



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

15 MARCH 2011

ENERGY EFFICIENT STREET LIGHTING - SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL'S FINAL REPORT

Why the scrutiny panel examined this topic

1. There are 24,000 streetlights and 123 traffic signal units in Middlesbrough, plus numerous illuminated signs and bollards. The annual cost of the electricity needed to power them is around £1m.
2. Given the requirement for large public sector organisations to comply with the national Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme - and also the financial benefits of reducing energy usage - the scrutiny panel sought to examine what action the Council is taking to maximise energy efficiency in respect of Middlesbrough's street lighting.
3. The scrutiny panel sought to examine action that the Council is taking to reduce energy usage on street lighting.

What the scrutiny panel found

4. The scrutiny panel found that the Council has taken action in a number of areas to reduce street lighting energy usage. Lighting replacement programmes take into account energy efficiency as well as effectiveness of lighting types. A breakdown of the various types of lighting used was submitted to the panel.
5. The panel also considered information on the development of a Street Lighting Energy Reduction Plan and also heard that the Council is at the forefront of trials of the latest, most energy efficient forms of street lighting - for example a recent trial using LED lighting identified possible energy savings of up to 55%.
6. Information was also submitted on work undertaken in other local authority areas to reduce street lighting energy, including an exercise in Leicestershire to turn off some street lights for part of the night.

Summary of the Scrutiny Panel's Conclusions:

7. The scrutiny panel's conclusions are shown in full in the **attached final report** and highlight the following:

1. The annual cost of around £1m to power Middlesbrough's 24,000 street lights - and the fact that cutting energy usage reduces carbon dioxide emissions.
2. The production of a Street Lighting Energy Reduction Plan to be implemented in conjunction with a five year lighting replacement programme.
3. The need to balance energy efficiency with repair and maintenance costs.
4. The Council's leading involvement in trials of the most energy efficient and effective street lights.
5. The effectiveness that dimming or switching off some street lights has had on energy reduction in some local authority areas.

Summary of the Scrutiny Panel's Recommendations:

8. The panel's recommendations are based on the conclusions outlined above. These are shown in full in the **attached final report** and relate to:
 1. A continuation of the Council's invest to save approach - involving regular reviews of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Plan and development of the five year replacement programme on a rolling basis.
 2. Setting targets for street lighting energy reduction.
 3. Investigating the possibility of switching off some street lighting for part of the night.

Councillor Bob Kerr

Chair of Environment Scrutiny Panel