

# Evidence, Engagement and Consultation Summary

## Ref no. P4 Street light dimming and trimming

### Description of proposal

Thousands of lights in the borough have been converted to LED. The conversion includes the implementation of a central management system. This enables us to:

Thousands of lights in the borough have been converted to LED. The conversion includes the implementation of a central management system. This enables us to:

- dim lighting levels at specific times of the day
- alter the times at which the lights switch on and off

By altering the on/off times and dimming lighting levels multiple times through the evening to reflect the need for the lighting, the council can further reduce energy consumption and therefore expenditure.

We now have the option to dim the borough's lights (by up to 50% of light level) during off-peak travel times. Roads and footways would continue to be lit throughout the night, but energy consumption would be reduced.

Improved technology means that we could make further energy savings by turning lights on ten minutes later at night, and off earlier in the morning.

As most of our lights are now controlled by a central management system, this approach could be applied across the borough or at specific locations.

### Estimated Net Saving / new income

£160,000

### Summary of evidence, engagement, and consultation

11 responses on this proposal were made via the online survey, 38% of all responses received.

Overall, 1 person did not support this proposal, 7 people (64%) supported it but with concerns / amendments. 3 people (27%) fully supported the proposal.

Comments from those who have concerns about this proposal refer to it being darker and feeling unsafe;

*"If I'm out at night and the streetlights are dimmed it would feel less safe and potentially inviting crime."*

*"Darker when walking at night."*

*"Depends on who operates it."*

"Those who supported the proposal but with concerns / amendments also cited fear of crime;

*"Safety in Walsall is a problem, making streets darker won't help."*

*"I think areas like Palfrey where crime is high, we need more lighting."*

*"When driving at night in the rain the roads are very dark so are in fact dangerous due to very low lighting. Also, with low lighting streets are dark handy for burglars' people being attacked and car thieves."*

One person in support of the proposal said;

*“Turn off and dim lights as much as possible.”*

Alternative suggestions included;

*“You could make the savings in the lighter months as the winter months are dark really early and need to be lighter for everyone’s safety.”*

*“All residents in Walsall should pay towards council tax, and this needs to be collected promptly, it can’t just be left to people who pay and have to keep paying more for others.”*

*“Cut some of the higher management as the council seems very top heavy.”*

### **Overall opinion from engagement and consultation**

Respondents generally support this proposal but with concerns / amendments

### **Justifiable action from the evidence, engagement and consultation suggested in the Equality Impact Assessment**

B - Adjustments are needed to mitigate adverse impact and to better promote equality.

### **Mitigating actions required, if proposal approved**

Undertake trial dimming and trimming to determine the appropriate % reduction in light output  
Identify locations where it would not be appropriate to implement reduced lighting levels

### **People potentially negatively affected if proposal approved**

Elderly, peoples with disabilities, females.

### **Response from Walsall Council on Proposal Ref P4**

Following consideration of consultation feedback and equality impact assessment, Cabinet intend to implement the proposal.