

## **Sub-matter 1C CPRE Berkshire**

We are concerned that insufficient weight is given to the seriousness of Climate Change, the risk of possible catastrophic change and understanding the need for the precautionary approach, the need to reduce energy consumption and the corresponding CO2 generating resource consumption. We trust the Panel will consider the following matter.

One aspect which appears to have been overlooked so far is the waste and unnecessary consumption of electricity associated with light pollution caused by overbright or unnecessary lighting. We still do not have policies to deter the growth in light pollution from continuing. The CPRE colour chart and text\* attached show how light pollution has increased very significantly in recent years, the worst region being the southeast. The energy involved may only be a small percentage of total consumption but given that electricity consumption is still increasing, faster than new 'green energy' provision, it is vital that attention is paid to every kilowatt used.

Of course, other important aspects, as explained in the text attached. They include:

- ◆ Quality of Life, which apart from policy CC12 gets little mention in the Plan;
- ◆ the impact on Biodiversity with day/night confusion affecting both wildlife and plants;
- ◆ the charts show that less than 1% of the southeast is truly dark.

We note that there are policies in the Plan for Noise pollution D5(10) and Air pollution D5(9) so it would seem logical to include one on light pollution, especially when it also involves energy consumption.

We recommend that a simple policy should be added to the Plan to encourage Local Authorities to be pro-active in seeking to reduce Light Pollution and associated use of energy, for example via their new planning policy documents and exercising their powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (1995).

Indeed, this type of action which could affect larger numbers of people may be one of the few ways likely achieve the 'behaviour change' that the Plan aspires to influence.

Our experience is that some LAs are taking a serious interest in reducing light pollution, others not so. Regarding Question 2, there should be no penalty for new development because modern shielded and directed light fittings (luminaries) are now standard products and in most cases will use less energy so reducing users annual costs.

\* This is available on: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/publications/landscape/light-pollution.htm>