



Place Scrutiny Committee

10 December 2015

Street Lighting

Purpose of Report: Summary Report

At the last meeting it was reported that the Portfolio Holder for Finance had requested that a piece of work be undertaken to consider whether there was any evidence regarding crime and accident statistics following a previous decision to switch off some street lights.

The Group met in early November and considered wide ranging evidence collated across England and Wales together with Powys data. They concluded that there was no evidence to show that there had been an increase in crime or accidents following the switch off of street lights. Although there remains a perception of fear of crime, this is not supported by the evidence.

The Group informed the Portfolio Holder of their findings and that they would support continued Invest to Save Initiatives to replace remaining sodium lights with LEDs and would suggest that any local requests for the switching on or off of individual lights continue to be considered on their merits as and when they arise.

As part of their investigation the Group noted that there had been a considerable reduction in energy consumption between 2007/08, the first full year prior to the original switching off of street lights, and 2009/10, the first full year following the switch off. There have been further reductions in consumption following completion of the initial switch over to LED lights.

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Sources/background papers: Notes of a meeting, Epidemiol Community Health 2015, Elsevier, Health and Place

Group Members: County Councillors E M Jones, K Curry and V Evans