

Planning Committee

10am, Thursday 15 May 2014

A Sustainable Lighting Strategy for Edinburgh- Progress Report

Item number	9.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

Executive summary

A Sustainable Lighting Strategy for Edinburgh was approved by Planning Committee in June 2012. Lighting is identified as a crucial component of the design of high quality public realm and it has an important role in supporting place-making across the city.

Progress has been made on a number of strands of the strategy which will assist in realising the strategy objectives. Historic Lighting is being reintroduced to key streets, key buildings and features are being re-lit using new technology, lighting is being used for art installations and city dressing initiatives and street lighting is being improved to respond to adaptive technologies, reducing impacts on night skies.

Links

Coalition pledges	P31 P40
Council outcomes	CO7 CO8 CO9 CO19 CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 SO2 SO4

A Sustainable Lighting Strategy for Edinburgh- Progress Report

Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
1. notes the progress that has been made on the delivery of the objectives of A Sustainable Lighting Strategy for Edinburgh;
 2. notes that the review of the Public Realm Strategy will involve further detailed consideration of lighting; and
 3. refers this report to the Transport & Environment Committee for its interest.

Background

Lighting Strategy

- 2.1 How the city should be lit, or should use lighting, was set out in A Sustainable Lighting Strategy for Edinburgh that was approved by Planning Committee in June 2012. Lighting is identified as a crucial component of the design of high quality public realm and it has an important role in supporting place-making across the city. The Public Realm Strategy 2009 identified the need for the development of a city lighting strategy which would develop an approach to lighting across the city.
- 2.2 The Council has a significant role to play in lighting the city. It is responsible for road and street lighting, stair lighting, festival lighting, the lighting of key buildings and features within the city centre, housing amenity lighting, park lighting and city dressing projects, including Christmas lighting and tree lighting. A lighting strategy helps to focus on enhancing safety, highlighting landmarks and features that define the city, encouraging the use of light as an art form, adding focus to regeneration projects and enhancing amenity.
- 2.3 In the early 1990s, Edinburgh took a lead in city lighting by commissioning the Edinburgh Lighting Vision. This set out a Vision for lighting the city and a series of proposals that capitalised on Edinburgh's architectural and townscape qualities.

- 2.4 The aim of the Sustainable Lighting Strategy is to reinforce the atmospheric nature and character of the city, improve the balance between lighting and darkness, and provide a safe environment by achieving coherent lighting schemes that are well conceived, designed and maintained.
- 2.5 In order to achieve the aim, three broad objectives have been identified:
- to reinforce Edinburgh's character and support its role as the economic, cultural and ceremonial capital of Scotland;
 - to develop a well designed, coordinated and coherent approach to lighting so that lighting design becomes an intrinsic part of a street or place without compromising community safety, security, amenity and which assists orientation for both pedestrians and road users; and
 - to encourage lighting designs that will reduce energy use, cost and minimise light pollution.
- 2.6 The objectives have been developed to reflect the range of roles that lighting can play in the life of the city. Specific areas of the strategy include consideration of the following aspects of lighting:
- areas of darkness;
 - lighting of buildings and monuments;
 - city dressing, special events lighting and lighting as an art form;
 - historic lighting;
 - regeneration areas;
 - lighting design principles;
 - hierarchy for street lighting;
 - a best practice guide;
 - street lighting renewal, maintenance and improvement; and
 - light pollution and energy consumption.
- 2.7 Public interest in the strategy during the consultation focussed on the need to address the balance between keeping the skies dark as well as lighting the city. Maintaining the local distinctiveness and the atmospheric character of streets was considered critical to the success of the strategy.

Actions

- 2.8 The role of the strategy is to provide greater coherence around lighting issues in the city. While some objectives will be addressed through day to day operations of the Council working with its partners, key actions relate to specific aspects of lighting. These actions cover promotion through city dressing, historic lighting and the hierarchy for street lighting, street lighting renewal as well as dark skies and energy reduction.

Reporting and progress

- 2.9 The Planning Committee agreed to receive a progress report. Reporting to both Planning and Transport and Environment committees allows the delivery of improvements to be seen alongside consideration of the capital budget when considering new street lighting schemes.

Main report

- 3.1 Progress has been made on a number of actions set out in the Lighting Strategy.
- 3.2 The actions have been taken forward by the Council in partnership with Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH), Historic Scotland, community and business organisations as well as building owners and developers.
- 3.3 The following provides an update on the current status of actions under each of the three objectives, highlighting key improvements and where further work is required or is ongoing.

Objective 1: To support Edinburgh's role as economic, cultural and ceremonial capital of Scotland.

Lighting schemes and a lighting design plan

- 3.4 Over the winter period in 2012 survey data was collected to help define lighting requirements for the city. The survey data comprised night time photos of Edinburgh's key views, incorporated into the Edinburgh Design Guidance, as the basis for the considering the effect of lighting across the city but particularly in the city centre. Photographs were taken during the winter festival and Hogmanay period and again in January. This information will be used to guide the lighting approach for the Scott Monument, discussed below, and other emerging lighting schemes and ultimately a lighting design plan for the city centre. The lighting design plan will be developed as part of the review of the Public Realm Strategy.
- 3.5 The Council is working towards updating and improving the lighting of the **Scott Monument**, which is undergoing repairs from funding allocated to City Dressing. Edinburgh World Heritage, Historic Scotland and the Cockburn Association assisted the Council in establishing the lighting design. The detailed design and technical requirements are being developed by a lighting designer and supplier in order to ensure the new scheme is in place for winter 2014.
- 3.6 There is also interest from owners and developers in improving lighting to assist in enhancing the experience of the city centre, in particular. A number of new lighting schemes have been established on key buildings since the strategy was approved. The lighting scheme for the **Bank of Scotland's** headquarters at the Mound was redesigned in 2013 to reduce energy levels but also responded to

the principles set out in the lighting strategy, focussing on highlighting features of the building rather than using more general floodlighting.

- 3.7 Historic Scotland updated the lighting scheme for **Edinburgh Castle** in 2013. Whilst this resulted in technical improvements and cost savings, the design also ensured that the warm white light effect promoted by the principles of the strategy was maintained.

Lighting Events

- 3.8 Lighting events have increased across the city. The winter festival has been supported with a more structured arrangement of Christmas lighting, and key buildings have been floodlit to support regeneration initiatives, such as at the West End. Artistic lighting interventions over the last year have attracted considerable interest, The Field of Light in St Andrew Square and the Chinese terracotta warrior lanterns in the quadrangle in Old College have been very popular. Artistic lighting is now finding a focus in regeneration schemes. Callum Innes' work under Regent Bridge on Calton Road will be joined by a new lighting work to be installed as part of the improvements to High School Yards project later this year. Essential Edinburgh has installed new projectors as an integral part of the new entrance features in Rose Street. Further lighting opportunities to dress the city and complement other events will be supported.

Historic Lighting

- 3.9 In partnership with EWH, substantial progress has been made on establishing an inventory of historic lighting and in undertaking historic reviews that can be used to inform locations where reproduction street lighting may be considered. This information is now being used to inform the capital lighting renewal programme.
- 3.10 EWH is also working with the Council on developing an improved replica version of the 'gallery' lantern, first used in the reproduction gas lighting on the Mound. Original patterns have been researched and used to prepare designs that will inform the production of new cast columns and lanterns. Early versions of these lights were used in William Street and more recently in a scheme in Bellevue Crescent. A special version has been installed next to Greyfriars Bobby. A more accurate replica should be in production later in 2014 and will be used to install historic lighting in certain streets including the Colonies, reinforcing the qualities of these unique areas.
- 3.11 Historic lighting has also been installed in Rose Street and in Advocates Close where it has complemented the public realm enhancements and the new development. Historic lights in Casselbank Street in Leith have been repainted and the emblems embellished. The Council was also able to complement the installation of a new Robert Louis Stevenson sculpture in Colinton with a replica Victorian lamp, which coincided with the official opening in October 2013.

Objective 2: To develop a well designed, co-ordinated and coherent approach to lighting so that lighting design becomes an intrinsic part of the street and place without compromising community safety, security, and which assists orientation for both pedestrians and users.

Street Lighting

- 3.12 The Council continues to take a co-ordinated approach to delivery of lighting improvements. The introduction of the tram has provided an opportunity to install new and improved street lighting along the entire route, significantly improving lighting standards in key areas of the city. The application of the lighting hierarchy in new developments ensures that the Council are able to improve maintenance of street lighting and bring consistency to lighting standards.
- 3.13 The provision of information on lighting improvements for the public is being improved. Details on the location and type of all lighting columns are available to the public through the Council's GIS Atlas system. Updates are planned with the adoption of new operating systems. Information on the forthcoming maintenance programme for street lighting will be linked to the mapped information to allow the public to track improvements planned for their area.

Objective 3: To encourage lighting design that will reduce energy use, cost and minimise light pollution.

Dark skies and energy reduction

- 3.14 There has also been progress with energy reduction measures. These were detailed in the report entitled "Street Lighting – Result of White Light Pilot Project" which was submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee on 14 January 2014. The measures include a "Spend to Save" project to install white light lanterns on a number of main roads and another project to convert 6,000 old technology street lights to LED citywide.
- 3.15 These innovative solutions have significantly reduced energy costs and will also contribute greatly to the reduction in light spillage and pollution. Modern street lights have the ability to direct their light output on to roads and pavements where it is required, thus contributing to clearer night skies.
- 3.16 In addition to the two large projects mentioned above, the Transport and Environment Committee also approved the proposals to use energy efficient white light technologies in all future street lighting maintenance and improvement installations. Funding for further energy reduction measures is being investigated.

Street Design Guidance

- 3.17 Lighting design and technical details will form part of the design manual section of the new Edinburgh Street Design Guidance, approved as a draft for

consultation in February 2014. This manual will provide information on the Council's street lighting hierarchy and how lighting should be used in different areas across the city, for example, areas of wildlife interest.

Edinburgh Public Realm Strategy

- 3.18 The Edinburgh public realm strategy is the overarching strategy which governs the lighting and city dressing strategies. The planned review of the public realm strategy will ensure that lighting opportunities are considered as an integral part of future improvements to the public realm. The review will be completed by the end of 2014.

Measures of success

- 4.1 The Lighting Strategy action plan established work streams and initiatives that assist in delivering the objectives of the strategy. The progress outlined in this report meets these objectives.

Financial impact

- 5.1 Lighting improvements continue to be funded by co-ordinating priorities in the capital programme for roads, project funding from departmental budgets; aligning with developer contributions and drawing in partner funding where possible.
- 5.2 The energy saving Street Lighting project and the upgrades to LED are funded through Prudential borrowing and SALIX, an independent, publicly funded company, which provides interest free capital to the public sector to improve energy efficiency. Improvements to the Scott Monument will be funded from the City Dressing budget. The Council also contributed funding from the Capital Programme and the city centre Neighbourhood Environment Projects budgets towards lighting in Rose Street and the new High School Yards project.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Improvement in lighting infrastructure will require continued investment and funding to maintain impetus in introducing new technology.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 Impacts on equalities and rights have been considered through Equalities and Rights Impact (ERIA) evidence.
- 7.2 Improvements to lighting would result in enhancements of equalities and rights with benefits:

- to physical security, for example, through safer places with improved lighting; and
- to age and disability, for example, through better use of materials, layouts and legibility of public streets and spaces.

Overall, there would be no adverse equalities and rights impacts arising from this report.

Sustainability impact

8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered, and the outcomes are summarised below.

- The update on actions in this report will help to reduce carbon emissions, for example, the lighting strategy seeks to reduce energy and use improved materials.
- The proposals in this report will increase the city's resilience to climate change impacts through the reduction in energy use.
- The proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because the review of guidance includes measures to improve technology, through lighting.
- The proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh as improvements in public realm and recognised as being key to economic wellbeing.
- The proposals in this report will assist in improving social justice by bringing coherence to lighting across the city.

Consultation and engagement

9.1 Public consultation and engagement were undertaken during the preparation of the Council's lighting strategy in 2012. Further consultation will take place with the preparation of new guidance, notably the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance, and in developing new schemes for implementation, including many that are subject to a formal planning process.

Background reading/external references

A Sustainable Lighting Strategy for Edinburgh.

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Links

Coalition pledges	P31 Providing for Edinburgh's economic growth and prosperity. P40 Work with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and other stakeholders to conserve the city's built heritage.
Council outcomes	CO7 Edinburgh draws new investment in development and regeneration. CO8 Edinburgh's economy creates and sustains job opportunities CO9 Edinburgh residents are able to access job opportunities CO19 Attractive Places and Well Maintained- Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm. CO26 The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives.
Single Outcome Agreement	S01 Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs, and opportunities for all. S02 Edinburgh's citizens' experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health. S04 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.
Appendices	None