

## COUNCIL MEETING - 28 JUNE 2016

### AGENDA ITEM 5

#### 1. Tanja Rebel to ask the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport: LED Street Lighting

Numerous scientific studies show that Blue-rich white Light (BRWL) is harmful to Human and Wildlife Circadian Rhythms as it mimics daylight at night. Further to this, it is detrimental to Road Safety due to excessive glare (which is harder to cope with for the ageing eye) and poor fog penetration. Finally, it increases Sky Glow due to the so-called Rayleigh Scattering effect, which is higher for short-wavelength Light.

Is Reading Borough Council knowingly going to risk damaging the health of its residents, spending tax money on harmful technology and ignoring scientific evidence by installing 4000k blue-White rich LED street lights in Reading, despite the existence of safer alternatives in the form of 3000K warm-white Lights ?

**RESPONSE** by Councillor Page Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport

I thank Ms Rebel for her question.

I am advised that all artificial light sources, not just LED's, have the potential to affect circadian rhythms.

As I have explained to Ms Rebel on many occasions, most recently at Traffic Management Sub-Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> June, LED street lighting was first introduced in Reading in 2012 and there have been very few issues or problems brought to our attention during that time.

The Council has received a handful of complaints about the new LED lighting, but the Council does not have any evidence that LED lighting causes problems of glare for drivers nor that it has any adverse effect on road safety.

The Council employed a suitably qualified and experienced street lighting designer to specify the lanterns for the Invest to Save project and considers LED lanterns with a CCT of 4000K to be safe and appropriate.

Reading Borough Council, Slough Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council have entered into a joint Invest to Save initiative funded by Department for Transport to upgrade their entire street lighting to LED light sources. The contract began in April 2016 and is scheduled to be completed in March 2018.

The three Councils are satisfied that the design work which was carried out for the project was appropriate and that the 4000K LED lanterns which have been specified for the contract do not pose a risk to human health and provide the most energy efficient solution for street lighting replacement.

The Council is installing the Central Management System into every new lantern allowing light levels to be controlled by dimming lanterns as appropriate.

The Council is fully satisfied that the Invest to Save programme follows current design guidance.