

BUDGET SETTING 2024-25 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Title of EIA		Switch off street-lighting between 12am and 5.30 am
EIA Author	Name	Ravinder Sekhon
	Position	Acting Head of Traffic
	Date of completion	21.11.23 Updated 08/02/24
Head of Service	Name	Ravinder Sekhon
	Position	Acting Head of Traffic
Cabinet Member	Name	Councillor Patricia Hetherton
	Portfolio	City Services

PLEASE REFER TO [EIA GUIDANCE](#) FOR ADVICE ON COMPLETING THIS FORM

SECTION 1 – Context & Background

1.1 Please tick one of the following options:

This EIA is being carried out on:

- New policy / strategy
- New service
- Review of policy / strategy
- Review of service
- Commissioning
- Other project (*please give details*)

1.2 In summary, what is the background to this EIA?

This EIA examines the implications of a part-night switch off for the Street Lighting in the PFI portfolio.

Switch off Sunday – Thursday 12am – 5.30am and Friday – Saturday 1am – 5.30am. If all the lights are included in the part night switch off except subways and traffic lights the CO2 saving will be 838 tonnes per annum. If all the lights are switch off the savings at the current energy price will be over £1m. Currently the majority of residential street lights have been dimmed to the maximum of 55% output and the traffic routes have some dimming applied. The exemptions to the dimming are the City Centre and Hillfields LED lighting trial.

SECTION 2 – Consideration of Impact

Refer to guidance note for more detailed advice on completing this section.

In order to ensure that we do not discriminate in the way our activities are designed, developed and delivered, we must look at our duty to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conflict that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010

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- Advance equality of opportunity between two persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

2.1 Baseline data and information

In the Annual Street Lighting Survey undertaken in Qt 2 2003 the following scored very highly:

- Provision of good lighting on footpaths
- Provision of good lighting on local roads
- Provision of good lighting improves road safety
- Provision of good lighting improves personal Safety
- Provision of good lighting reduces the frea of crime

We do receive complaints and enquiries about the reduced lighting levels and especially when street lights are not working.

There is no evidence from any other local authorities that part night switch off increases crime; it has actually been reported that it decreases crime. Evidence of this can be seen in the Warwickshire part-Night street Lighting Review and the following studies:

- A [study published in 2015 by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine \(LSHTM\)](#) found no link between street lights being dimmed or switched off and any increase in road accidents or crime.
- <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/street-lighting-may-help-rather-than-hinder-vehicle-crime/30285#:~:text=%E2%80%9COur%20previous%20research%20showed%20that,reduce%20some%20types%20of%20crime.%E2%80%9D>
- <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2022/mar/street-lighting-may-enable-rather-hinder-street-crime>

Consultation feedback – this has been broadly supportive of the proposal, with some concerns highlighted around potential public safety issues – however, see links above for additional information for studies showing decreases in crime rates.

2.2 On the basis of evidence, complete the table below to show what the potential impact is for each of the protected groups.

- Positive impact (P),
- Negative impact (N)
- Both positive and negative impacts (PN)
- No impact (NI)
- Unknown impact (UI)

Any impact on the Council workforce should be included under question 5.0 – **not below*

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Protected Characteristic	Impact type P, N, PN, NI	Nature of impact and any mitigations required
Age 0-18	NI	Lower levels of activity for this groups are expected in the hours of 12am - 5.30am
Age 19-64	UI	There may be a disproportionate impact on resident out of the home between the hours of 12am – 5.30am. However we expect this to be minimal Sunday-Thursday and have therefore shortened the switch off period to 1am – 5.30am when they may be outside.
Age 65+	N	There may be a disproportionate impact on elderly residents who are outside of their homes – typically some of these residents having poor eyesight and potential physical frailty. Consideration can be given to specific locations – close to elderly people care homes, sheltered accommodation and A&E Departments. Consider the public communications about the changes.
Disability	N	There may be a disproportionate impact on people with physical disabilities who may place additional reliance on having roads and pavements lit. Consider an exemption scheme and explore lit routes. Consider the public communications about the changes.
Gender reassignment	NI	Changes in lighting would not have any specific/targetted impact
Marriage and Civil Partnership	NI	Changes in lighting would not have any specific/targetted impact
Pregnancy and maternity	N	There maybe a disproportionate impact on people who are pregnant who may place additional reliance on having roads and pavements lit. Consider the public communications about the changes.
Race (Including: colour, nationality, citizenship ethnic or national origins)	N	In areas of high racially motivated hate crime - changes in lighting could have a potentially negative impact
Religion and belief	NI	Changes in lighting would not have any specific/targetted impact
Sex	N	Females may feel more vulnerable and the risk of assault may be greater. Consider an exceptions scheme based on crime rates and ASB hotspots and explore lit routes.
Sexual orientation	NI	Changes in lighting would not have any specific/targetted impact

2.3 Will there be any potential impacts in relation to health and/or digital inequalities?

Yes - Elderly, disabled and females as they have more reliance on lighting of roads and pavements.

Street lighting risk assessment to be undertaken in view to keeping on lighting:

- Where there are potential hazards on the highway such as roundabouts, traffic signal controlled junctions, central carriageway islands, traffic calming features, road humps etc.
- At formal pedestrian crossings (Zebra, Pelican, Puffin, Toucan and Pegasus).
- Areas covered by permanent Local Authority/Police CCTV cameras.
- Areas adjacent to elderly people care homes, sheltered accommodation complexes and

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- A&E departments.
- Lighting adjacent to operational taxi ranks
- Lighting on public footpaths, alleyways and cycle paths which are located away from roads.

3.0 Will there be any potential impacts on Council staff from protected groups?

No

4.0 How will you monitor and evaluate the effect of this work?

A trial period to be considered in which we can monitor impact on reported crime, personal incidents & road safety.

5.0	Action Planning	
Issue Identified	Planned Action	Timeframe
n/a		

6.0 Completion Statement

As the appropriate Head of Service for this area, I confirm that the potential equality impact is as follows:

- No impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
- Positive impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
- Negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
- Both positive and negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups

7.0 Approval

Signed: Head of Service: Ravinder Sekhon	Date: 06.02.24 / 08.02.24
Name of Director: Colin Knight	Date sent to Director: 06.02.24 / 08.02.24
Name of Lead Elected Member: Councillor Patricia Hetherton	Date sent to Councillor: 06.02.24 / 08.02.24