

CORE OFFER BUDGET FOR STREET LIGHTING

WHY DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND WHAT DOES IT NEED TO COVER?

The Council currently has nearly 12,000 street lights and by law must maintain them to ensure they are safe.

HOW DOES THE CORE OFFER BUDGET MEET THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS?

At the start of 2015/16 the Council had just over 4000 lamp posts over 40 years old and beyond an age where replacement was necessary for structural safety reasons. Similarly, most of the lanterns were not using the most efficient LED technology.

The Council's core budget provides for the electricity costs and reactive maintenance to fix problems but is not sufficient for wholesale replacement.

The Government recognised that major maintenance projects are difficult to fund through the normal allocations and the Government chose to create a Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund.

They created this fund by top-slicing all local authorities maintenance budgets and introducing a competitive bidding round. This resulted in some authorities with additional funding for critical maintenance projects and some with less funding.

Darlington's bid was one of only 28 to be successful in sharing in the national £275 million fund.

The work is underway and will take three years to complete. In that time:

- All street lights will be converted to energy efficient LED lights.
- All street lighting columns which are over 40 years old will be replaced with new columns.

DOES THIS DIFFER FROM THE CURRENT SERVICE?

At the end of the three year programme the Council will have a more effective and efficient street lighting system, which will both reduce the energy bill and the cost of maintaining the street lighting system.

It is anticipated costs will have reduced by over £500k p.a. by 2019/20.

The works will also reduce the Councils carbon footprint by 1,938 tonnes a year.

WHAT IS THE CORE BUDGET MADE UP OF?

2019/20 budget £903,778

The original budget for 2019/20 before the replacement programme would have seen a electricity budget of £850k and maintenance budget of £520k. Following completion of the programme the Core offer in 2019/20 is expected to be made up of Electricity at £470k and a maintenance budget of £380k.

	Budget 2019/20 £
Employee	56,164
Premises	855,747
Support Services	1,729
Income	(37,500)
Overheads	27,638
Total	903,778