

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL****ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
2 SEPTEMBER 2010****DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL STREET LIGHTING POLICY****1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To bring to the Committee's attention the changes to the lighting regime proposed by Devon County Council.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Devon County Council is in its second year of a three to five year programme to introduce part time lighting in residential areas across Devon.
- 2.2 This programme forms part of DCC's carbon reduction strategy.
- 2.3 The strategy has two parts:
- Phased part-night lighting in residential areas which means that the lights will be on from dusk to 12:30 am and from 5:30am to dawn
  - All-night lighting of major routes, roundabouts, CCTV sites, high crime risk areas, night clubs, taxi ranks etc. consideration would be given to dimming these lights. Roger Crane (Control Centre Manager) has commented that dimming would not be suitable in CCTV areas as evidential quality images need to be gathered.
- 2.4 It is of interest to note that some of Exeter City Council's "District Lighting" (not public lighting that DCC is responsible for but other lights that ECC maintain and pay for the energy) could also be adjusted and this could help towards our carbon reduction strategy. Note that some lights in parks and open spaces may be considered but only where safe and appropriate.
- 2.5 Exeter City Council currently pays around £30,000 for energy costs for District Lighting.
- 2.6 It is understood that part-time lighting may give rise to concerns in some areas so DCC and D & C Constabulary will be working together to ensure that the decision making process includes considerations of crime, disorder and road safety. There will be discussions with the local councilors for the individual areas to ensure that the best arrangements are agreed on.

**3.0 VIEWS – COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR**

- 3.1 Michael Miller (the Community Safety Partnership Coordinator) has been in touch with Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and has prepared the following comments. Note that some of the observations such as having different times on different days are impractical. However a trial area could be given consideration to see the effects of the changes.
- 3.2 "From the viewpoint of Exeter Police and the Community Safety Partnership, there

would be some concerns about the effect on crime and disorder of reduced or zero lighting in areas of the city.

- 3.3 As so often, it is difficult to prove in advance what the outcome would be, but we can be fairly certain that, even if actual crime were not to increase, public fear of crime certainly would. People walking home late at night would undoubtedly feel less comfortable with no street lighting.
- 3.4 We would therefore suggest that any alteration to the current system should be regarded as a trial, for say three months, in order to monitor any effect on crime and disorder in the area, and to gauge public reaction.
- 3.5 There are parts of the city where there is good coverage by CCTV, especially the city centre, and this provides good evidence when prosecuting cases in court. However, CCTV requires good lighting conditions in order to ensure the best possible quality. It would therefore be detrimental for lighting to be switched off or even reduced in Area 3. The proposal needs perhaps to be considered in terms of the appropriate solution for each Area, according to the day of the week, and the proposed times.
- 3.6 Consideration should be given to varying the times on different days of the week. For example, there are areas where there could be significantly different issues on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, as against the other days of the week. Perhaps on those nights, the lighting could be reduced after, say, 3.30am.
- 3.7 It is not clear whether the areas as indicated on the maps need to be taken as a whole, or whether individual streets can be considered separately – presumably they can be, as the main routes have already been isolated. For example, Longbrook Street could be lit, while the rest of Area 2 is not, and following from the previous point, it could be lit on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, but not Sunday to Wednesday.
- 3.8 Depending upon any response to these suggestions, further analysis could be undertaken to establish areas or streets which would be regarded as hotspots for crime and disorder, and therefore deserving of individual attention.”

#### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) Members' comments are sought on the proposed changes to the street lighting regime for Exeter;
- (2) that Members give consideration to choosing an area of the city to trial the implementation of the Policy for a period of six months; and
- (3) that the city centre area should be exempted from the Policy.

**KARIME HASSAN  
INTERIM DIRECTOR**

#### **ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**

**Background papers used in compiling this report:-**

DCC letter, leaflet and maps

Michael Miller draft