



Equality Impact Assessment

Full assessment form v5 / 2013

www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Directorate:

Director of Transport, environment & business support

**Function e.g. HR,
IS, carers:**

Transport Planning

Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy (new or old):

Street lighting vision and strategy

Type of policy, service, function, project or strategy:

☒ New / proposed

☐ Changed

☐ Existing

Lead officer

Hayley Chivers

People involved with completing the EIA:

Hayley Chivers.
Michael Adams.

Introductory information (Optional)

Portsmouth City Council are looking to replace approximately 16,000 street lighting luminaries with Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology, in order to reduce its energy consumption, CO2 emissions, and costs. The street lighting network will be operated and managed remotely, via means of a Central Management System (CMS). The CMS coupled with LED technology will allow individual street lights or groups of street lights to be switched 'on or off', to vary the brightness of the street lights, and also to monitor the amount of energy being used.

Step 1 - Make sure you have clear aims and objectives

What is the aim of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?

The aims of the street lighting strategy are;

- An effective and energy efficient street lighting network
- A well maintained street lighting network
- A cost effective street lighting network that represent best value

Who is the policy, service, function, project or strategy going to benefit or have a detrimental effect on and how?

All road users and the wider community will benefit from the high standard of LED lighting, in terms of using a 'white' light source, with the ability to distinguish colours at night, which will aid and enhance CCTV picture quality, with the benefits of significantly reduced energy consumption, CO2 emissions, and costs.

The Central Management System (CMS) for street lighting provides the ability to vary street lighting levels and to control operational lighting times. Alterations to the existing street lighting service provision have not yet been determined, but we do understand that any future alterations could have a slight detrimental impact on certain groups who might feel more vulnerable to travel in reduced lighting levels, these include those in the following groups the elderly, ethnic minority, LGBT, women, transgender, religious and disabled. Reduced lighting levels may also have a detrimental impact on certain disability groups such as the visually impaired.

What outcomes do you want to achieve?

- 1) Promote and maintain the safety for all highway users.
- 2) Assist in the reduction of crime and the fear of crime
- 3) Deliver well-designed street lighting in keeping with the environment.
- 4) Develop and implement a cost effective street lighting solution
- 5) Lead by example with a significant reduction in street lighting energy consumption minimising our carbon emissions.
- 6) Identify criteria for the duration and level of street lighting.
- 7) Maintain the street lighting network to a good standard
- 8) Use of state of the art technology and innovation for street lighting in the city

What barriers are there to achieving these outcomes?

The consultation identified barriers which were categorised into themes. Short term-funding was identified, however this has already been identified. Removal of seafront decorative lighting was identified, this is outside the scope of the project. The other themes are as follows;

- lack of evidence for/ understanding by residents
- risk of prioritising cost/environmental benefits over safety
- local area specific issues
- ensure comply with legislation
- ensure system is hacker proof

Step 2 - Collecting your information

What existing information / data do you have? (Local or national data) If you don't have any data contact the Equalities and diversity team for some ideas

The census 2011 states the usual resident population of Portsmouth is 205,025 with 88,091 dwellings and a density of 50.7 people per hectare.

From December 2012 to March 2013 a trial of Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting was undertaken in three residential roads; Augustine Road, Solent Road and Uplands Road in Drayton. The trial included a Central Management System (CMS). The trial experimented with several different options;

Dec-12,	Energy monitoring at pre-trial levels,	All lit hours
Jan-13,	Lighting dimmed by 25%,	Midnight to 5am
	Lighting dimmed by a further 25%	Midnight to 5am
Feb-13	Lighting dimmed to 50%	8pm to 5am
	Part night switch off on approximately 1/3 of lights.	Midnight to 5am
	Part night lighting with 100% lighting level.	Midnight to 5am
Mar-13	Part night switch off on all lights	Midnight to 5am
	Current All lights dimmed by 25%	8pm to 5am

Members of the public were informed about the trial prior to it starting. Two people confirmed their support for the initiative and commented about the pleasing aesthetics of the new LED lights. Aside from a query about the timing of the lighting, there have been no other comments from the public.

Using your existing data, what does it tell you?

There is not likely to be detrimental impact from the introduction of LED lighting or a CMS system.

Step 3 - Now you need to consult!

Who have you consulted with?

A draft Street Lighting Vision and a draft Street Lighting Strategy were released for public consultation on 12 June 2017 for a period of eight weeks ending on 6 August 2017 following approval by the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation on 25 May 2017. This followed an internal consultation across Portsmouth City Council departments in April 2017.

There were a total of 84 responses to the online survey and four separate responses received by email.

Of the online responses 68 were as individuals. 50 respondents provided their gender, 54% male, 46% female.

50 respondents stated their age, 10% aged 25-34, 22% aged 35-44, 26% aged 45-54, 20% aged 55-64, 18% aged 65-74 and 4% over 75+.

50 respondents answered "Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last, at least 12 months?" Five respondents answered yes to this question. Two stated their disabilities as;

- visual

- IBS

50 respondents answered what their ethnic group is 90% were British white, 2% any other white background, 2% Indian and 6% preferred not to say.

If you haven't consulted yet please list who you are going to consult with

When dimming and switching off of lights are considered for areas of the city further consultation will be taken at this stage.

Please give examples of how you have or are going to consult with specific groups or communities e.g. meetings, surveys

The consultation was run as an online survey which was available on the council website and emailed to key stakeholders and resident's focus group.

Step 4 - What's the impact?

Is there an impact on some groups in the community? (think about race, gender, disability, age, transgender, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and other socially excluded communities or groups)

Generic information that covers all equality strands (Optional)

Potential increased fear of crime through reduced lighting levels leading to social isolation.

The consultation did not highlight any additional impacts this could have on the protected characteristics.

Ethnicity or race

Personal security issues may arise for ethnic minority residents, similar to those mentioned under age. However, it is expected that the 'White' light source will improve visibility and hence personal safety.

Gender including transgender

Personal security issues may arise for transgender residents, similar to those mentioned under age. However, it is expected that the 'White' light source will improve visibility and hence personal safety.

Age

LED luminaries tend to provide a more focused beam or cone of light on to the road surface than the existing street lights. This might cause some personal security concerns for some elderly residents as there may be darker areas between lighting columns. However it is expected that greater security will be perceived by most people.

Disability

Potential detrimental impact of reduced lighting to those who have visual impairment. It was highlighted through the consultation that there is a need to consider people with visual impairments.

The more restricted beam or cone of light may give greater contrast between lit and unlit areas, and darker intervals between lighting columns. This may cause difficulties for the partially sighted. However, the 'White' light source should make it easier to recognise colours, and objects for most people with a

visual impairment.

Religion or belief

It is expected that greater personal security will be perceived by most residents, producing a less insecure environment for faith groups of distinctive appearance.

Sexual orientation

Personal security issues may arise for LGBT residents, similar to those mentioned under age. However, it is expected that the 'White' light source will improve visibility and hence personal safety.

Pregnancy and maternity

Personal security issues may arise for women residents, similar to those mentioned under age. However, it is expected that the 'White' light source will improve visibility and hence personal safety.

Other socially excluded groups or communities e.g. carers, areas of deprivation, low literacy skills

Health Impact

Have you referred to the Joint Needs Assessment (www.jsna.portsmouth.gov.uk) to identify any associated health and well-being needs?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What are the health impacts, positive and / or negative? For example, is there a positive impact on enabling healthier lifestyles or promoting positive mental health? Could it prevent spread of infection or disease? Will it reduce any inequalities in health and well-being experienced by some localities, groups, ages etc? On the other hand, could it restrict opportunities for health and well-being?

It has been suggested that the higher content of 'Blue' in the 'White' LED light source can have adverse effects on health, through the suppression of melatonin during the hours of darkness.

However, studies have shown that this effect is produced by prolonged and intense exposure in an 'indoor' environment. It has been shown that melatonin suppression peaks at a colour temperature of 6,500K, and can also increase below 3,000K: the specified colour temperature for the proposed LED street lighting is between 4,000K 'Neutral White', which is well outside the high-risk range.

Furthermore, the more control and directional nature of the LED lighting will reduce the amount of light spillage into adjacent homes.

Health inequalities are strongly associated with deprivation and income inequalities in the city. Have you referred to Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Needs Assessment and strategy (available on the JSNA website above), which identifies those groups or geographical areas that are vulnerable to poverty? Does this have a disproportionately negative impact, on any of these groups and if so how? Are there any positive impacts?, if so what are they?

The project is proposed citywide and is not thought to have a disproportionately negative or positive impact on any areas of deprivation or income inequality. Consultation will be undertaken for each specific area as dimming or switching off of lights is taken forward.

Step 5 - What are the differences?

Are any groups affected in a different way to others as a result of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?

Visually impaired individuals may find reduced lighting levels worsen the impact of their disability.

Does your policy, service, function, project or strategy either directly or indirectly discriminate?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If you are either directly or indirectly discriminating, how are you going to change this or mitigate the negative impact?

Step 6 - Make a recommendation based on steps 2 - 5

If you are in a position to make a recommendation to change or introduce the policy, service, project or strategy clearly show how it was decided on

It is recommended that the street lighting vision and strategy are adopted. The consultation showed strong support for the vision and strategy and not adverse impacts were identified. As dimming or switching off of lights is taken forward in the future, further consultation will be undertaken in each proposed area.

What changes or benefits have been highlighted as a result of your consultation?

One amendment has been made to the draft vision following the consultation.

The word transport is to be replaced with day-to-day activities. The new vision reads from;

"A modern network of efficient and effective street lighting which enables safe day-to-day activities for residents, commuters and visitors whilst ensuring minimal environmental impact, that provides value for money and an enhanced street environment; that contributes to the council's ambitions and reinforces the 'great waterfront city' message."

Along with the amended vision, one additional amendment to the strategy is proposed to include reference to not directly illuminating important bat foraging corridors. Page 9, second bullet under the Do not section will now read;

"Directly illuminate bat roosts or important areas for nesting birds and fragment important bat foraging corridors".

No specific changes were highlighted due to impacts on the protected characteristics.

If you are not in a position to go ahead what actions are you going to take?
(Please complete the fields below)

Action

Timescale

Responsible officer

How are you going to review the policy, service, project or strategy, how often and who will be responsible?

The street lighting strategy will be reviewed periodically with joint responsibility for this sitting with the Transport Planning team and Highways PFI team.

Step 7 - Now just publish your results

This EIA has been approved by: Pam Turton

Contact number: 4614

Date: 30/8/17

Please email a copy of your completed EIA to the Equality and diversity team. We will contact you with any comments or queries about your full EIA.

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