Street lighting Consultation document and questionnaire

Have your say
Find out why we are switching to LED street lights and tell us your views on street lighting options across Kent

kent.gov.uk/streetlights
Consultation closes 29 November 2015
An 'easy-read' version of this document is also available from our website or upon request. For any other formats or languages, please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or phone 03000 421553 Text Relay: 18001 03000 421553
Introduction

The County Council has recently secured funding to convert all of its street lights to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology. LED’s are significantly more efficient than the existing lights. Improvements in LED technology and a reduction in prices mean that LED lights are now the first choice for street lighting. We already use LED lights as a matter of course when replacing our old or failed street lights.

The work will involve changing the lantern on the existing column and will start early next year, 2016. We will begin by converting the lights in residential areas, which will take about fourteen months, followed by the main routes and town centres. The work will take around three years and when complete these changes could reduce our current energy and carbon emission costs by 60%, saving around £5.2m, each year.

As well as using much less energy, LED lights are more reliable and require less maintenance. When combined with a Central Management System (CMS) we will be able to monitor our energy use, detect faults, dim lights and control the time that the lights turn on and off.

As the new LED / CMS technology is more flexible, we have the opportunity to review the way that we provide street lighting. The pages that follow explain the changes that have been made so far and give details of future street lighting options.

Please take time to read the information then answer and return the questionnaire at the back of this booklet so that we can understand your views on street lighting within the county.
Background

Kent County Council is one of the largest lighting authorities in the UK and has around 118,000 street lights and some 25,000 lit signs and bollards. The current annual cost of illuminating and maintaining these is over £9m, a cost that keeps rising.

Between December 2013 and autumn 2014 we converted approximately half of our street lights to part-night operation; these lights are located mainly in residential areas and minor roads. This is currently saving about £1m each year.

We did not turn lights off in the following areas:

- Main routes with a significant night-time traffic record between 12.00 midnight and 05.30am
- Town centres
- Areas identified by the police as having an existing record of crime or having the potential for increased crime levels if the street lighting is changed
- Areas with sheltered housing and other residences accommodating vulnerable people
- Areas with operational emergency services sites, including hospitals and nursing homes
- Formal pedestrian crossings, subways and enclosed footpaths and alleyways where one end links to a road that is lit all night
- Where road safety measures are in place on the highway, such as roundabouts, central carriageway islands, chicanes, speed humps, etc.
- Roads that have local authority CCTV or police surveillance equipment
- Sites with existing or with potential road or footpath safety concerns

If you would like to see how the street lights operate in your street you can do this using your postcode via the online map at the following link: kent.gov.uk/streetlightsmap.

There is no statutory duty on local authorities to light the highway. Where lighting is provided, however, we have a duty to maintain the street lights appropriately.

With the ever increasing pressures on our budgets, we need to find ways of saving more money to safeguard essential frontline services such as adult & children’s social care, and road maintenance. The use of LED and CMS will help considerably with this.
What is the purpose of this consultation

- We want to hear your views on options for street lighting across the county
- We want to hear your thoughts and concerns

Your responses will be used to inform the Council Members’ decision making process for a new street lighting policy.

Why do we need your views?

We are aware that some people have concerns about part-night lighting, in particular that it may lead to an increase in crime or the fear of crime. We have been working very closely with Kent Police who have analysed their records and stated that they have found no correlation between crime rates and changes to street lighting. However, with the flexibility provided by LED & CMS we would like to know how you would prefer the street lights to operate.

What is the consultation timeline?

This consultation will run for ten weeks, from Monday 21 September to Sunday 29 November 2015 (inclusive). **The deadline for all responses is Sunday 29 November 2015.**
Options

We would like to know which of the following options you would prefer.

1. **Part-night lighting – the current level of service**

2. **All-night lighting**

### 1. Part-night lighting – the current level of service

Under this option, street lights are switched off between the hours of 12.00 midnight and 05.30 Greenwich Mean Time (01.00 and 06.30 British Summer Time). When the lights are converted to LED the annual savings could be around £5.2m. Of the two options this will generate the most savings and is considered to be the more cost effective option as it reduces the likelihood of financial cuts being made to other services.

Turning lights off also reduces light pollution

### 2. All-night lighting

When the lights are converted to LED the annual savings for an all-night lighting approach could be around £4.8m. This means that it would cost the County Council £400,000 more each year to provide all-night lighting, increasing the likelihood of financial cuts being made to other services.

Leaving the street lights on all night may reduce people’s fear of crime but it will also increase light pollution.

**Dimming**

Along with the options above we are seeking your views on the dimming of streetlights when the roads are less busy (for example, late evening and early hours of the morning). This could provide additional energy and financial savings.

Other authorities with LED street lights have found that dimming light levels by 30% - 50% is a reasonable approach. For example, if we dimmed the lights by 40% between 12 - 5.30am under all night lighting operation (Option 2), then this would reduce the potential £400,000 cost by approximately £160,000 a year.
How to get involved and have your say

No decisions have been taken and we want to hear what you think of these options. Please let us know by visiting kent.gov.uk/streetlights and completing the online consultation questionnaire. Alternatively, complete the consultation questionnaire on page 7.

A draft Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for these options and can be viewed on our website or on request by contacting streetlighting@kent.gov.uk.

What happens next?

We will be consulting on this proposal from 21 September to 29 November. Your responses will help us develop our policy and this, along with the Equality Impact Assessment, will be presented to Kent County Council’s Transport and Environment Cabinet Committee at the beginning of 2016.
Street Lighting Consultation Questionnaire

This questionnaire can be completed online at kent.gov.uk/streetlights. Alternatively, fill in this version and return to Freepost KCC STREET LIGHT CONSULTATION (please write address in capital letters).

What information do you need before completing the questionnaire?
We recommend that you read the consultation document before responding to this questionnaire.

Summary
We provide street lighting and are accountable for lighting our highways and footpaths across Kent. This totals around 118,000 street lights and some 25,000 lit signs and bollards. We would like to know how you would prefer Kent’s roads to be lit.

Due to reductions in Central Government funding, Kent County Council needs to make extensive savings across the whole authority. Option 1 (Part-night lighting) provides the most savings, around £400,000 more each year than Option 2. If Option 2 (All-night lighting) is preferred we would need to look at how this £400,000 would be funded and consider its impact on other services.

Privacy
Kent County Council collects and processes personal information in order to provide a range of public services. Kent County Council respects the privacy of individuals and endeavours to ensure personal information is collected fairly, lawfully, and in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.
Q1. Are you completing this questionnaire on behalf of:

Please select one option

- [ ] Yourself (as an individual)
- [ ] Yourself as a member of KCC staff
- [ ] A District/Town/Parish Council
- [ ] A Business
- [ ] A Voluntary or Community Sector Organisation (VCS)
- [ ] Other, please specify: 

Q1a. If you are responding on behalf of a Council/Business/VCS organisation, please tell us the name of the organisation:
Q2. The options for street lighting are outlined in the consultation document (page 5). Please indicate which option you would prefer.

☐ Option 1: Part-night-lighting - the current level of service

☐ Option 2: All-night lighting

Q2a. Please tell us the reason(s) why you prefer this option:
Q3. Do you think it’s a good idea to dim street lights when the roads and footways are less busy, for example, late evening and early hours of the morning?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Late evening, e.g. 8pm to midnight</th>
<th>Overnight, e.g. midnight to 5am</th>
<th>Early morning, e.g. 5am to 8am, if dark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q3a. Please add any supporting comments here:
Q4. We have completed a draft Equality Impact Assessment for the street lighting options. An EqIA is a tool to assess the impact any policies or strategies would have on race, age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, religion or belief and carer’s responsibilities. We welcome your views.

The EqIA can be accessed via kent.gov.uk/streetlights or on request from streetlighting@kent.gov.uk.

Please add comments below:

Q5. Would you like to make any further comments on the options for street lighting?

Please add comments below:
Q6. Please tell us your postcode

Q7. As part of the consultation, we will be looking to invite a small number of residents to take part in some workshop events and focus groups to discuss their views in further detail. Would you be interested in taking part in one of these discussion sessions?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If you have answered “yes”, please fill in your contact details so we can provide you with further details should you be selected to take part:

Name

Town/Area

Email

Phone no.

Please note that places at the discussion sessions are limited. Therefore, not everyone who expresses an interest in these sessions will necessarily be re-contacted.

You only need to answer these questions if you have responded as an Individual or as a member of KCC staff. It is not necessary to answer these questions if you are responding on behalf of an Organisation.

About You... We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that no one gets left out. That’s why we are asking you these questions. We won’t share the information you give us with anyone else. We’ll use it only to help us make decisions, and improve our services. If you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don’t have to.

Q8. Are you....? Please select one box.

☐ Male  ☐ Female  ☐ I prefer not to say
Q9. Which of these age groups applies to you? Please select one box.

- [ ] 0 - 15
- [ ] 25 - 34
- [ ] 50 - 59
- [ ] 65 - 74
- [ ] 85 + over
- [ ] 16 - 24
- [ ] 35 - 49
- [ ] 60 - 64
- [ ] 75 - 84
- [ ] I prefer not to say

Q10. To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong? (Source: 2011 census)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Asian or Asian British</th>
<th>Black or Black British</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>White &amp; Black Caribbean</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish</td>
<td>White &amp; Black African</td>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>African</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welsh</td>
<td>White &amp; Asian</td>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td>Other*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Irish</td>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>I prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gypsy/Roma</td>
<td>*Other Ethnic Group - if your ethnic group is not specified in the list, please describe it here:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Traveller</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is likely to last, at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example), are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Q11. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] I prefer not to say
Q11a. If you answered Yes to Q11, please tell us which type of impairment applies to you.
You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all the impairments that apply to you. If none of these apply to you, please select Other, and write in the type of impairment you have.

- Physical impairment
- Sensory impairment (hearing, sight or both)
- Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy
- Other, please specify: ____________________________
- Mental health condition
- Learning disability
- I prefer not to say

Q12. Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion or belief?

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Q12a. If you answered Yes to Q12, which of the following applies to you?

- Christian
- Hindu
- Muslim
- Any other religion, please specify: ____________________________
- Buddhist
- Jewish
- Sikh

Q13. Are you?

- Heterosexual/Straight
- Gay woman/Lesbian
- Other
- Bi/Bisexual
- Gay man
- I prefer not to say

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us.