

Equality Analysis (EIA) Form

A) Description

Name of service, function, policy (or other) being assessed

Street Lights –LED & Dimming Project

Directorate or organisation responsible (and service, if it is a policy)

Environmental Management Team

Date of assessment

July 2014

Names and job titles of people carrying out the assessment

Claire Bennett, Environmental Project Assistant

Accountable person

Ben Boswell

What are the aims or main purpose of the service, function or policy? What does it provide and how does it provide it?

Street Lighting

Location or any other relevant information

Please see report detailing project to replace remaining two thirds of the county's street lights with LED lanterns and to dim these overnight. Impact assessment relates to the over-night dimming as the LED lanterns do not have any impact as we are using a like for like replacement.

List any key policies or procedures to be reviewed as part of this assessment.

The Herefordshire street lighting policy is currently under review.

Who is intended to benefit from the service, function or policy?

Reduction in costs to council from energy and maintenance. Reduced light pollution and savings in carbon emissions.

Who are the stakeholders? What is their interest?

Balfour Beatty Living Places (Delivery Partner)

B) Partnerships and Procurement

If you contract out services or work in partnership with other organisations, Herefordshire Council remains responsible for ensuring that the quality of provision/ delivery meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, ie.

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advances equality of opportunity between different groups

- Fosters good relations between different groups

What information do you give to the partner/contractor in order to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Act? What information do you monitor from the partner/contractor in order to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Act?

Equality & Diversity team were directly involved in the OJEU procurement of our Public Realm contract, which specifically included this project.

Are there any concerns at this stage that indicate the possibility of inequalities/negative impacts? For example: complaints, comments, research, and outcomes of a scrutiny review. Please describe:

The street lighting affected by this project will be dimmed by 20% between 10pm and 12am, and by 50% between 12am and 5.30am. Dimming times are approximate as they are based on the mid-point of the hours of darkness. Monitoring of road use in some specific locations have found that these are times of minimal road use by vehicle, cyclists and pedestrians.

Perceived negative impacts of the over-night dimming will tend to focus on crime, road accidents and pedestrian trips/falls.

Positive impacts include reduced light intrusion into residents' homes improving quality of sleep. Reduced light pollution which will give residents a better view of the night sky.

It is important to note that the purpose of street lighting is to light the highway for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Lights are not intended to light residents' properties, gardens, drives or doorways. Where residents feel that they require lighting of their property then it is their responsibility to install this.

Dimmed street lighting may have some impact on highway users during these times, such as those working late or early morning shifts and those returning from pubs and clubs. Some groups may be more adversely affected. Women may experience more fear of crime. The elderly and disabled may experience issues, although vulnerable elderly residents are unlikely to be using the highway during the hours that the street lights are dimmed. Residential students at the blind college may be adversely affected by the dimmed lights if they are returning home late at night.

C) Information

What information (monitoring or consultation data) have you got and what is it telling you?

Most Local Authorities in England have some kind of energy saving initiative in place on street lights. This includes overnight dimming and in some cases switching off of lights either permanently or during the early hours. Since 2008 Scrutiny Committee has been looking at options with regard to saving energy on street lighting. Options considered include decommissioning of some street lights, switching off street lights between 12am and 5.30am, and dimming to 50% between 8pm and 6am. The impacts on the community of these options was considered to

be too great and therefore the option of dimming by 20% at 10pm and by 50% at 12am, returning to full power at 5.30am was chosen.

The existing LED street lighting projects have been well received by residents due to a better quality of street lighting, and reduced levels of light pollution. There have been a small number of complaints where residents' properties are no longer lit, although this has generally been resolved through communications and education as the lights are only intended to light the public highways and that this is seen by the majority as an improvement.

A pilot study in Essex over 1 year found that switching off street lights at night reduced the level of reported crime by nearly 50%. There was however an increase in the public's fear of crime. Other studies have found that the level of anti-social behaviour decreases with reduced lighting levels as youths often hang around in well-lit areas.

Other authorities have found that dimming street lights has not caused an increase in road accidents. Lights are only dimmed at a time of minimal road use and most vehicles will tend to drive more slowly in areas of dimmed street lights. Additionally in Herefordshire the vast majority of lights that will be dimmed are in speed limit restricted areas of either 30 or 40mph, reducing the risk of accidents due to excessive speed.

Pilot dimming programmes have been carried out in some streets in Hereford with no complaints from residents. The dimming percentages stated above relate to the power used by the lights rather than the level of light. In the pilot programme the 30% dimming at 10pm is only barely noticeable to the human eye and the 50% dimming still provides a reasonable level of light to be able to see.

In the "Your Community Your Say" consultation in 2012, 10 of 14 local meetings stated that street lighting could be done differently through either dimming or part night lighting. None of the other 4 local meetings saw street lighting as a priority.

D) Assessment/Analysis

Describe your key findings (eg. negative, positive or neutral impacts - actual or potential). Also your assessment of risk.

Strand/community	Impact
Late night or early morning shift workers	Reduced lighting levels when returning from or going to work. Possible increase in fear of crime and possible increase in risk of road accidents or trips/falls. We consider this to be a low risk due to the very small number of people affected. The risk can be mitigated by publicity and education. For example, if people need to be out late at night and feel that they may be affected by reduced lighting levels, then they can be encouraged to carry a torch with them.

Public returning from pubs/clubs late at night	Reduced lighting levels when returning home. Possible increase in fear of crime and possible increase in risk of road accidents or trips /falls. We consider this to be a low risk due to the small number of people affected. The risk can be mitigated by publicity and education. For example, if people need to be out late at night and feel that they may be affected by reduced lighting levels, then they can be encouraged to carry a torch with them.
Women	Reduced lighting levels may increase the fear of crime if walking or cycling home late at night. Findings of other local authorities are that this is a perceived problem rather than an actual increased level of crime. As such we consider this to be a low risk due. The risk can be mitigated by publicity and education.
Disabled	Reduced lighting levels over-night may have some impacts for those using the highway during these times. In particular, those with a visual impairment may be adversely affected. We consider this to be a low risk due to the small number of people affected. The risk can be mitigated by publicity and education. For example, if people need to be out late at night and feel that they may be affected by reduced lighting levels, then they can be encouraged to carry a torch with them.
Elderly	Reduced lighting levels over-night may have some impacts for those using the highway during these times. We consider this to be a low risk as vulnerable elderly people tend not to be out during the hours that the street lights will be dimmed.
Young People	As lights are not starting to be dimmed until 10pm, this will not impact upon children going to or from school or from after school clubs. The dimmed lights may have some effect on young people returning home at night from pubs and clubs; however the lighting level should still be sufficient to see.
Race/Religion/Sexual Orientation	No direct effect on these groups, however for some people from these groups there may be an increased fear of crime.

E) Consultation

Did you carry out any consultation?

Yes ☐ No x ☒

Who was consulted?

Describe other research, studies or information used to assist with the assessment and your key findings.

No formal consultation was carried out specifically for this project. However, In the “Your Community Your Say” consultation in 2012, 10 of 14 local meetings stated that street lighting could be done differently through either dimming or part night

lighting. None of the other 4 local meetings saw street lighting as a priority. Additionally pilot dimming of certain streets has taken place with no complaints from residents.

Do you use diversity monitoring categories? Yes ☐ No ☐

(if No you should use this as an action as we are required by law to monitor diversity categories)

If yes, which categories?

- ☐ Age
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ Gender Reassignment
- ☐ Marriage & Civil Partnership
- ☐ Pregnancy & Maternity
- ☐ Race
- ☐ Religion & Belief
- ☐ Sex
- ☐ Sexual Orientation

What do you do with the diversity monitoring data you gather? Is this information published? And if so, where?

F) Conclusions

	Action/objective/target OR justification	Resources required	Timescale	I/R/S/J
a)				
b)				
c)				
d)				

1. The lighting level provided by the dimmed street lights still provides a good standard of lighting to enable residents to see.
2. The lights are only dimmed at a time of minimal highway use.
3. Some groups may be impacted more than others. However risks can be mitigated through informing and educating the public.
4. Many other authorities are turning off lights completely over-night. We consider that in Herefordshire we have found a compromise which provides the cost and carbon savings needed, whilst minimising impact and risk.

(I) *Taking immediate effect.*

(R) *Recommended to Council/Directors through a Committee or other Report*.*

(S) *Added to the Service Plan.*

(J) *To be brought to the attention of the Equality Manager.*

*Summarise your findings in the report. Make the full assessment available for further information.

NB: Make sure your final document is suitable for publishing in the public domain.