

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

## STREET LIGHTING POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

In August 2012, the council produced a draft revised Street Lighting Policy and this was accompanied by a comprehensive EqIAA. At the end of 2013, the EqIAA was further developed and a new Street Lighting Policy was approved in April 2014.

Now, in 2017, changes have been proposed to the Street Lighting Policy which are based on:

- The changing priorities of the Council
- The changes in industry and market conditions.
- Technological advances
- The learning experiences of part night lighting
- Consultation and feedback from key stakeholders

The key amendments to be investigated by this EqIAA in 2017 are:

- To introduce a policy stating that there will no longer be part night lighting - the policy would state that street lighting will be on all night during the hours of darkness.
- In addition, a dimming regime would be implemented as follows: 75% output from dusk till 11.pm. Dimmed to 50% output from 11.00pm until 6.00am (+/- 15 minutes) GMT 75% from 6.00am till dawn. During British Summer Time (BST) the street lights will dim at 2am (+/- 15mins) and turn back on at 07.00am (+/- 15mins) if it is still dark.
- Overall, this would result in a more positive impact on the street lighting budget when compared to the current investment strategies of dimming & part night.

Taking our learning from previous EqIAAs conducted in 2012 and 2013 and subsequent resident feedback, this EqIAA assesses and analyses impacts in respect of Protected Characteristic groups identified within the Equality Act 2010.

## RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION CONDUCTED

Previous EqIAAs have assessed that there are no issues emerging that would disproportionately disadvantage any particular protected characteristic group in respect of the following aspects of the policy:

- Legislation
- Environmental Impact
- Maintenance Requirements
- Design
- Replacement works
- Added Value
- Light Sources
- Future Strategy

These previous EqIAAs are available on the council website at the following link:

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/equal-opportunities-information/equality-impact-assessment-and-analysis/>

### Hours of Illumination

With respect to the area of “*Hours of Illumination*” this is the key issues under investigation by this EqIAA as detailed within the Introduction section. The EqIAAs completed in 2012 and 2013 identified potential for negative impact in this area, and also detailed mitigating actions. The protected characteristic groups identified as being impacted were:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender Reassignment
4. Pregnancy and Maternity
5. Race
6. Religion or Belief
7. Sex
8. Sexual Orientation

The potential negative impacts surround 3 main issues as follows:

1. Crime and anti-social behaviour including fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and the likelihood of going out at night.
2. Night time road accidents.
3. Trip, slip and fall accidents.

All of these impacts related to the introduction of a part night street lighting policy. Therefore, the next section of this EqIAA, investigates the equalities impacts relating to the re-introduction of full night street lighting along with the dimming regimes stated.

## IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF EQUALITIES ISSUES AND IMPACTS

As previously stated, the particular issues associated with hours of illumination are:-

- Crime and anti-social behaviour including fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and the likelihood of going out at night.
- Night time road accidents.
- Trip, slip and fall accidents.

Since the introduction of part night street lighting, the following has been noted:-

- Since the introduction of part night street lighting and street lighting dimming, there has been no notable adverse impact on crime.
- Since the introduction of part night street lighting and street lighting dimming, there has been no notable adverse impact on night time road accidents.
- Since the introduction of part night street lighting and street lighting dimming, there has been no notable adverse impact on trip, slip and fall accidents.

The Streetcare Satisfaction Survey of 2015 found the following:-

- Of the comments received, the second largest number of comments made were focussed on the negative effects of reduced street lighting, in particular many respondents felt their lives are less safe as a result. A number of female respondents particularly felt less safe, as did older residents and children and young people were also cited as being impacted. On the flip side however, there were a number of comments in support of reduced street lighting. 184 comments were complaints about the negative effects of the part night lighting programme and 82 comments were in favour of reduced street lighting.

A proposed policy being investigated by this EqIAA balances revenue impact with the street lighting services offered. As such, it is proposed to cease part night lighting and re-introduce full night street lighting with the detailed dimming regime.

Overall, it is anticipated that an introduction of this policy would have a neutral impact because:

The three issues identified by previous EqIAAs which relate to part night lighting have been evidenced to result in no notable adverse impact. Therefore, should there be part night or full night street lighting with a dimming regime, there is no evidence of increases or decreases in crime, road accidents or trip, slip and fall accidents. As such, this results in no change to impacts for people with protected characteristics with the exception of 'fear of crime' and 'concern over potential slip, trip and fall accidents' which have the potential to be reduced by the re-introduction of a full night street lighting policy.

**EqIAA OUTCOME**

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Reason(s) and Justification</b>
<b>Outcome 1:</b> No major change required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Since the introduction of part night street lighting and street lighting dimming, there has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– no notable adverse impact on crime. It is also likely that initial concerns around fear of crime have subsided.</li> <li>– no notable adverse impact on night time road accidents.</li> <li>– no notable adverse impact on trip, slip and fall accidents.</li> </ul> <p>It is anticipated that the re-introduction of full night street lighting would not have a negative impact on any of these issues.</p> <p>As such, this results in no change to impacts for people with protected characteristics with the exception of ‘fear of crime’ and ‘concern over potential slip, trip and fall accidents’ which have the potential to be reduced by the re-introduction of a full night street lighting policy.</p> <p>A more positive impact on the street lighting budget when compared to the current investment, dimming &amp; part night regimes has also been noted.</p>
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Adjustments to remove barriers or to better promote equality have been identified.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Outcome 3:</b> Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Outcome 4:</b> Stop and rethink.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THIS EqIAA**

- Implement the policy.
- Monitor the impact for all protected characteristic groups, both perceived and actual, through on-going dialogue with the Police, Ward Councillors and the local community and by responding to complaints from the public.
- Implement appropriate actions as a result of on-going monitoring findings.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Council held data in respect of resident views and experiences of street lighting

Marchant, P.R. (2011) "Have new street lighting schemes reduced crime in London?" *Radical Statistics*, 104, pp39-48 -[http://www.radstats.org.uk/no104/Marchant2\\_104.pdf](http://www.radstats.org.uk/no104/Marchant2_104.pdf)

Marchant, P.R.(2010) "What is the contribution of street lighting to keeping us safe? An investigation into a policy." *Radical Statistics*, 102, pp32-42 -  
<http://www.radstats.org.uk/no102/Marchant102.pdf>

Marchant, P.R., (2004) "A demonstration that the claim that brighter lighting reduces crime is unfounded", *British Journal of Criminology*, 44, pp.441-447.

**EqIAA first produced August 2012.**

**EqIAA updated August 2013.**

**This EqIAA produced December 2016.**