

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL – EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM**

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**TITLE: MTFS 23-27 102 Street Lighting Energy Saving**

## VERSION CONTROL

<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Description of Changes</b>
<b>20/01/23</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Paul Davies</b>	Initial draft developed to form part of Appendix to the July Highways and Transport Committee paper and to continue to be developed as the project develops.
<b>26/05/23</b>	<b>V1</b>	<b>Paul Davies</b>	Draft updated to reflect the end of the MTFS consultation and approval of the MTFS 2023-27 by the Council and incorporate feedback from Director of Highways and Transport and Legal and finance teams

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## CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL –EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1 Description: Fact finding (about your policy / service /

<b>Department</b>	Highways & Transport		<b>Lead officer responsible for assessment</b>		Paul Davies	
<b>Service</b>	Highway Service		<b>Other members of team undertaking assessment</b>		N/A	
<b>Date</b>	15/05/2023		<b>Version</b>		1	
<b>Type of document (mark as appropriate)</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Project</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Service</b>
<b>Is this a new/ existing/ revision of an existing document (please mark as appropriate)</b>	<b>New</b> <b>X</b>		<b>Existing</b>		<b>Revision</b>	
<b>Title and subject of the impact assessment (include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate and how it fits in with the wider aims of the organisation)</b>  <b>Please attach a copy of the strategy/ plan/ function/ policy/ procedure/ service</b>	<p><b>MTFS High Level Business Case PL23-27 102 Energy Saving – Street Lighting</b></p> <p>The Council like other councils nationwide is facing a challenging financial position for the 2023-24 financial year. Inflation, including fuel, energy, is running at around ten per cent currently, compared to a national target of two per cent. Pay inflation is also significantly higher than forecasts, and interest rates have risen from 0.5 per cent in February 2022 to three per cent. In addition, like other councils, Cheshire East Council is seeing increasing complexity of demand in services to support people who need additional help. More than 60 per cent of the council's net budget is spent on these services for adults and children.</p> <p>The Council's draft financial strategy includes a number of proposals to re-balance the council's budget in the face of these significantly increased costs and demand on services.</p> <p>As part of this, all Council departments are considering proposals that affect day to day services. Street Lighting energy makes up 8.76% of the Highway Service budget and with the increasing cost of energy and the impact of energy generation and consumption on carbon levels, it makes sense for the Highway Service to seek options to making savings in this area.</p> <p>The key objective is to reduce energy consumption across the street lighting asset. It is expected that energy prices will continue to rise during 2023/24, (current estimate 12%) and the only way to mitigate against increases and / or reduce the annual energy costs related to street lighting is to reduce its energy consumption. The Service has looked</p>					

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	<p>at four options which will be reviewed to consider the priorities, benefits and safety aspects associated with each. The options included in the business case that supported the MTFS are:</p> <p>Option A - Turn off alternate streetlights  Option B - Turn off streetlights in urban areas in the early hours  Option C – Turn off all streetlights in urban areas</p>
<p><b>Who are the main stakeholders and have they been engaged with? (e.g. general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences, residents)</b></p>	<p>General Public  Members  Town and Parish Councils  Emergency Services  Cycling Groups  Schools  Cheshire Road Safety Group  Bus Operators  Road Haulage Association  AA  RAC  Internal Departments – including but not limited to Planning, Highways Development Management, Passenger Transport, Highways, Environmental Services etc  Alternative Service Delivery Vehicles (ASDVs) - Ansa</p> <p>The Council has issued a Public Consultation entitled ‘Budget Engagement 2023’ and this closed on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023.</p> <p>The MTFS consultation was available on the Council’s website and open to all stakeholders to take part in and share their views on the Budget proposals which includes the Highway Service’s Street lighting savings proposal and options for delivery.</p>

	The Council approved the MTFs 2023-27 at the full council meeting on February 2023 and this included the street lighting energy saving proposal with resultant cut of £242k in the highway service street lighting energy budget for 2023-24.	
<b>Consultation/ involvement carried out.</b>	YES X	NO
<b>What consultation method(s) did you use?</b>	Public Consultation on Council website	

### Stage 2 Initial Screening

<p><b>Who is affected and what evidence have you considered to arrive at this analysis? (This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)</b></p>	<p>All stakeholders identified above are affected by the street lighting proposal which has benefits and risks.</p> <p>If the proposal is accepted, the associated delivery options will deliver a reduction in amount of electricity consumed by streetlights, a reduction in carbon generation and the required financial benefit based on current pence per unit of electricity. These will help the Council present a balanced budget for the 2023/24 financial year that seeks to keep to a minimum the financial and service changes impacts experienced by residents and business and the service providers.</p> <p>The reduction in electricity consumed and carbon generated will help contribute to the Council's target to be Carbon Neutral by 2025 and for the Borough to be Carbon Neutral by 2045 benefitting the residents of Cheshire East and play a part in the UK response to Climate Change.</p> <p>The options available to deliver the street lighting proposal vary requiring that a significant number of the streetlights in the borough would either be illuminated for fewer hours than normal per day or not be illuminated at all. These changes can be summarised in lighting levels present potential risks include the impact of reduced standard of lighting, crime and perception of crime, community safety etc.</p> <p>The delivery options for further public consultation are as set out in Table 1 below:</p>
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<p><b>Who is intended to benefit and how</b></p>	<p>It is intended that the Council's budget proposals will help the Council achieve a balanced budget for 2023/24 financial year on behalf of the Borough's residents and businesses. The proposals seek to maintain the provision of services while minimising the financial and service change impacts experienced by residents and business and the internal service providers.</p> <p>The reduction in electricity consumed and carbon generated will help contribute to the Council's target to be Carbon Neutral by 2025 and for the Borough to be Carbon Neutral by 2045 benefitting the residents of Cheshire East and play a part in the UK response to Climate Change.</p>
<p><b>Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?</b></p>	<p>Yes, potentially for vulnerable individuals and groups in our communities such as the women, the elderly, etc the reduction in lighting levels and hours of lighting can increase concerns about personal safety, crime and risk of slips, trips and falls etc. These may also impact key stakeholders such as the emergency services.</p> <p>Vulnerable road users may also feel increased concern about using the highway during hours of reduced lighting or no lighting because of the potential risk of road traffic collisions increasing.</p>
<p><b>Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?</b></p>	<p>Street lighting decisions are made on a boroughwide basis for the existing street lighting stock and often led by environmental targets to reduce electricity consumed and carbon generated plus associated budgetary benefits of achieving financial savings that help achieve a balanced budget across the Council while maintaining a service provision to the residents and businesses.</p> <p>They are not based on an individual's characteristics, needs or circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected? (eg will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)</b></p>	<p>There is a potential for vulnerable individuals and groups in our communities such as the women, the elderly, to feel more at risks when lighting levels and hours of lighting reduce. This may cause some to stay at home at times when they previously might have gone out causing potential increase in isolation and mental and physical well being.</p> <p>Vulnerable road users may also feel less safe about using the highway during hours of reduced lighting or no lighting because of the potential risk of road traffic collisions increasing.</p>

<b>Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?</b>			No					
<b>Is there an actual or potential negative impact on these specific characteristics? (Please tick)</b>								
<b>Age</b>	Y ✓	N	<b>Marriage &amp; civil partnership</b>	Y	N ✓	<b>Religion &amp; belief</b>	Y	N ✓
<b>Disability</b>	Y ✓	N	<b>Pregnancy &amp; maternity</b>	Y ✓	N	<b>Sex</b>	Y ✓	N
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	Y	N ✓	<b>Race</b>	Y	N ✓	<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Y	N ✓

**Stage 3 Evidence**

<b>What evidence do you have to support your findings? (quantitative and qualitative) Please provide additional information that you wish to include as appendices to this document, i.e., graphs, tables, charts</b>		<b>Level of Risk (High, Medium or Low)</b>
<b>Age</b>	<p>Local authorities do not have a duty to provide street lighting but where it is provided they have a duty of care to ensure that the street lights are maintained in a safe condition. The Council is assessing the street lighting energy saving options available and will consult the public on these options.</p> <p>The choice of energy saving option will follow on from the consultation process and the approved solution applied on a street by street basis to take account of location, purpose, function and sensitive receptors including areas of high footfall, bus routes, pedestrian crossing facilities and locations of road traffic collisions or anti-social behaviour etc</p>	<b>low</b>

<p><b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b></p>	<p>Local authorities do not have a duty to provide street lighting but where it is provided they have a duty of care to ensure that the street lights are maintained in a safe condition. The Council is assessing the street lighting energy saving options available and will consult the public on these options.</p> <p>The choice of energy saving option will follow on from the consultation process and the approved solution applied on a street by street basis to take account of location, purpose, function and sensitive receptors including areas of high footfall, bus routes, pedestrian crossing facilities and locations of road traffic collisions or anti-social behaviour etc</p>	<p><b><i>low</i></b></p>
<p><b>Religion</b></p>	<p>Local authorities do not have a duty to provide street lighting but where it is provided they have a duty of care to ensure that the street lights are maintained in a safe condition. The Council is assessing the street lighting energy saving options available and will consult the public on these options.</p> <p>The choice of energy saving option will follow on from the consultation process and the approved solution applied on a street by street basis to take account of location, purpose, function and sensitive receptors including areas of high footfall, bus routes, pedestrian crossing facilities and locations of road traffic collisions or anti-social behaviour etc</p>	<p><b><i>low</i></b></p>
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p>Local authorities do not have a duty to provide street lighting but where it is provided they have a duty of care to ensure that the street lights are maintained in a safe condition. The Council is assessing the street lighting energy saving options available and will consult the public on these options.</p> <p>The choice of energy saving option will follow on from the consultation process and the approved solution applied on a street by street basis to take account of location, purpose, function and sensitive receptors including areas of high footfall, bus routes, pedestrian crossing facilities and locations of road traffic collisions or anti-social behaviour etc</p>	<p><b><i>low</i></b></p>
<p><b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b></p>	<p>Local authorities do not have a duty to provide street lighting but where it is provided they have a duty of care to ensure that the street lights are maintained in a safe condition. The Council is assessing the street lighting energy saving options available and will consult the public on these options.</p> <p>The choice of energy saving option will follow on from the consultation process and the approved solution applied on a street by street basis to take account of location, purpose, function and sensitive receptors including areas of high footfall, bus routes, pedestrian crossing facilities and locations of road traffic collisions or anti-social behaviour etc.</p>	<p><b><i>medium</i></b></p>

	As part of the street by street assessment process consultation feedback and data on anti social behaviour and crime will be taken into consideration and inform the decision on appropriate energy saving option.	
<b>Sex</b>	<p>Local authorities do not have a duty to provide street lighting but where it is provided they have a duty of care to ensure that the street lights are maintained in a safe condition. The Council is assessing the street lighting energy saving options available and will consult the public on these options.</p> <p>The choice of energy saving option will follow on from the consultation process and the approved solution applied on a street by street basis to take account of location, purpose, function and sensitive receptors including areas of high footfall, bus routes, pedestrian crossing facilities and locations of road traffic collisions or anti-social behaviour etc.</p> <p>As part of the street by street assessment process consultation feedback and data on anti social behaviour and crime will be taken into consideration and inform the decision on appropriate energy saving option.</p>	<b>medium</b>
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	<p>Local authorities do not have a duty to provide street lighting but where it is provided they have a duty of care to ensure that the street lights are maintained in a safe condition. The Council is assessing the street lighting energy saving options available and will consult the public on these options.</p> <p>The choice of energy saving option will follow on from the consultation process and the approved solution applied on a street by street basis to take account of location, purpose, function and sensitive receptors including areas of high footfall, bus routes, pedestrian crossing facilities and locations of road traffic collisions or anti-social behaviour etc</p>	<b>low</b>
<b>Race</b>	<p>Local authorities do not have a duty to provide street lighting but where it is provided they have a duty of care to ensure that the street lights are maintained in a safe condition. The Council is assessing the street lighting energy saving options available and will consult the public on these options.</p> <p>The choice of energy saving option will follow on from the consultation process and the approved solution applied on a street by street basis to take account of location, purpose, function and sensitive receptors including areas of high footfall, bus routes, pedestrian crossing facilities and locations of road traffic collisions or anti-social behaviour etc</p>	<b>low</b>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<p>Local authorities do not have a duty to provide street lighting but where it is provided they have a duty of care to ensure that the street lights are maintained in a safe condition. The Council is assessing the street lighting energy saving options available and will consult the public on these options.</p>	<b>low</b>



	The choice of energy saving option will follow on from the consultation process and the approved solution applied on a street by street basis to take account of location, purpose, function and sensitive receptors including areas of high footfall, bus routes, pedestrian crossing facilities and locations of road traffic collisions or anti-social behaviour etc	
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#### Stage 4 Mitigation

<b>Protected characteristics</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b> <i>Once you have assessed the impact of a policy/service, it is important to identify options and alternatives to reduce or eliminate any negative impact. Options considered could be adapting the policy or service, changing the way in which it is implemented or introducing balancing measures to reduce any negative impact. When considering each option you should think about how it will reduce any negative impact, how it might impact on other groups and how it might impact on relationships between groups and overall issues around community cohesion. You should clearly demonstrate how you have considered various options and the impact of these. You must have a detailed rationale behind decisions and a justification for those alternatives that have not been accepted.</i>	<b>How will this be monitored?</b>	<b>Officer responsible</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Age</b>	N/A	NA	NA	NA
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	N/A	NA	NA	NA
<b>Religion</b>	N/A	NA	NA	NA

<b>Disability</b>	N/A	NA	NA	NA
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	As part of the street by street assessment process consultation feedback and data on anti social behaviour and crime will be taken into consideration and inform the decision on appropriate energy saving option.	NA	NA	NA
<b>Sex</b>	As part of the street by street assessment process consultation feedback and data on anti social behaviour and crime will be taken into consideration and inform the decision on appropriate energy saving option.	NA	NA	NA
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	N/A	NA	NA	NA
<b>Race</b>	N/A	NA	NA	NA
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	N/A	NA	NA	NA

## 5. Review and Conclusion

**Summary: provide a brief overview including impact, changes, improvement, any gaps in evidence and additional data that is needed**

The street lighting energy saving options being considered will be design to deliver the energy saving approved by the Council in its MTFS 2023-27 approved in February 2023. The options will be taken to public consultation and decision on appropriate solution taken following that process. It is anticipated that a mix of the part night and switch off options will be required and vary dependent on a range of factors including location, purpose, usage and various sensitive receptors. Data gathering is underway to determine what would be required to deliver the identified energy savings and will be available as part of the decision making process.

Implementation will require investment to deliver the savings and work is ongoing to understand the cost of the various options and technical solutions.

Specific actions to be taken to reduce, justify or remove any adverse impacts	How will this be monitored?	Officer responsible	Target date
Please provide details and link to full action plan for actions			
When will this assessment be reviewed?			
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	N/A		

Lead officer sign off		Date	26/05/2023
Head of service sign off		Date	26/05/2023

Please publish this completed EIA form on the relevant section of the Cheshire East website