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## **REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL – MOTION ON NOTICE – PROPOSED NIGHT-TIME STREET LIGHTING POLICY – KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

To: **Council – 3 October 2013**

Main Portfolio Area: **Operational Services**

By: **Mark Seed, Director of Operational Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All Wards**

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**Summary:** **To inform Council of the decision taken by Cabinet following Council’s referral to it of the motion on notice regarding the proposed night-time street lighting policy of Kent County Council**

### **For Information**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 7 February 2013, Council received a motion on notice, proposed by Councillor Everitt and seconded by Councillor E Green, as follows:

“Council expresses its serious disquiet about plans by Conservative-controlled Kent County Council to turn off some street lighting overnight as a cost-cutting measure. It is concerned about the implications for public safety, both in terms of crime and traffic, as well as the damage to residents’ and visitors’ perceptions of how safe our streets are at night. Council calls on Kent County Council to ensure that before the county elections on May 2nd there is full transparency and wide public consultation about any changes that will affect Thanet in the future.”

- 1.2 In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.3, the motion stood referred without discussion to Cabinet for determination or report.

#### **2.0 The Current Situation**

- 2.1 Upon considering the motion at its meeting on 28 March 2013, Cabinet agreed:
1. That it would like to add its disquiet to the proposal by Kent County Council to switch off some of the street lighting in Thanet;
  2. That the Chief Executive writes to Kent County Council and requests for additional information regarding the arrangements for progressing the proposal for switching off some street lights in Thanet;
  3. That the Chief Executive in her letter invites Kent County Council to engage Thanet District Council in discussion regarding this proposal to switch off street lighting in some parts of Thanet.

- 2.2 On 17 April 2013, the Chief Executive wrote to Mr Bryan Sweetland, former Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste, Kent County Council, extending an invitation to the County Council portfolio holder for Highways to meet with Thanet Council Members to present the proposals and explain the rationale behind them and to afford Members the opportunity to have a meaningful input into the consultation process.
- 2.3 On 2 May 2013, Mr Sweetland replied to the Chief Executive's letter, referring to the challenge of rising energy cost, carbon emissions and light pollution being a key factor in developing the new approach to street lighting, stating that the fora for debating the issues were the local Joint Transportation Boards (JTBs) and that the proposals for Thanet had been the subject of extensive discussion at the meeting of the Thanet JTB on 14 March 2013. Mr Sweetland also stated in his letter that he would be happy to receive views of Members, but was keen not to undermine the Thanet JTB, whose recommendations he currently proposed to follow. The letter concluded by referring to the wider issue of part-night lighting, which was currently open to public consultation via the Kent County Council website.
- 2.3 The report by Behdad Haratbar, Head of Programmed Work, Kent County Council, to the meeting of the Thanet Joint Transportation Board on 14 March 2013 can be viewed on Thanet District Council's website, as can the minutes of that meeting and any subsequent Board meeting at which street lighting was considered.

### **3.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **3.1 Financial and VAT**

3.1.1 None arising directly from this report

#### **3.2 Legal**

3.2.1 None arising directly from this report

#### **3.3 Corporate**

3.3.1 None arising directly from this report

#### **3.4 Equity and Equalities**

3.4.1 None arising directly from this report

### **4.0 Recommendation(s)**

4.1 This report is for information only

### **5.0 Decision Making Process**

5.1 This report is for information only

Contact Officer:	Mark Seed, Director of Operational Services, Ext 7742
Reporting to:	Sue McGonigal, Chief Executive and S.151 Officer, Ext 7002

### **Annex List**

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**Background Papers**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
None	

**Corporate Consultation Undertaken**

Finance	N/A
Legal	N/A