

Contact: Clare Luery
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Your ref:
Our ref: SSO Petition No. 355 LTR1



Ms. G. Underwood

13 February 2019

Dear Ms. Underwood,

Petition No. 355 – Removal of street lights numbered 799 – 800 – 802 – 813 – 814 – 815 – 816 – 817 along C96 at Binchester

Thank you for your letter dated 25 January 2019 requesting a review of the Council's response to your petition.

It has been agreed by the Chair of the Council's Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Statutory Scrutiny Officer that the request for review should be considered at a special meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on Monday 4 March 2019 at 9.30 a.m. in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham.

In reviewing the Council's response to your petition, we consider that there are a number of issues and/or questions that need to be clarified. These are:-

1. What were the results of the road safety risk assessment undertaken in respect of the street lights referenced in your petition?
2. An explanation by the service of how consultation on these matters is undertaken at a local level.
3. Whether the use of alternative measures to street lighting removal such as dimmers or timers are available as part of the Council's street lighting policy.

Transformation & Partnerships

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4. The Road Safety Risk Assessment section of the Council's response to your petition states that "If the risk assessment identifies any significant road safety issues that cannot be mitigated then the Council does not proceed with the removal. At these locations 5 street lights that were identified for removal have been retained following the risk assessment, demonstrating our commitment to remove street lights only where safe to do so." Clarification is needed on whether this means that 5 street lights on the C96 at Binchester were retained or that 5 street lights elsewhere in the County were retained as part of the assessment.

I must also clarify that the appeal hearing relates to the Council's response to your petition and is not a review of the original decision to remove the street lights in question.

In accordance with the authority's petitions appeal process (copy attached) you will be given the opportunity to address the Board for up to 10 minutes. You may bring representatives with you but please note that we will adhere to the 10 minute time slot.

I have noted your representations regarding the lack of clarity in respect of the appeals procedure and associated timescales within the response to your petition and Helen Lynch, the Council's Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the time limit for submitting appeals will be expressly stated in all responses to petitions in future.

I would be grateful if you would confirm your attendance at the COSMB and if you have any further queries please contact Clare Luery, Scrutiny Support Assistant on 03000 265978. A copy of the agenda for the meeting will be sent to you when published (normally 7 days before the meeting).

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Haworth
Statutory Scrutiny Officer