

Committee(s):	Dates:
Street and Walkways Sub Committee - For information	November 24 th 2017
Planning and Transportation Committee - For decision	December 12 th 2017
Policy and Resources Committee - For Information	December 14 th 2017
Subject: City Lighting Strategy: Draft Strategy consultation	Public
Report of: Director of the Built Environment	For Decision

Summary

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. However this project also provided the ideal opportunity to establish the very first City wide lighting strategy for the Square Mile.

Lighting consultants were appointed in January 2017 and a draft City Lighting Strategy has now been produced, following a series of workshops including a wide variety of internal officers from the City of London and City of London Police. This report presents the main recommendations of the Strategy and sets out details of the planned public consultation exercise. Copies of the draft strategy are available in the Members' Reading Room.

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 Strategy also considers the negative consequences of artificial lighting and how a healthy and sustainable balance can be achieved between light and darkness within the City, maintaining safety and security considerations as paramount. Its key recommendations include a new set of lighting standards and a series of innovative approaches and techniques in line with the Smart City agenda. The Strategy also recommends guidelines for both the level and colour of lighting (i.e. its warmth) for main streets, secondary streets and foot ways.

The document suggests how smarter, more human scale lighting can provide both the necessary functional lighting the City requires, and also a powerful tool to enhance the public realm after dark, supporting the development of the City's night time economy.

Officers are recommending that a formal public consultation exercise is undertaken to gather public responses to the principles presented in the Strategy. It is proposed that the Strategy is out for consultation for a period of six weeks, using a variety of methods to engage with the public as set out in this report.

Recommendations:

- That the draft City Lighting Strategy be approved for public consultation to be initiated in January 2018.

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. 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.

Current Position

4. The City Lighting Strategy has now been drafted, having been informed by comments and suggestions received from the Working Party. The document provides a holistic approach to lighting and seeks to ensure a safe, vibrant and pleasant night environment for businesses, residents and visitors, as well as by improving the quality, efficiency, sustainability and consistency of lighting.
5. The Strategy will form part of the City 'Smart City' agenda: an ambitious forward plan to enhance the uniqueness and competitiveness of the City,

helping cement its status as the World Financial and Business Centre, as well as a historical and cultural destination.

6. This strategy will also serve as a guidance document for public realm and transportation projects and recommend lighting approaches for future developments, ensuring lighting considerations are included at the early stages of any design process.
7. This document provides a unique opportunity for the City of London to re-think its current approach to lighting, particularly how a smarter, more human scale of lighting can be delivered that better meets the needs of pedestrians and cyclists rather than the current focus on high level, high powered, traffic focused lighting. The objective is not just to provide the City with the necessary functional lighting it requires, but also improve the quality of life for its residents and workers by avoiding unnecessary light pollution, over-lighting, excessive glare and inconsistencies in lighting design.
8. This transformative approach equally suggests lighting can be a powerful tool to improve the public realm after dark, supporting the development of the City's night time economy and contributing to the success of after dark events and celebrations. It suggests how playful and/or colourful lighting could be used to strengthen the identity of Culture Mile, the City's new cultural destination, through temporary or more permanent installations.
9. Key recommendations in the document 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.
10. Lighting standards that meet the needs of the different types of road and typologies of spaces have also been 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) 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.
11. The Strategy has also identified 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.

Proposal

12. In summary, the strategy's aim is to provide the vision, methodology, standards and guidance to meet the future requirements of the City of London. It seeks to deliver a creative, holistic, cohesive, forward looking and intelligent approach in which light and darkness are better balanced to meet both the functional and aesthetic need. It also suggests how light may be employed to help reinforce the City's existing identity as a world-class business centre, whilst respecting and complementing both its heritage and character
13. The Strategy also specifically looks to encourage walking and cycling by creating an enjoyable, safe and secure experience of the public realm after dark, but in a sensitive and environmentally responsible manner. In recognising the City of London's Future City and Smart City initiatives it introduces an innovative approach to both technology and technique to help create much greater flexibility for the future.
14. Officers are recommending that a formal public consultation exercise is undertaken to gather public responses to the ideas in the strategy. It is proposed that the Strategy is out for consultation for a period of six weeks from January 2018, using a variety of methods:
- Leaflets and questionnaires available to the general public and placed in City of London public buildings including libraries and offices;
 - A total of four drop in sessions, during lunchtime and evening periods, open to the general public in Guildhall;
 - Consultation web pages with access to the electronic version of the draft strategy and on line questionnaires;
 - Email updates to interested members of the public and stakeholders;
 - Two night walking tours for Members, taking place in November and December 2017, to see new LED technology in its trial stage and consider the issues the strategy seeks to address; and
 - Officers will also follow up on any requests made for presentations to groups or individual briefing sessions.
15. Copies of the draft strategy have been made available in the Members' Reading Room.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

16. The City Wide Lighting Strategy is in line with the aims and objectives of the City of London Corporate Plan 2015-19

Corporate Plan

KPP2 Improving the value for money of our services within the constraints of reduced resources

KKP5: Increasing the outreach and impact of the City's cultural heritage and leisure contribution to the life of London and the nation, including the more specific deliverable of

- Developing and improving the physical environment around our key cultural attractions; and providing safe, secure, and accessible Open Spaces

Policy Implications

The proposed Strategy is in line with the following adopted City of London policies:

Local Plan 2015

Policy CS3 Security and Safety

3.10.15 The illumination of buildings should only occur where it would contribute to the unique character and grandeur of the City townscape by night. Lighting intensity, tone and colour need to respect the architectural form and detail of the building, be sensitive to the setting and avoid light pollution of the sky and adverse effects upon adjacent areas and uses. Light fittings, including street lighting, should be discreetly integrated into the design of the buildings, where possible.

Policy CS10 Design

3.10.23 The City Corporation will actively promote schemes for the enhancement of the street scene and public realm, in appropriate locations.

3.10.26 All projects should be inclusive in design so that they provide access for all.

Policy CS15 Sustainable Development and Climate Change

15.7 Noise and light pollution

Internal and external lighting should be designed to reduce energy consumption, avoid spillage of light beyond where it is needed and protect the amenity of light-sensitive uses such as housing, hospitals and areas of importance for nature conservation.

Conclusion

17. This report updates Members about the City Lighting Strategy. It outlines the process of drafting the strategy, including stakeholder workshops and sets out the key recommendations presented in the Strategy. It recommends that Members approve a public consultation on the draft strategy be undertaken in January 2018 for six weeks.

Background Papers:

Draft City Lighting Strategy 'Light + Darkness in the City, A Lighting Vision for the City of London'. This can be viewed in the Member's reading room, or an electronic copy can be sent directly to Members on request.

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