

		AGENDA ITEM 7
		PSEG/06/13
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	26 September 2013	
IMPLEMENTATION OF PART NIGHT STREET LIGHTING		
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On 30 August Councillor Stephen Robinson called in this decision on the 'Implementation of Part Night Lighting in Braintree and Chelmsford Districts' , and a copy of his Notification of Call-In form is attached at Appendix A.

A copy of the Cabinet Member's decision notice is available on the Council's website via the following [Link](#). A copy has been sent under separate cover to Committee Members.

In line with the procedure for handling the call in of a decision, an informal meeting was held on 3 September. 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 that arrangements would be made for this Committee to have a detailed briefing today on the implementation of part night lighting across Essex, and consider the feedback received so far from the countywide consultation on the proposals.

Attention is also drawn to the Scrutiny Report on 'Street Lighting at Night' that was published by the former Safer and Stronger Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee in July 2010, and provides further background on this topic. The Scrutiny Report is available on the Council's website via the following [Link](#). A copy has been sent under separate cover to Committee Members.


At this Committee meeting Councillor Bass, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, will open discussion on the implementation of part night street lighting by providing information on the way that the project has evolved since 2007 and why certain choices have been made in the way it is to be rolled out across Essex.

**Action required by the Committee:**

**To cross examine the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation on his proposals for the implementation of Part Night Street Lighting across Essex.**

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# Notification of Call-in

<b>Decision title and reference number</b> KD11/FP/265/07/13	
Implementation of Part Night Lighting in Braintree and Chelmsford Districts.	
<b>Cabinet Member responsible</b> Councillor Rodney L Bass	<b>Date decision published</b> 22 August 2013
<b>Last day of call in period</b> 30 August 2013	<b>Last day of 10-day period to resolve the call-in</b>
<p>The Liberal Democrat group would like to call in the decision on Part Night Lighting in Braintree and Chelmsford because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient regard has been paid to the fact that Chelmsford and Braintree have a significant night-time economy compared to Maldon and Uttlesford, and people will be out and about after midnight to a much greater extent.</li> <li>• That fear of crime, not just reported crime, is a significant issue.</li> <li>• If "lights off" leads to more people using taxis rather than walking, the hoped for CO2 reductions will be reduced.</li> <li>• Suggestions from consultees on paths that should be lit have been mostly ignored. The definition of "remote" should be reconsidered. Paths that are significant routes away from the town centres should be lit.</li> <li>• Since lights will be back on again at 5am until dawn, this undermines the argument against leaving them on until 1am.</li> <li>• The suggestion of LED lighting has been insufficiently explored.</li> </ul>	
<b>Signed:</b>  Cllr Stephen Robinson	<b>Dated:</b>  30 August 2013
<b>For completion by the Governance Officer</b>	
<b>Date call in Notice Received</b>	<b>Date of informal meeting</b>
<b>Date Scrutiny Committee Meeting (if applicable)</b>	<b>Date call in withdrawn / resolved</b>

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

**Call in of decision reference FP-265-07-13 – Implementation of Part Night Lighting in Braintree and Chelmsford following consultation**

Note of an informal meeting held at County Hall, Chelmsford on Tuesday, 3 September 2013

Present:

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

Paul Bird, Director for Commissioning: Transportation and Infrastructure  
Dan Fryd, Cabinet Advisor  
Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer

Councillor Robinson emphasised the reasons set out in his Notification of Call In of the decision to implement part night street lighting in Braintree and Chelmsford. As well as outlining his concerns about the Part Night Lighting project, Councillor Robinson expressed his concern that not all representations about leaving on particular lamps had been taken into account.

The Cabinet Member reiterated the background to the part night street lighting project set out in the decision paperwork, and addressed the reasons given for the call in. He drew attention to the criteria used determine where part time night lighting would or would not be implemented. Furthermore he confirmed that arising from the consultation undertaken various locations had been identified under the exception criteria, and street lighting would remain turned on during the night. He also argued that there is no evidence to support the claim that crime would increase in those roads where lights are switched off, and pointed out that in fact that crime rates have actually fallen where similar schemes have been implemented.

With reference to LED lighting it was confirmed that the installation of such equipment had been explored extensively. Given that the technology is still being developed and is very expensive, it was considered that it would be in appropriate to adopt LED lighting until a solid business case can be made. Nevertheless there is flexibility around the technology now being used and it can be changed in the future.

Councillor Bass reinforced the fact that he had taken pragmatic decision to go ahead with the implementation of the part night lighting project across Essex based upon both environmental and economic considerations.

Paul Bird drew attention to the Scrutiny Report on 'Street Lighting at Night' that was undertaken by the former Safer and Stronger Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee. It had been a thorough review and the Committee had investigated many of the issues now under discussion.

As a way forward Councillor Walsh suggested that a full briefing on the Part Night Street Lighting project could be incorporated into the Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee agenda for 26 September 2013, and would provide Members with an opportunity to learn more about the topic and debate the project being implemented across the County.

Councillor Robinson said that he had found the informal meeting helpful, and agreed to withdraw his call in on the understanding that arrangements would be made for the Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee to have a detailed briefing on the implementation of part night lighting across Essex and consider the feedback received at that point from the countywide consultation on the proposals. This will provide the Committee with the opportunity to give thorough consideration to the part night street lighting project.

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