

**RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

2009/10

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

Proposed review title: Street Lighting

Aim of review

To review the policies and priorities for Street Lighting in Hillingdon, to demonstrate Best Value and Best Practice. To make recommendations to Cabinet which will improve the service, improve residents' satisfaction and facilitate the production of a formal Street Lighting Policy.

Draft Terms of Reference

- 1. To understand and confirm the Council's statutory duties in relation to street lighting and highway based power supplies;**
- 2. To review how our duties are discharged, including how priorities are arrived at and how resources are allocated;**
- 3. To review recent performance and the methods of performance measurement that are applied to this area;**
- 4. To review what service improvements are being implemented and what improvements could be implemented, to improve performance still further.**
- 5. To review whether the Council's own processes and response rate in dealing with street lighting is timely, effective and cost-efficient, and what effect the responsiveness of the utility companies can have on the service;**
- 6. To seek out views on this subject from residents, using a variety of existing and also contemporary consultation mechanisms;**
- 7. To better understand and contrast the community /road safety and light pollution implications of street lighting;**
- 8. To examine new technologies, e.g. solar power and best practice elsewhere through case studies, policy ideas, witness sessions and site visits and;**
- 9. After due consideration of the above, to bring forward strategic, innovative and also practical policy recommendations to the Cabinet in relation to street lighting in Hillingdon.**

Background and importance

The Council's duty as Highway Authority under the Highways Act 1980, is to maintain highways maintainable at public expense and to take such care as is reasonably required to secure the safety of the highway for all types of traffic using the Highway. The Highways Act does not

require the Highway Authority to provide lighting, although section 97 states that a Highway Authority may provide lighting.

As those responsible for maintaining of the Street Lighting, the Public Lighting Section serves all the residents of the Borough, any visitor to the Borough and anyone travelling through or over it. We also serve local businesses, partners and key external organisations. In addition we work closely with other groups within the council, maintaining lighting in public car parks, roads and footpaths owned by Hillingdon Homes and some Housing Associations.

In 2008/09 1,428 lights out or day burners were reported by residents, road users and lighting section staff, these were attended to in an average of 1.4 calendar days. The regular night patrols detected 2,153 lights needing attention; these were attended to in an average of 1.3 calendar days. Requests for lighting improvements in 24 areas that had not previously be identified were also received. There were 176 lights effect by electricity supply failures these were repaired by the Electricity Boards in an average of 45.10 calendar days.

Reasons for the review

With increasing financial pressures due to energy costs, environmental pressures relating to the use of energy, and emerging technologies which can help us deal with the challenges we face, this is a pertinent time to review the street lighting service.

Equalities

The Public Lighting Section serves all the residents of the Borough, any visitor to the Borough and anyone travelling through it. We also serve local businesses, partners and key external organisations. The street Lighting service is used by all, regardless of race, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation or social background

Who is this review covering?

The Public Lighting, Signs and Road Markings Section .within the Street Scene Maintenance Team, a part of the Highways & Green Spaces Service of the Environment & Consumer Protection Group

Key issues

1. What are the Council's statutory duties in relation to street lighting and highway based powers supplies?
2. How do we set out to fulfil those duties including

Maintaining the Lighting Stock

- Dealing with Service requests and timescales attached
- What maintenance standards are applied

Lighting improvements

- RESPOC may wish to review the framework developed last year to assist in determining where to prioritise improvements in street lighting from funds available

How to make most efficient use of electricity

- The Council is currently reviewing its energy procurement methods and RESPOC may wish to consider this as it relates to street lighting.
- RESPOC may wish to review issues related to national guidance on the level of lighting to be provided in various areas depending upon usage and crime risk.
- RESPOC may wish to consider if there are any locations in the borough where current light levels may require review.

Supply company issues

- Service Level Agreements have now been set up with electricity boards to improve their performance on delayed fault repairs. However, their current performance falls short of the SLA and RESPOC may wish to call witnesses from these companies to account for their organisations' performance in order to seek improvements.
- When lighting columns are replaced, the change over of the electricity supply from the old column to the new one takes time and residents wonder what the delay is.
- The borough's street lighting team have recently changed their procedures to seek to improve the programming of removal of old columns and are considering how to better communicate planned works to residents. RESPOC may wish to review these changes and consider issues related to improving communication to residents on issues related to street lighting.

Dark skies/astronomy related issues

- RESPOC may wish to consider issues associated with 'dark skies' and astronomy as they relate to street lighting, and minimising light pollution

To light or not to light?

- RESPOC may wish to consider issues related to when or whether to put lamps or lighting along footpaths or through parks.
- RESPOC may wish to consider whether more use could be made of LED cats eyes on roads and 'lower level' path lighting through parks, rather than traditional lamp columns.
- RESPOC may wish to consider issues related to requests for floodlighting in parks as part of a potential review.

3. How do we measure performance in Street lighting?

4. What does our recent performance look like? Including Efficiency of Lighting

5. What service improvements are we planning for Street lighting?

- **The Use of Alternative Energy** -RESPOC may wish to review issues related to the potential for solar powered lighting
- **Use of light sources that give better visibility** - Lighting standards no longer support the use of monochromatic light sources like the orange low-pressure sodium lamps that

have been in use for many years. RESPOC may wish to consider how this will impact on the borough

Community and Road Safety

The use of Street Lighting to design out crime, make both residents and motorists feel safer walking and driving.

Methodology

Relevant Documents

Well Lit Highways – Code of practice for highway lighting management
Code of practice for the design of road lighting BS 5489
Road Lighting BS EN 13201
Borough Energy policy

Witnesses/evidence providers

- Philomena Bach (Group Director ECP)
- Mary Worrall (Head of Highways and Green Spaces)
- Jonathan Westell (Street Scene Maintenance Manager)
- Tim Edwards (Manager Public Lighting)
- Representatives from Electricity suppliers & another Local Authority (provisional; to be confirmed)
- Community Safety Team representative

Stakeholders and consultation plan

- Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation – Cllr Keith Burrows
- The Cabinet Member For Environment – Cllr Sandra Jenkins
- Metropolitan Police Service
- Carry Out Website Survey
- Consult “Street Champions” from the Streetscene Locality Working Initiative.
- Motorists’ Forum

Connected work (recently completed, planned or ongoing)

Whole Service Review – completed in 2008
Produce a Street Lighting Policy – to be produced after or as part of review

Outcome

A report to Cabinet with the conclusions of the review and recommendations for any changes to the service that enable Street Lighting to better meet the Council’s targets.

Proposed timeframe & milestones

Meeting/date	Action	Milestone
1. 28 th July	Discuss Scoping of Review	
2. 15 th Sept	Scoping & Presentation	Scope of Review Set

3.	8 th Oct	Witness session	Review Starts
4.	Sept / Oct	Visit / walkabout to illustrate pertinent issues	
5	17 th Nov	Report	Review Ends
6	17 th Dec	Cabinet Considers Report	Decision taken

Risk assessment

There are already pressures on the limited resources of Public Lighting, Signs and Road Markings Section. This review will need significant input from the in house resources.