

		AGENDA ITEM 9
		PSEG/06/14
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	23 January 2014	
IMPLEMENTATION OF PART NIGHT STREET LIGHTING IN COLCHESTER BOROUGH		
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On 15 November Councillor Stephen Robinson called in decision FP/294/08/13 on the 'Implementation of Part Night Lighting in Colchester Borough', and a copy of his Notification of Call-In form is attached at Appendix A.

In line with the procedure for handling the call in of a decision, an informal meeting was held on 20 November. A formal note of that meeting is attached at Appendix B.


At the informal meeting Councillor Robinson agreed to withdraw his Call In on the basis of the information exchanged.

(NB: This report was originally circulated as part of an agenda for a Committee meeting in December 2013 that was subsequently cancelled).

Action required by the Committee:

The Committee is invited to note the action taken in this matter.

Notification of Call-in

Decision title and reference number FP/294/08/13 <u>Consultation on part night lighting proposals in Basildon and Colchester</u>	
	Date decision published 12 November 2013
Last day of call in period 15 November 2013	Last day of 10-day period to resolve the call-in
Colchester members did not receive the maps until last week; these maps are incomplete and do not reflect representations made in respect of streets that lead out of the Town Centre.	
Signed:  Cllr Stephen Robinson	Dated: 14 November 2013
Called in on behalf of: Cllr Theresa Higgins	
For completion by the Governance Officer	
Date call in Notice Received	Date of informal meeting
Date of Audit and General Scrutiny Committee Meeting (if applicable)	Date call in withdrawn / resolved

Notes of Informal Meeting regarding the Call-In of a Decision

Call in of decision reference FP-294-08-13 Implementation of Part Night Lighting in Colchester Borough

Note of an informal meeting held at County Hall, Chelmsford on Wednesday, 20 November 2013

Present:

Councillor Stephen Robinson (Committee Member responsible for calling the decision in
Councillor Simon Walsh, Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee

Paul Bird, Director for Commissioning: Transportation and Infrastructure
Keith Tovee, Street Lighting Manager
Trevor Rhodes, CMS Project Manager
Dan Fryd, Cabinet Advisor
Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer

Councillor Walsh welcomed everyone to the informal meeting that had been set up as part of the County Council's Call In procedure for the consideration of decision reference FP-294-08-13 on the implementation of Part Night Lighting in Colchester Borough called in by Councillor Robinson.

Councillor Robinson emphasised the reasons set out in his Notification of Call In of the decision to implement part night street lighting in Colchester Borough namely that 'Colchester members did not receive the maps until last week; the maps are incomplete and do not reflect representations made in respect of streets that lead out of the Town Centre'. He confirmed that he had called in the decision on behalf of Councillor Higgins, who was unable to attend the informal meeting due to a prior commitment.

Paul Bird gave background on the project to roll out the implementation of part night street lighting across Essex. He pointed out that there had been one public consultation in the summer covering the remaining eight local authority areas. The consultation had collated feedback from Essex Local Councils and the public on views about where lights should remain on and to explain the exception criteria to be applied to those locations where lights would not be switched off between midnight and 5 am. The criteria took into account experience learned from implementing part night lighting elsewhere.

Recent 'engagement' with individual districts was not a repeat of that earlier public consultation rather the County Council had provided detailed information on the lights that

had been identified under the exception criteria thus affording a further opportunity to raise any concerns about particular locations. He also stressed that the central management system will enable lighting to be changed at specific locations, and following implementation lighting will be kept under review. As the roll out was taking place over the winter months it would provide a period for everyone to adjust to the new lighting regime in practice, and then the County Council would be in a position to use evidence collated to review the project in the summer.

With particular reference to the provision of maps showing how the lighting criteria had been applied, Paul Bird confirmed that the approach had been amended on the basis of experience on proposals for Braintree and Chelmsford. The maps illustrated how the exception criteria had been applied rather than being for consultation purposes. Also the feedback suggested more interest in when the changes would be effected. The appendix to the Colchester decision report set out how comments had been addressed.

It was emphasised that the Cabinet Member was mindful for the need for the criteria to be applied consistently across the whole County, and the main purpose of street lighting provided by the Highways Authority was for highways safety rather than protecting property or for recreational reasons. Other street lighting may be provided by others for instance at Colchester the University was responsible for lighting it had installed within its own confines. Using that example Paul Bird illustrated how evidence over the winter months could be reviewed to analyse how changes may have affected footfall in practice, for instance being increased on those streets that may remain lit throughout the night.

With particular reference to the call in for Colchester, the Highways Officers confirmed to Councillor Robinson that the Borough Council had drawn attention to several issues that had not been identified through previous discussions. By way of example that Council had now provided the County Council with maps showing where its CCTV cameras were located and where it may be appropriate for street lighting to remain lit throughout the night. The Central Management System now in place enables greater flexibility to control and amend lighting in different locations. However, where requests are made to vary lighting at different locations, it was essential that such requests be submitted with evidence to support the argument being put forward to enable the County Council to give proper consideration.

Councillor Robinson drew attention to Colchester Hospital and suggested that shift patterns may create the situation where staff may be forced to use streets that were unlit during the changeover period. In this situation Paul Bird advised if the Hospital submitted a representation with supporting evidence for some County Council street lighting to remain switched on then it would be considered.

Based upon the exchange of information at the informal meeting Councillor Robinson agreed to withdraw formally his call in of this decision on the basis that it had been confirmed that following the implementation of part night lighting at Colchester the situation would be kept under review, and where a case may be proven for to apply exception criteria then the street lighting could be varied.
