

West Berkshire Council

Equity Impact Assessment

March 2023

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Place/Environment
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Function
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Existing
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	Turn off streetlights in residential roads between midnight and 5am
Completed By	Peter Walker
Authorised By	
Date of Assessment	15 October 2024

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The Council provides much of the street lighting in West Berkshire. These streetlights are already dimmed up to 70% in residential locations to save energy. The current budget to maintain these is just over £1m.</p> <p>We have a team of officers and a Term Maintenance contract with Volker Highways Ltd in place to deliver the full range of highway maintenance services.</p> <p>In accordance with the Highways Act 1980, there is no statutory requirement for local authorities to provide public lighting. Councils do, however, have the power to provide lighting and once provided, have a duty of care to ensure that assets for which they retain responsibility are maintained in a safe condition.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>Turn off streetlights in residential roads between midnight and 5am</p> <p>To reduce Council spending</p> <p>To tackle increasing energy costs</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that</p>	<p>Evidence from studies by UCL and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, assessing data from 62 local authorities, suggests that removing or reducing residential street lights at night, saves energy costs and reduces carbon emissions. It also found that there was no resultant increase in car collisions or crime.</p>

<p>supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>Further, a study by the universities of York and Newcastle showed that it also has benefits for nocturnal wildlife. This assists the Council meet its strategy priority of “Tackling the climate and ecological emergency”.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>No other options to reduce expenditure in this area have been identified.</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Younger and older people may feel less safe at night.	There is no specific information to support which groups may perceive to be more at risk, but evidence from Essex County Council indicates that crime actually decreased and there was no increase in road collisions.	n/a	n/a
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	People with disabilities may feel less safe at night.			
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect anticipated.			
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect anticipated.			
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect anticipated.			
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	People from minority groups may feel less safe at night.			
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect anticipated.			
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect anticipated.			
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect anticipated.			

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very few rural communities have Council-provided street lighting. Removing overnight lighting will aid wildlife.	There is no specific information to support which groups may perceive to be more at risk, but evidence from Essex County Council indicates that crime actually decreased and there was no increase in road collisions.	n/a	n/a
Areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	People may feel less safe at night.			
Displaced communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect anticipated.			
Care experienced people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect anticipated.			
The Armed Forces Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect anticipated.			

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	n/a
Person Responsible for Review	n/a
Authorised By	