city as a whole. The technology is improving all the time as LED technology advances and new products are emerging that claim to be able to give the same light level from a 5 metre column. Therefore the policy has been updated to say that for existing 5 metre columns if the same light levels can be achieved from a 5 metre column in the same locations and spacing's then we will retain a 5 metre column.
- Effective enforcement action where trees and vegetation obscure trees.

11. Other issues included:

- The perception that the city centre is always prioritised as the expense of other areas
- The impact of street lighting on wildlife been taken into account?

Council Plan

12. The potential implications for the priorities in the Council Plan are:

A council that listens to residents: The review was originally initiated by local residents to ensure a proportionate and consistent approach to the management of street lighting across the city. The

review demonstrates that CYC is a council that listens to its residents and considers their requests for local change.

Implications

13. The following are the only identified implications.

- **Financial** – There are no Finance Implications
- **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no HR implications
- **Equalities** - There are no equalities implications
- **Legal** – There are no legal implications.
- **Crime and Disorder** - There are no Crime and Disorder implications
- **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no IT implications
- **Property** - There are no property implications as all works are taking place within public highway boundaries.

Risk Management

14. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

Contact

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Report
Approved



Date 07.11.18

Wards affected:

All Wards

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

Annex A – Street Lighting Policy