

PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025

Present: Cllrs Andy Canning (Chair), Andrew Starr (Vice-Chair), Richard Crabb, Sherry Jespersen, Mike Parkes, Roland Tarr and David Taylor

Present remotely: Cllrs Simon Gibson

Apologies: Cllrs David Northam

Also present:

Also present remotely:

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Jack Wiltshire (Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering)

Officers present remotely (for all or part of the meeting):

43. Minutes

The Minutes from the meeting of the Place and Resources Committee on 30/01/2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

44. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

45. Public Participation

The following statement was shared by the Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering on behalf of **Dr Gavin Rider, Dorset Council Resident**.

- The calculations presented to illustrate the energy efficiency and running cost savings of low-CCT luminaires are not representative of the best available options. CU Phosco Nightscape 1850K LED luminaires, for example, outperform the Ampera Evo 2700K luminaires given as examples by APSE. There are also likely to be other makes that perform just as well (e.g. the Nichia 1800K LED street lights that have been installed on the A47 at Longthorpe, near Peterborough, which were selected to blend in with the existing high pressure sodium lights: <https://flickread.com/edition/html/index.php?pdf=66fbccca0c1f6#33>).
- This shows that it would be feasible to install these amber LEDs without having to increase the number of lighting columns or reduce their spacing as is stated in the briefing document.

- Amber (1850K) LEDs are preferable over higher CCT LEDs for environmental protection reasons, being less disruptive to nocturnal species.
- Amber LEDs emit very little blue light, hence they comply with the recommendations for the avoidance of blue-rich light at night (issued by the American Medical Association, Public Health England, the 2nd International Workshop on Circadian and Neurophysiological Photometry and ICNIRP [International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection]). This is necessary to avoid the very serious negative health impacts that are associated with melatonin suppression, which causes circadian rhythm disruption. (As was also noted by the National Institute for Health Research, part of the NHS, in 2015).
- British Standard BS5489 (Code of Practice for lighting of roads and public amenity areas) specifies lighting standards that are based on the environmental zones specified in ILP guidance document GN01. Recommended spill light levels from street lighting are also based on the same environmental zones. It is therefore essential to comply with the definitions for environmental zones contained in GN01, which are based on the ambient light level of the area measured with a special low-light meter called a Sky Quality Meter.
- Failure to use the correct environmental zone definitions (as has been the case in Dorset for many years) results in lights being used that have a higher brightness than is specified in British Standard BS5489. This results in excessive light pollution, spill light levels, energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. Correctly following the environmental zone definitions in GN01 (i.e. using SQM values) will allow lower-powered lights to be used, creating less environmental impact, less light intrusion nuisance, and lower CO₂ emissions. For example, a calculation performed for another local authority indicated that operating the lights at P5 level (the correct level for residential zones according to BS5489) instead of the P4 level hitherto used, would immediately achieve a 40% reduction in electricity consumption.

46. **Questions from Councillors**

There were no questions from Councillors.

47. **Street Lighting Review**

The Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering presented the report and illustrated the difference of the Light-emitting Diode (LED) options that were considered as part of the report and detailed the financial and environmental impacts of the recommendations.

Following the presentation there was a wide-ranging discussion that considered several key areas and emphasised points in the process leading to and final policy considered by Cabinet after consultation.

- Environmental, wildlife and human impact of lighting
- The limitations of options of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangements in terms of options and supply chain considerations.

- The importance of being bound by reality and what was deliverable and feasible
- Technical and financial issues
- Regional and local differences of requirements and the importance of zoning appropriately.

The Place and Resources Overview Committee's key considerations and recommendations for the development of the policy

- The timings of street lighting and when they should be on or off and the potential of dimming options.
- The potential of using shading/shielding to access the better value options without causing residents issues via light spilling
- The definition and reassessment of the environmental zones and the importance of local choice and area differentiation.
- Minimum or no lighting as the default position with the need for the light to be justified based on safety or legal requirement.
- To clarify the cost to Town and Parish councils and the options for early replacement or preference-based changes.
- The replacement rate and the cost implications of increasing that rate.
- The lighting in new developments would be required to align with the policy adopted.
- last train or bus times to be coordinated with lighting switch off times.
- Safety considerations and the opportunity with adaptive lighting.
- Coordination and partnership working with developers, housing providers and others who may have their own lighting provision.
- The importance of a thorough consultation and engagement with the local communities to create a robust policy.

It was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Tarr that the policy be referred to Cabinet in September with the above considerations and recommendations.

48. Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme

The committee discussed the forward plan and the Cabinet forward plan.

The following areas were suggested as items-

- Hedge to hedge
- Flooding and flood response- Climate resilience

49. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

50. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.43 am

Chairman

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