

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: **THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSING AND REGENERATION
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

REPORT SUBJECT: **REDUCING HOURS OF STREET
LIGHTING ILLUMINATION**

REPORT AUTHOR: **KEN WEEKS – STREET LIGHTING
MANAGER**

**LEAD OFFICER/
DEPARTMENT** **CORPORATE DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENT**

1. **PURPOSE**

To provide further detail and proposals for energy saving measures associated with the switching off of street lighting within the County Borough Council to mitigate the impact and help reduce the financial risk of recent utility contract price rises and budget pressures.

2. **BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Authority has approximately 11,700 lighting units of which some 6362 are currently fitted with 'Mayflower' remote switching technology.

2.2 'Mayflower' allows the Authority to individually switch on/off lights from a central location. Before the introduction of this technology lights relied on photoelectric cells which reacted to natural lighting levels namely the onset of dusk and the arrival of dawn.

3. **PRESENT POSITION**

3.1 The following options relate to potential savings that could be made by switching off streetlights at certain periods using 'Mayflower' switching technology.

3.2 **Option 1. – Switching Off From Midnight to Dawn.**

This option involves the switching off of all lights fitted with 'Mayflower' from the hours midnight to dawn.

This option comes with potential high risks as it would require **all lights to be switched off** including lighting in key 'high risk' areas such as:

Town Centres
Principle road junctions and roundabouts
Areas covered by CCTV facilities
Pedestrian Crossings

Based on current energy costs adoption of Option 1. could save in the region of £224,000 per annum.

3.3 **Option 2. - Switching off from Midnight to Dawn Modified**

As Option 1 above but with 'high risk' areas excluded from switching off namely **lights kept on at:**

Town Centres
Principle road junctions and roundabouts
Areas covered by CCTV facilities
Pedestrian Crossings

Based on current energy costs adoption of Option 2. could save in the region of £180,000 per annum.

3.4 **Option 3. – Switching off from Midnight and Switching Back on 1 Hour Before Dawn**

This option is a variation on Option 2. with the difference being that lighting is switched back on 1 hour before dawn in order to provide lighting for the onset of morning highway users.

Based on current energy costs adoption of Option 3. could save in the region of £115,000 per annum.

3.5 **Preferred Option**

Option 2. 'Switching off from Midnight to Dawn Modified'

presents an optimum solution in minimising risks, reducing energy costs and maintaining lighting to key high risk areas.

Accompanying document titled 'Street Lighting Energy Saving Proposals' lists on a Ward-to-Ward basis streets that will be affected and also Plans identifying on a Ward-to-Ward basis areas and highways affected by the proposals.

PHASING OF SWITCH OFF

- 3.6 In order to ensure a smooth transaction for the introduction of reducing hours of street lighting illumination it is proposed that the 'switch off' will be phased. This will allow officers to monitor the impact of the proposals. It is anticipated that all lights that are to be switched off over a period of two weeks.

3.7 CRITERIA FOR SWITCHING BACK ON OF LIGHTS

- 3.8 It is inevitable that when lights are switched off there will be requests for certain lights to be switched back on. It is important that a criteria and protocol is developed to assess and determine whether lights should be switched back on.

- 3.9 It is proposed that requests will be prioritised according to their potential risks and would be ranked as Priority 1, Priority 2 and Priority 3.

- 3.10 Appendix 1 outlines the criteria, type of request, assessment forum, and timescales by which decisions pertaining to switching lights back on will be determined.

3.11 RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 3.12 Accident records, traffic flow data, anti social behaviour hotspots and crime location data have all been reviewed in line with areas identified under the proposals and appropriate Risk Assessments undertaken.

- 3.13 Maintaining lighting at the following locations is proposed..

Town Centres
Principle road junctions and roundabouts
Areas covered by CCTV facilities

Pedestrian Crossings

Monitoring of the impact of the proposals will be undertaken on a regular basis.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no cost implications associated with the implementation of Option 2. – ‘Switching off from Midnight to Dawn modified’.

5. **STATEMENT CONFIRMING THAT CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

6. **STAFFING/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

To utilise existing resources

7. **CONSULTATION**

HUMAN RESOURCES	CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER / MONITORING OFFICER	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES / S.151	OTHER
			X

- 7.1 Consultation on these proposals has been undertaken with
Community Safety
Police
Risk Management Group

8. **CONCLUSION**

Option 2. – ‘Switching off from Midnight to Dawn Modified’ presents an optimum solution to reducing energy costs whilst maintaining lighting to key ‘high risk’ areas.

9. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 9.1 That Option 2 – ‘Switching off from Midnight to Dawn Modified’ is implemented with a potential saving of some £180,000 per annum.

- 9.2 That the switching off of lights is phased over a two week period.
- 9.3 That monitoring and review of the proposals are undertaken on a regular basis.

10. **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

To reduce street lighting energy costs in line with Corporate budget savings.

APPENDIX 1

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SWITCHING LIGHTS BACK ON

	RISK	TYPES OF REQUEST	ASSESSMENT FORUM	TIME SCALE FOR ASSESSMENT
PRIORITY 1	HIGH	TRAFFIC/PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT PERSONAL INJURY	CHIEF OFFICER	1 WORKING DAY
PRIORITY 2	MEDIUM	ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES CRIME PERCEPTION ISSUES	NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT JOINT TASKING GROUP	NEXT TIME TABLED GROUP MEETING
PRIORITY 3	LOW	SPECIFIC PUBLIC/MEMBER REQUEST (excluding Priority 1 and Priority 2 requests)	NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT JOINT TASKING GROUP	NEXT TIME TABLED GROUP MEETING