

# Report – Planning & Transportation Committee

## Adoption of the City Lighting Strategy

*To be presented on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

### SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for the adoption of the revised City Lighting Strategy and to inform Members of the results of public consultation and the subsequent revisions to the document. Copies of the final Strategy have been made available in the Members' Reading Room and the Strategy is also available online [here](#).

In September and October 2016, Members approved a Street Lighting LED upgrade, together with the installation of a new Control Management System (CMS) that allows the dynamic real time management of street lighting throughout the City of London. This project also provided the ideal opportunity to establish the very first City wide lighting strategy for the Square Mile.

The City Lighting Strategy will seek to improve the quality, efficiency, sustainability and consistency of lighting for the whole City, providing a holistic approach to lighting and helping to ensure a safe, vibrant and pleasant night environment for businesses, residents and visitors. The proposals are seen as ground-breaking and the City is being praised for its approach.

Lighting consultants were appointed in January 2017 and a draft City Lighting Strategy was then produced, following a series of workshops and night walks including a wide variety of internal officers and City of London Police.

Once the draft was completed, Members of your Planning & Transportation Committee agreed that a public consultation be organised to receive comments on the draft Strategy. The public consultation was held over a six-week period. Stakeholder engagement continued after this period as well, using a variety of methods as set out in this report. A summary of the responses is included in the Consultation report (Appendix 1). Following the consultation exercise, the Strategy document was amended: changes are set out in full in the Amendments Table (Appendix 2).

Part of the Strategy includes a section on planning and policies and your Planning & Transportation Committee have already approved the development of a planning guidance document, deemed necessary to guide and educate private stakeholders on the lighting principles referred to in the Strategy.

## Recommendations

Members are asked to endorse the amended City Lighting Strategy document and to note the development of a Planning guidance document on lighting that will contribute to the achievement of the Strategy's vision.

## MAIN REPORT

### Background

1. The majority of the City's street lighting equipment is in need of replacement and a project is currently underway to deliver a technical upgrade. This involves replacing the existing street lighting units with Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting as well as a new integrated Control Management System (CMS). In that context, the opportunity to establish a City Lighting Strategy will ensure that the new system delivers lighting which is efficient, sustainable, functional and that can enhance the City's unique night-time character.
2. A series of workshops to identify key lighting issues and objectives were organised by the City, and these identified the need for a lighting strategy to set out the City's approach in a holistic way. These workshops informed the production of a brief, and Speirs and Major, a lighting design consultant, was appointed in January 2017 to develop the Strategy.
3. Consultation has played a key role in the development of the Strategy, with a working party set up, and workshops, meetings and presentations organised to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders. This allowed the sharing of different expertise and a better understanding of the current lighting issues and opportunities. Such groups have included internal officers from planning, highways, public realm, transportation, access, environmental health and policy teams; Open Spaces department, Transport for London (TfL) and City of London Police.
4. Presentations about the draft City Lighting Strategy and night walks in the City led by officers were also offered and attended by Members in November and December 2017, prior to the public consultation.

### The Strategy's contents

5. The draft Strategy was completed in December 2017, and Members of the Planning & Transportation Committee agreed that a public consultation on the draft version of the document should be undertaken. The draft Strategy provided a series of key recommendations that address three main areas:
  - a) **Functional:** these recommendations ensure the new lighting approach provides a safe, secure and accessible environment for all.
  - b) **Environmental:** this set of guidelines provides a sustainable approach that balances the economic, environmental and social impact of lighting, and considers how lighting can play a key role in the cultural development of the City of London at night.
  - c) **Technical:** these recommendations suggest how the above can be delivered, starting with fully embedding lighting within the planning system, setting out a clear structure to manage street lighting, including the formation

of a Strategic Lighting Board, and encouraging the use of smarter technologies and innovations.

6. Lighting standards that meet the needs of the different types of road and spaces were also suggested as follows:
  - a) **Lighting levels:** it is recommended to provide different lighting levels for the different types of road (main roads; side roads; footways and Riverside) with lighting levels varied dependent upon time of day (e.g. peak / off-peak / night time) and/or current need (e.g. crime or other incidents). It is proposed lighting levels will be, where necessary, determined on a street by street basis.
  - b) **Colour temperature:** the hue of white light of the public lighting systems is recommended to be more consistent. It is suggested that the main street and amenity lighting systems range from warm white light (2700K) to cool white light (4000K) depending on the typology of the route or open space.
  - c) **Lantern mounting height:** it is recommended that mounting height of lighting equipment should generally be sympathetic to the height and width of a street or open area, to ensure uniformity of lighting level throughout the City.
7. The Strategy also identifies a series of character areas within the City of London, each with its unique attributes. Distinctive recommendations are suggested for each area, which allows lighting to respect and enhance their characteristics.

### **The public consultation**

8. The consultation on the draft Strategy took place over a period of six weeks, from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. The consultation was carried out through a series of drop-in sessions open to public, user surveys and night walking tours, which engaged with local businesses, residents, workers and visitors. The City Lighting Strategy gained widespread attention through social media, receiving over 4,000 shares on LinkedIn; media outlets, with over 10 featured articles; and the public, with a total of 79 formal responses from residents, workers, professionals and visitors.
9. In addition, throughout the consultation period and later, officers followed up on requests made for further engagement, which provided additional understanding of stakeholder issues/concerns. This wider activity included:
  - Meeting with City of London Police
  - Meeting with the City Property Association
  - Meeting with Lighting Professionals and Academics
10. An evening event was also organised following the consultation to present the draft strategy document to the public. The evening featured a presentation of the strategy followed by a night walk around the Square Mile, which included the demonstration of the lighting Control Management System (CMS) that allows street light levels to be dimmed or raised remotely. The event was very well attended and received positive comments from a varied audience.

## 11. Consultation responses

All feedback received was collected and documented, and the key points have been summarised (Appendix 1). The Consultation responses were positive about the City Lighting Strategy and a detailed consultation report is attached at Appendix 1.

The themes that emerged included:

### **a) Functional:**

- Safety and Security – Respondents highlighted the importance of an appropriate use and design of light to deter crime and anti-social behaviours, as well as to improve the perception of safety;

### **b) Environmental:**

- Inconsistency - There was a consensus that there is inconsistency and lack of uniformity across the City lighting, regarding light fittings as well as its quality;
- Character Areas - In general, there is strong support for improving and highlighting historical monuments, buildings and character areas throughout the City at night;
- Light Pollution – The effects of light pollution coming from commercial properties, tall office blocks and signages was a source of great concern for both residents and workers;
- Environment/Sustainability - Respondents are in support of a more sustainable approach to City lighting that reduces light pollution, minimises the urban heat island thermal footprint and diminishes sky glow;
- Culture - Overall, culture was highlighted multiple times, suggesting that a creative and innovative lighting approach should be considered when highlighting architectural features, soft landscaping and wayfinding;

### **c) Technical:**

- Planning and policy - Respondents highlighted the need to better regulate and integrate planning into the new City lighting approach;
- Technology and Innovations - a great number of responses encouraged energy efficient technology and support the upgrade to LED lighting and the introduction of motion sensors;
- Communication and Stakeholder Engagement - There were several comments related to future communication and how the strategy should be taken forward in the future;
- Management - Questions were raised regarding the control and management of the new CMS and how this would be co-ordinated by the City of London;

## **Current Position**

12. The City Lighting Strategy has been amended to take account of the public consultation comments, where appropriate. The revised document, incorporating the amendments (which are detailed at Appendix 2), has now

been approved for adoption by Members of your Planning & Transportation Committee.

13. The recommendations of the strategy are set to be implemented through a series of programmes and projects, described in the Delivery recommendations, which include:
- The development of a planning guidance on lighting, which this report seeks approval to initiate;
  - The continuation of the current LED upgrade and Control Management System installation following the implementation guidelines on lighting levels, colours and management;
  - The integration of lighting design in any new public realm project, following the priorities identified in the Character areas;
  - The updating of lighting policies through the Local Plan review;
  - The addition of a lighting section in the existing City Public realm Technical Manual.

### Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. Comments following the consultation were reviewed to ensure the City Lighting Strategy strives to follow the vision of the City of London Corporate Plan to support a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK; and contributes towards the achievement of the three Corporate aims and their outcomes as follows:
- Contribute to a flourishing society
    - **People are safe and feel safe** through the careful design of lighting the public realm
    - **People enjoy good health and wellbeing** as a result of limiting obtrusive light spill into windows, light pollution and using warm white light in residential areas
    - **People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential** in the City's public spaces made accessible at night through appropriate lighting
    - **Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need** in the City's welcoming spaces where people can meet and socialise during the day as well as after dark
  - Support a thriving economy
    - **Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible** by taking a more sustainable approach to lighting
    - **We are a global hub for innovation in finance and professional services, commerce, and culture:** our night time economy is supported by better lighting to encourage commercial activities in the public realm after dark
  - Shape outstanding environments
    - **We are digitally and physically well connected and responsive** through an interactive and efficient CMS

- **We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration** with stakeholders including engineers, designers, planners and developers among others
- **We have clear air, land and water and a thriving sustainable natural environment** by reducing light pollution and energy consumption
- **Our spaces are secure** through the recommended lighting design principles, **resilient and well maintained**, with a reduction of maintenance costs through the use of LED lighting

## **Conclusion**

15. This report updates Members on the City Lighting Strategy. It outlines the process of drafting, consulting upon and reviewing the document. It also highlights the key priorities for its implementation.

Members are now asked to adopt the revised document as well as to note the development of a Planning guidance document on lighting, as suggested in the Strategy's recommendations.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – City Lighting Strategy Consultation Report
- Appendix 2 – City Lighting Strategy Amendments Table

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**Christopher Michael Hayward**  
Chairman, Planning & Transportation Committee