

# Evidence, Engagement and Consultation Summary – P9

Ref no. P9 Part night lighting - reduce energy consumption by 20%

## Description of proposal

Work is already underway to convert 23,000 street lights in the borough to low energy LED lighting. LED technology has many benefits including the ability to control the lighting levels. This proposal involves dimming LED lights in residential areas. Lights would be dimmed between the hours of midnight and 6am.

## Estimated Net Saving 2023/24

£40,000

## Summary of evidence, engagement and consultation

33 responses on this proposal were made via the online survey, 5% of all responses received.

Overall 8 people (24%) did not support this proposal, 9 people (27%) supported it but with concerns / amendments. 16 people (47%) fully supported the proposal.

Two comments against this proposal refer to the benefit street lights have to them and their property and that street lighting is reassuring for them. One person fears an increase in trips and falls.

*“Our lighting in my street has been changed to led. Although the light is brighter it’s spread is much less and my driveway is now in deep shadow whereas it was before. We have had to buy an outdoor light. If you dim the lights I think it will make life easier for thieves to operate unseen and make our streets less safe. Lots of people in Walsall work shifts and still travel home during these hours.”*

*“I have a street lamp immediately outside my house and having lived at this address for the best part of 40 years, have always found its presence reassuring with regard to street safety and security, particularly as there is only one other lamp in the street.”*

*“Trips and falls likely.”*

Good street lighting is seen to play a key factor in deterring crime and creating the feeling of safety.

*“Lighting plays a key part in crime prevention and making areas safe.”*

*“I am a female and live alone. I worry about my safety if returning home from a night out, and there is inadequate street lighting.”*

*“‘Designing Out Crime’ recommends making areas lighter not darker. In these days where the safety of women walking home alone has been high profile in the media it does not make sense to impose this as a Borough wide strategy.”*

*“Crime and Anti Social behaviour. Could affect crime.”*

Comments in support of the proposal mention the benefit of reduced light pollution and still being of a suitable standard.

*“I have a streetlight directly outside my house and since it has been updated to one of the new LED lamps the light pollution is much reduced. If the lights could be dimmed too this will be even better, so I fully support this plan. There is far too much light pollution in our roads these days with every house seeming to need brighter and brighter spotlights that work all night. Anything that*

*reduces light pollution whilst also saving money and cutting carbon emissions is worth doing.”*

*“Better for sky watching, sleeping.”*

*“It won't affect me. I understand that lighting levels will still be at acceptable industry standards.”*

Alternative suggestions and comments include the use of solar lighting and that the savings the proposal makes is diverted to better CCTV to deter criminal activity.

### **Overall opinion from engagement and consultation**

Respondents generally support this proposal.

### **Justifiable action from the evidence, engagement and consultation suggested in the Equality Impact Assessment**

B – Adjustments required to remove barriers or better promote equality.

### **Mitigating actions required, if proposal approved**

The service will identify the type of location where reductions in illumination levels should not be implemented. e.g. outside of sheltered housing, residences accommodating vulnerable people, formal pedestrian crossing, subways and enclosed footpaths / alleyways, areas with a 24 hour operational emergency service such as hospitals and the immediate vicinity of community safety CCTV. The service feedback will be monitored for protected characteristics.

### **People potentially negatively affected, if proposal approved**

People with disabilities, women and different age groups be adversely impacted by part night lighting reduction in energy consumption.

### **Response from Walsall Council on Proposal Ref P9**

Cabinet intend to implement this proposal, with the adjustments identified within the mitigating action plan.