

<b>Committee(s):</b> Policy and Resources Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 06/07/2023
<b>Subject:</b> Promotion of the Considerate Lighting Charter	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	5,10,11
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	Yes
<b>If so, how much?</b>	Up to £100,000
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	Policy Initiatives Fund
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	Y
<b>Report of: Executive Director Environment</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Bhakti Depala, Head of Planning Delivery and Rob McNicol, Assistant Director Policy and Strategy	

### Summary

The City of London Corporation has developed a draft Lighting Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which is proposed to be adopted by the Planning and Transportation Committee in July 2023.

The SPD incorporates a Considerate Lighting Charter (CLC), which is a set of actions that will help ensure that buildings and public spaces in the Square Mile achieve right light, in the right places, at the right time.

Building owners, managers and occupiers will be encouraged to sign up to the Charter, to commit to the principles and actions of the Charter, to minimise the amount of artificial lighting they use and to switch off their lights when unoccupied.

This paper is requesting funding from the 2023/24 Policy Initiative Fund to engage a consultant to undertake targeted stakeholder promotion and encourage the adoption of the Considerate Lighting Charter with City building owners, managers and occupiers.

### Recommendation(s)

That, Members:

- Agree to provide up to £100,000 from the 2023/24 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised as Communities and charged to City's Cash in order to finance the engagement of a specialist stakeholder consultant to engage with City building owners, managers and occupiers to encourage the adoption of the Considerate Lighting Charter.

### Main Report

## Background

1. The City of London Corporation has developed a draft Lighting Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which is proposed to be adopted by the Planning and Transportation Committee in July 2023. The development of the SPD followed the adoption of the City Corporation's comprehensive lighting strategy ('Light + Darkness in the City: A Lighting Vision') in October 2018, which has led to now well-established and exemplary lighting of the Square Mile's public realm.
2. The Lighting SPD has been developed to ensure that new development that comes forward in the Square Mile is complementing the approach to lighting envisioned in the City Corporation's lighting strategy, with an expectation that new developments will achieve "the right light, in the right place, at the right time." New development not only brings opportunities to install good quality lighting systems that minimise light spill and carbon emissions, but also has an effect on the public realm, especially where new public spaces are being created.
3. While the SPD can influence new developments in the City, there are many existing buildings and spaces that have the potential to improve their lighting. The Lighting SPD is therefore proposed to incorporate a Considerate Lighting Charter (CLC), which will set out clear pledges that building owners, managers and occupiers can sign up to, including a commitment to turn off lights in unoccupied interior spaces when they are not in use.
4. The Charter will go further, with signatories also pledging to:
  - Install infrared/'smart' lighting systems to minimise the amount of light used.
  - Review their lighting systems to reduce energy consumption, improve sustainability and safety, and consider equality, diversity and inclusion.
  - Train staff on how lighting systems should be operated to embed good lighting practice.
  - Install measures such as low-glare lighting and blinds to minimise glare and the visibility of lights from outside buildings.
  - Procure light fittings that have the minimum embodied carbon and lowest operational energy, and can be easily repaired, replaced, and recycled.

## Proposal

5. If Members of the Planning and Transportation Committee agree the adoption of the City of London Lighting SPD, the proposal is for the City Corporation to be able to roll out a communications campaign to promote it through extensive stakeholder engagement. Officers consider it would be valuable to appoint a specialist consultant to lead a targeted stakeholder promotion campaign. The consultant would proactively:

- Engage with building owners, managers and occupiers to sign up to the Charter;
  - Signpost and promote good lighting practice to potential Charter signatories, including that set out in the Lighting SPD, the City Corporation's lighting strategy, and publications from the Institute of Lighting Professionals;
  - Identify key target areas within the City where improvements to the internal lighting of buildings and privately owned public realm would have the greatest impact;
  - Identify key performance indicators and milestones in the delivery of the campaign;
  - Identify opportunities to promote the Charter and the City Corporation's overarching approach to lighting to a broad range of stakeholders, including London and national government; businesses; lighting professionals; developers, architects and designers.
6. It is proposed to engage a consultant over an 18-month period.
7. This work would be supported by the Town Clerk's Communications Team through the following channels:
- Media: news releases, opinion pieces including in City A.M. and City Matters newspapers, and interviews.
  - Social media: amplification of messaging across relevant City Corporation channels.
  - Advertising: adverts would be placed in key media including City A.M.
  - Digital: a dedicated web page on the City Corporation website would be published.
  - Internal comms: the City Corporation would become a signatory and an intranet article would be published informing staff.
8. The work would be supported by the Environment Department's Partnerships and Engagement Team, including through communicating with the Business Improvement District (BIDs) who work closely with occupiers within their districts.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

9. Strategic Implications – None

10. Financial Implications – It is proposed that the required funding of £100,000 is drawn from your Committee's 2023/24 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised as Communities and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance in the 2023/24 Policy Initiatives Fund is £814,001 prior to any allocation being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.
11. Resource Implications – Officers in Environment Department and Corporate Communications and External Affairs will work together to procure a specialist consultant and manage the relationship with the specialist consultant to ensure they are working with business owners, managers and occupiers and appropriate monitoring is carried out.
12. Legal Implications – None
13. Risk Implications – None
14. Equalities Implications – The design of lighting that affects the public realm has an important role to play in ensuring that the City is safe and feels safe for everyone after dark, including women and girls. Lighting design also needs to take into account accessibility requirements, particularly for disabled people. The Charter requires those carrying out a review of lighting systems to seek to improve safety and to consider equality, diversity and inclusion.
15. Climate Implications – Better lighting complements the delivery of our Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027) through reducing energy consumption.
16. Security Implications – Lighting of the public realm can have an impact on public safety. The Considerate Lighting Charter requires signatories to review their lighting, seeking to improve safety.

## **Conclusion**

17. The adoption of the Lighting SPD and associated Considerate Lighting Charter presents an opportunity for the City to position itself as a leading force in promoting area wide sustainable behaviour and reduce energy consumption. The Lighting Charter would be the first of its kind encouraging businesses to review their existing lighting strategies and make positive changes to minimise the amount of artificial light they use.
18. Officers consider it would be valuable to appoint a specialist consultant to lead a targeted stakeholder promotion campaign. The consultant would pro-actively go out to engage with building owners, managers, and occupiers to sign up to the Charter.
19. Officers therefore request that the Committee agree to provide up to £100,000 from the 2023/24 Policy Initiatives Fund to finance the engagement of a specialist consultant.

**Bhakti Depala, Head of Planning Delivery and Rob McNicol, Assistant Director,  
Policy and Strategy**

T: 07519 616 182 and 07784 239 316

E: [bhakti.depala@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:bhakti.depala@cityoflondon.gov.uk) and [rob.mcnicol@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:rob.mcnicol@cityoflondon.gov.uk)