

EASTBOURNE AREA COMMITTEE - 26 JUNE 2002

STREETLIGHTING

REPORT ON OUTCOME OF SCRUTINY REVIEW OF STREETLIGHTING

The County Council recently undertook a review of its street lighting service and reported the results to Cabinet on 23 April 2002.

The scrutiny board made 24 recommendations, the majority of which were of a procedural, contractual or operational nature. However, there were a number of major recommendations made on policies for replacement and improvements to street lighting that have an impact upon the service within Eastbourne. These are: -

1. That a 10-year programme is set to replace all existing 35watt low-pressure sodium lights with 70watt high-pressure sodium lights. This having been identified as the option that best balances investment need with quality of lighting improvement. A bid has been prepared to central government for funds from 2003/04 for an annual capital investment of £230,000.
2. Low-pressure sodium produces an orange light whereas high-pressure sodium a golden white light. Low-pressure sodium lamps account for about 50% of the lighting stock and are typically used on minor roads and housing estates. Moving to a 'whiter' light will give greater colour definition and improve the potential for recognition where crime may be of concern. It will also produce a more even spread of light and higher light levels within a road.
3. Additional revenue funds of £60,000 have been allocated for street lighting in 2002/03 to make an immediate contribution to community and road safety. Funds will be allocated on a priority basis.
4. The Responsible Area Partnership (RAP), through the County Council's community safety co-ordinator, has been asked to identify streets within the Borough for consideration within this programme. These streets identified by the RAP will be combined into a countywide programme and assessed using a prioritisation assessment method agreed by the Scrutiny Board.
5. To standardise on a single type of column equipment to minimise maintenance/procurement costs. The current policy of seeking funds from the Borough Council for enhanced street lighting designs in conservation areas is to be retained.
6. Where streetlights are to be replaced in conservation areas, then the Borough Council is to be approached to provide funds for the difference in cost between the enhanced streetlight and the county standard and its future maintenance cost.

7. The County Council has made a capital contribution of £200,000 for 2002/03 for replacing life expired equipment. This was welcomed by the Scrutiny Board. A bid has been submitted to central government for a request for funding of £400,000 over the next 4 years to eliminate the full backlog of £1.6m.

8. Within the current year's capital programme there are no schemes in Eastbourne. A five-year programme is being prepared based on a continuing capital allocation of £200,000 which will incorporate the Borough's lighting needs.