

Addendum for item 17d– Motion 17d – Keep Oxfordshire’s street lights on (Proposed by Councillor Susan Brown, Seconded by Councillor Lubna Arshad)

Please note the motion, as published on Friday, 4 July 2025 has been amended following further review from the Monitoring Officer.

## **Council notes:**

- Well-lit streets are a key component to our community’s safety, security, and well-being.
- According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, an approximate [40% of all vehicle collisions occur at night time](#). Residents in nearby [Warwickshire](#) and [Northamptonshire](#), where street lights have been off for some years in the early hours, have reported feeling less safe at night due to the change.
- Proposals to switch off Oxfordshire's street lights at 11pm were originally proposed by the then Liberal Democrat and Green Party-led Oxfordshire County Council with some exceptions as detailed [here](#). If this had been implemented, the decision would have been carried out with just a week’s notice being given to the general public, and with no opportunity for them to make their views heard.
- Fortunately public outrage from this council and others stopped that from happening
- The county council now talks about communities having the option to request 'part-night lighting' which it defines as switching them off between 12 midnight and 5.30am in urban areas.

## **Council believes:**

- Every resident in Oxford has the right to feel safe in their community.
- Darkened streets create an environment that fosters antisocial behaviour and crime, putting our most vulnerable residents at increased risk.
- The County Council’s proposals would have a detrimental and disproportionate impact on women and girls, as well as all those who work unsocial hours including those in the NHS, hospitality, and retail, carers, cyclists, and pedestrians.
- These proposals also disregard public safety concerns raised in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, ignoring both actual and perceived risks.
- Particularly in urban areas, people will be heading home from a night out or to and from work during this period.
- During these hours there are fewer people around and many will already feel more vulnerable.

## **Council resolves:**

- To ask the City Council cabinet to adopt a position to oppose any proposal by the County Council to turn street lights off at 12midnight in Oxford
- To call on the Leader of the City Council to write to the Leader of the County Council requesting them not to rush through this half-baked, dangerous, and divisive proposal for the sake of financial expediency.
- To share the concerns raised by local communities, Thames Valley Police, Anneliese Dodds MP, and Sean Woodcock MP, who have spoken out against these proposals.

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