

# Briefing Paper for the Police & Crime Panel - Part Night Lighting (Update)



**ESSEX  
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex

Date: 02/05/2014

Unit: SCMD

Contact: Chief Inspector Tina Noble

# Strategic Change Management Department: Briefing Paper Part Night Lighting (Update)

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## 1. Introduction

In November/ December 2013, briefing papers were provided to the Police & Crime Panel by Ben Sutherland (ECC) and Chief Inspector Steve Ditchburn (Essex Police) in relation to the implementation of the Part Night Lighting (PNL) scheme across some of the Essex County Council districts. This briefing paper has been written to provide an update to these previous papers (the papers are shown in Appendix A).

This briefing paper provides information concerning progress in implementing the scheme, comparative police data pre and post implementation and an overview of the national LANTERNS Project.

## 2. Current Position

### 2.2 PNL Implementation Programme

PNL has now been implemented in all Essex County Council districts and along the A127. The implementation dates are shown in the table below:

District	Implementation Date
Maldon	01/10/2007
Uttlesford	01/10/2007
Braintree	01/09/2013
Chelmsford	01/09/2013
Colchester	01/12/2013
A127	16/12/2013
Castle Point	12/01/2014
Epping	12/01/2014
Rochford	26/01/2014
Basildon	23/02/2014
Harlow	02/03/2014
Tendring	02/03/2014
Brentwood	09/03/2014

The A13 has not yet moved to PNL.

Clearly, other than in the pilot areas (Maldon and Uttlesford), it should be noted that the scheme is still within its infancy, with the last three districts not having gone "live" until March 2014.

Southend and Thurrock councils are not adopting the PNL scheme.

### 2.2 Fear of Crime & Increase in Trends

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Essex Police Commanders have been consulted in relation to any operational impact associated with the PNL scheme, and whether they have noticed any associated trends in terms of an increase in crime, ASB or injury road collisions. The outcome was negative in relation to both. Additionally it was commented on that when there is an emergency operational reason to have the lighting switched back on that ECC are accommodating, the floods of 2013 were cited as an example of this co-operation.

It should be noted that the scheme allows for lighting to be switched back on if any of the "exception criteria" (below) are met:

## Exception criteria:

Certain locations meeting the exception criteria will continue to be lit through the night, such as:

- Sites where there are a large number of conflicting traffic movements (eg roundabouts) which are on significant routes (generally those lit by columns greater than 6m high)
- Sites where street lights are installed as a result of accident remedial measures
- Town Centre areas where there is one or more of the following features:

Publicly maintained CCTV

High proportion of high security premises (e.g. banks, jewellers)

Areas of high crime risk

High concentration of people at night such as transport interchanges, nightclubs etc.

- Main approaches to town centre areas where there is a mix of development between residential and commercial/industrial (e.g. not exclusively residential)
- Sites where the police can demonstrate that there is likely to be an increase in crime if the lights are switched off during part of the night (or that there will be a decrease in crime if the lights are switched back on)
- Remote footpaths and alleys linking residential streets
- Where there is a statutory requirement to provide lighting.

## 3 Data

Essex Police data in relation to crime, ASB and injury collisions has been collected and compared pre and post the implementation of the PNL scheme. The data and analysis are shown below.

### 3.2 Crime Data

Crime data has been gathered in relation to incidents occurring between midnight and 5am for 60 days prior to and after the lights were switched off, and in the instances where the PNL has only recently been introduced and therefore two months' worth of data is not available, data has been gathered for 30 days prior to and after the switch off. A comparison has also been made with the number of crime incidents that were recorded during the same period in the previous 12 months. The data is shown in Appendix A.

The data shows that there has been a 7% reduction in the number of crime incidents recorded in the 30/60 day periods after the implementation of PND compared to the 30/60 day periods before, and

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1% less crime incidents were recorded compared to the same period during the previous year. However, these figures must be considered in the context of a number of other factors including the relatively brief timeframes that the PNL scheme has been operating, the fact that overall numbers of crime incidents being recorded is reducing year on year and other seasonal factors such as weather and school holidays.

A further constraint on the analysis of the data is the fact that we cannot determine whether the crime that occurred between these times was impacted on by the PNL. Essex has seen an increase in domestic abuse but much of this occurs within the home therefore the PNL will have no impact but in analysing crime data in a PNL area a rise could be wrongly attributed to PNL which has a completely different driver.

### **3.3 ASB Data**

ASB data has been gathered in relation to incidents occurring between midnight and 5am for 60 days prior to and after the lights were switched off, and in the instances where the PNL has only recently been introduced and therefore two months' worth of data is not available, data has been gathered for 30 days prior to and after the switch off. A comparison has also been made with the number of ASB incidents that were recorded during the same period in the previous 12 months. The data is shown in Appendix B.

The data shows that there has been a 28% reduction in the number of ASB incidents recorded in the 30/60 day periods after the implementation of PNL compared to the 30/60 day periods before, and 21% less ASB incidents were recorded compared to the same period during the previous year.

However, these figures must be considered in the context of a number of other factors including the relatively brief timeframes that the PNL scheme has been operating, the fact that overall numbers of ASB incidents being recorded is reducing year on year and other seasonal factors such as weather and school holidays. Like crime ASB occurs within the home, i.e. noisy neighbours, and again PNL has no impact on this.

It should also be noted that if comparing ASB data with crime data (above), ASB data is more time specific than crime data; crimes are often be recorded as occurring between "x" and "y" whereas victims of ASB are more likely to know the time at which an incident occurred. It is therefore easier to associate ASB incidents with the periods of time between which street lights have been turned off.

### **3.4 Injury Collision Data**

Injury collision data has been gathered for each of the ECC districts except for Brentwood, which has only recently moved to PNL. This data relates to 24hour periods, not to hours of darkness. The data is shown in Appendix C.

The data which relates to those districts in which the PNL scheme was implemented prior to the autumn of 2012 (Uttlesford, Maldon, Chelmsford and Braintree), shows in the main a decrease in the number of injury collisions when compared with the same period during the previous year.

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The data relating to the PNL schemes which were implemented later, from December 2013 (Colchester, Basildon, Castlepoint, Epping, Rochford, A127), does show an increase in the number of injury collisions when compared with the same period during the previous year. However is very important to note that the comparative data is not representative of what would be expected, as there was a large amount of snowfall in the county during the winter of 2012/13 (snowfall suppresses injury and fatal RTCs as there is a significant decrease in the number of vehicles on the road), and also because of the relatively short time period over which the 2013/14 data has been gathered (these figures are still changing on a daily basis).

Even with accidents that occur within a PNL area at night, data is not captured to understand whether the visibility is a causational factor. By way of example if a drink driver crashes it is more likely that his/her impairment through alcohol is the causational factor rather than the PNL.

### 4 LANTERNS Project

The Local Authority Collaborators' National Evaluation of Reduced Night-time Street Lighting Project (LANTERNS) launched in April 2013, is described as a "research collaboration" between local authorities in England and Wales and researchers at the University of London (UCL). It aims to quantify any effects of changes to street lighting on road traffic crashes and crimes. 69 local authorities are currently taking part (including Essex).

The aims and objectives are set out below:

#### **Aims:**

By working together in collaboration with all local authorities of England & Wales, the LANTERNS project aims to answer reliably the important question of whether reducing night-time streetlight for environmental and energy reasons, has any impact on road traffic crashes and crime.

#### **Objectives:**

- Collate information across the country on streetlight reduction schemes
- Statistically examine whether reduced streetlight at night has any effect on road traffic crashes and crime
- Explore public opinion on streetlight provision and the potential for reducing streetlight at night
- Investigate whether streetlight reduction schemes offer value for money
- Create a resource for all local authorities interested in implementing streetlight reduction schemes

A research associate from the UCL has confirmed that they will be using police.uk data for the LANTERNS project. They have had to restrict the analysis to crime types that can easily be mapped to the police.uk crime categories, which will include burglary (domestic and non-domestic), ASB (that has been crimed), criminal damage and arson, robbery and vehicle crime. As the police.uk data does not provide temporal information, they will be unable to split into night time and day time

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offences. They would prefer to use local police recorded data, but this is not available at a national level for academics.

### **5 Conclusions**

There are many impact factors that influence crime, ASB , RTC and fear of crime. The difficulties of evaluation are well known to the LANTERN project and as a result, to establish continuity across the country. They have had to opt for very high level evaluation criteria. This may not give the degree of granularity required to establish the actual impact of PNL alone.

There could always be individual occasions whereby PNL will have an effect on operational policing but currently there is little evidence that PNL has had any significant impact. It is something that will be monitored and if seen to have a detrimental effect will be escalated with partners.

The Essex Police Performance Information Team will meet with ECC to establish whether locally we can add greater value and insight to the impact of PNL on the ECC evaluation criteria.

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### 7. Crime DATA

### Appendix B

District	Commencement		Start	End	Start	End		Days	Days		Last Year		
											Before	After	Diff
Basildon			23/01/2013	22/02/2013	23/02/2013	25/03/2013		30	30		71	55	-22.5
Braintree			02/07/2012	31/08/2012	01/09/2012	31/10/2012		60	60		91	71	-22.0
Brentwood			06/02/2013	08/03/2013	09/03/2013	08/04/2013		30	30		26	36	38.5
Castle Point			12/11/2012	11/01/2013	12/01/2013	13/03/2013		60	60		34	36	5.9
Chelmsford			02/07/2012	31/08/2012	01/09/2012	31/10/2012		60	60		223	173	-22.4
Colchester			01/10/2012	30/11/2012	01/12/2012	30/01/2013		60	60		194	263	35.6
Epping			12/11/2012	11/01/2013	12/01/2013	13/03/2013		60	60		108	94	-13.0
Harlow			30/01/2013	01/03/2013	02/03/2013	01/04/2013		30	30		46	54	17.4
Maldon			01/08/2006	30/09/2006	01/10/2006	30/11/2006		60	60		40	39	-2.5
Rochford			26/11/2012	25/01/2013	26/01/2013	27/03/2013		60	60		33	37	12.1
Tendring			30/01/2013	01/03/2013	02/03/2013	01/04/2013		30	30		35	44	25.7
Uttlesford			01/08/2006	30/09/2006	01/10/2006	30/11/2006		60	60		56	48	-14.3
A127			16/10/2012	15/12/2012	16/12/2012	14/02/2013		60	60		0	0	0.0
											957	950	-0.7
District	Commencement		Start	End	Start	End		Days	Days		This Year		
											Before	After	Diff
Basildon	23/02/2014		23/01/2014	22/02/2014	23/02/2014	25/03/2014		30	30		81	79	-2.5
Braintree	01/09/2013		02/07/2013	31/08/2013	01/09/2013	31/10/2013		60	60		87	76	-12.6
Brentwood	09/03/2014		06/02/2014	08/03/2014	09/03/2014	08/04/2014		30	30		28	29	3.6
Castle Point	12/01/2014		12/11/2013	11/01/2014	12/01/2014	13/03/2014		60	60		41	29	-29.3
Chelmsford	01/09/2013		02/07/2013	31/08/2013	01/09/2013	31/10/2013		60	60		175	143	-18.3
Colchester	01/12/2013		01/10/2013	30/11/2013	01/12/2013	30/01/2014		60	60		163	191	17.2
Epping	12/01/2014		12/11/2013	11/01/2014	12/01/2014	13/03/2014		60	60		107	95	-11.2
Harlow	02/03/2014		30/01/2014	01/03/2014	02/03/2014	01/04/2014		30	30		47	46	-2.1
Maldon	01/10/2007		01/08/2007	30/09/2007	01/10/2007	30/11/2007		60	60		29	28	-3.4
Rochford	26/01/2014		26/11/2013	25/01/2014	26/01/2014	27/03/2014		60	60		42	31	-26.2
Tendring	02/03/2014		30/01/2014	01/03/2014	02/03/2014	01/04/2014		30	30		58	34	-41.4
Uttlesford	01/10/2007		01/08/2007	30/09/2007	01/10/2007	30/11/2007		60	60		25	35	40.0
A127	16/12/2013		16/10/2013	15/12/2013	16/12/2013	14/02/2014		60	60		0	0	0.0
											883	816	-7.6



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### **8. ASB DATA**

### **Appendix C**



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District	Commencement		Start	End	Start	End		Days	Days		Last Year		
											Before	After	Diff
Basildon			23/01/2013	22/02/2013	23/02/2013	25/03/2013		30	30		62	72	16.1
Braintree			02/07/2012	31/08/2012	01/09/2012	31/10/2012		60	60		114	77	-32.5
Brentwood			06/02/2013	08/03/2013	09/03/2013	08/04/2013		30	30		16	32	100.0
Castle Point			12/11/2012	11/01/2013	12/01/2013	13/03/2013		60	60		44	35	-20.5
Chelmsford			02/07/2012	31/08/2012	01/09/2012	31/10/2012		60	60		158	120	-24.1
Colchester			01/10/2012	30/11/2012	01/12/2012	30/01/2013		60	60		148	184	24.3
Epping			12/11/2012	11/01/2013	12/01/2013	13/03/2013		60	60		82	69	-15.9
Harlow			30/01/2013	01/03/2013	02/03/2013	01/04/2013		30	30		39	57	46.2
Maldon			01/08/2006	30/09/2006	01/10/2006	30/11/2006		60	60		69	41	-40.6
Rochford			26/11/2012	25/01/2013	26/01/2013	27/03/2013		60	60		31	31	0.0
Tendring			30/01/2013	01/03/2013	02/03/2013	01/04/2013		30	30		35	41	17.1
Uttlesford			01/08/2006	30/09/2006	01/10/2006	30/11/2006		60	60		67	44	-34.3
A127			16/10/2012	15/12/2012	16/12/2012	14/02/2013		60	60		1	2	100.0
											866	805	-7.0
District	Commencement		Start	End	Start	End		Days	Days		This Year		
											Before	After	Diff
Basildon	23/02/2014		23/01/2014	22/02/2014	23/02/2014	25/03/2014		30	30		50	49	-2.0
Braintree	01/09/2013		02/07/2013	31/08/2013	01/09/2013	31/10/2013		60	60		114	59	-48.2
Brentwood	09/03/2014		06/02/2014	08/03/2014	09/03/2014	08/04/2014		30	30		14	17	21.4
Castle Point	12/01/2014		12/11/2013	11/01/2014	12/01/2014	13/03/2014		60	60		23	31	34.8
Chelmsford	01/09/2013		02/07/2013	31/08/2013	01/09/2013	31/10/2013		60	60		168	95	-43.5
Colchester	01/12/2013		01/10/2013	30/11/2013	01/12/2013	30/01/2014		60	60		169	119	-29.6
Epping	12/01/2014		12/11/2013	11/01/2014	12/01/2014	13/03/2014		60	60		59	40	-32.2
Harlow	02/03/2014		30/01/2014	01/03/2014	02/03/2014	01/04/2014		30	30		30	36	20.0
Maldon	01/10/2007		01/08/2007	30/09/2007	01/10/2007	30/11/2007		60	60		73	38	-47.9
Rochford	26/01/2014		26/11/2013	25/01/2014	26/01/2014	27/03/2014		60	60		25	15	-40.0
Tendring	02/03/2014		30/01/2014	01/03/2014	02/03/2014	01/04/2014		30	30		31	36	16.1
Uttlesford	01/10/2007		01/08/2007	30/09/2007	01/10/2007	30/11/2007		60	60		56	51	-8.9
A127	16/12/2013		16/10/2013	15/12/2013	16/12/2013	14/02/2014		60	60		0	0	0.0
											812	586	-27.8

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### **9. Injury Collision Data**

#### **Appendix D**

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<b>Uttlesford &amp; Maldon Injury Collisions</b>				
Part Night Lighting Scheme commenced 1/10/2007 for 6.5 years compared against the previous 6.5 years				
		<b>Maldon</b>	<b>Uttlesford</b>	<b>Countywide</b>
01/10/2000	31/03/2007	1401	2216	39471
01/10/2007	31/03/2014	908	1247	26661
	% Decrease	35.19	43.73	32.45
<b>Chelmsford &amp; Braintree Injury Collisions</b>				
Part Night Lighting Scheme commenced 1/9/2013 for 7 months compared against the same 7 months in previous reporting year				
		<b>Chelmsford</b>	<b>Braintree</b>	<b>Countywide</b>
01/09/2012	31/03/2013	220	151	2179
01/09/2013	31/03/2014	214	154	2336
	% Decrease	2.73	-1.99	-7.21
<b>Colchester Injury Collisions</b>				
Part Night Lighting Scheme commenced 1/12/2013 for 5 months compared against the same 5 months in previous reporting year				
		<b>Colchester</b>		<b>Countywide</b>
01/12/2012	31/03/2013	118		1089
01/12/2013	31/03/2014	130		1254
	% Decrease	-10.17		-15.15
<b>Basildon Injury Collisions</b>				
Part Night Lighting Scheme commenced 23/02/2014 for 1 month compared against the same 1 month in previous reporting year				
		<b>Basildon</b>		<b>Countywide</b>
23/02/2013	23/03/2013	23		262
23/02/2014	23/03/2014	34		280
	% Decrease	-47.83		-6.87
<b>Castle Point &amp; Epping Injury Collisions</b>				
Part Night Lighting Scheme commenced 12/01/2014 for 2 months compared against the same 2 months in previous reporting year				
		<b>Castle Point</b>	<b>Epping</b>	<b>Countywide</b>
12/01/2013	12/03/2013	15	65	562
12/01/2014	12/03/2014	26	73	638
	% Decrease	-73.33	-12.31	-13.52
<b>Rochford Injury Collisions</b>				
Part Night Lighting Scheme commenced 1/12/2013 for 5 months compared against the same 5 months in previous reporting year				
		<b>Rochford</b>		<b>Countywide</b>
01/12/2012	31/03/2013	35		821
01/12/2013	31/03/2014	63		947
	% Decrease	-80.00		-15.35
<b>A127 (ECC) Injury Collisions</b>				
Part Night Lighting Scheme commenced 16/12/2013 for 3 months compared against the same 3 months in previous reporting year				
		<b>A127 (ECC)</b>		<b>Countywide</b>
16/12/2012	16/03/2013	17		821
16/12/2013	16/03/2014	21		947
	% Decrease	-23.53		-15.35