
**RELEASE OF CAPITAL FUNDS FOR REPLACEMENT OF CONCRETE
STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS**

Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor David Lyonette, Transport Portfolio

Responsible Director - Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To request the release of capital funds for a replacement programme for concrete street lighting columns.

Summary

2. Darlington Borough Council has more than 12,500 lamp columns to maintain. There are more than 400 concrete lamp columns that are in excess of 40 years old throughout the Borough (list of streets included at **Appendix 1**).
3. A provision of £475k was included in the capital programme approved by Council on 26 February 2009 to fund a complete replacement of the remaining concrete street lighting columns. This is to be funded by prudential borrowing, included within the revenue medium term financial plan at a financing cost of £30,600 per annum for 25 years.
4. It is proposed that the replacement columns will be tubular steel with an anticipated life span of thirty years. The lanterns will be of a more efficient design and the photocells controlling the on/off times will be specified that results in a slightly delayed “on” time and a slightly earlier “off” time, reducing the actual burning hours by approximately 50 hours per annum for each column. The combined effect of these measures is an annual energy saving of around £3 per unit, which when multiplied by the number of columns being replaced results in an electricity saving of approximately £1,350 per annum.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Members approve the release of the finance as detailed in the report.

Reason

6. The recommendation is supported to maintain the street lighting asset to an appropriate standard.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Dave Winstanley : Extension 2752

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S17 Crime and Disorder	The provision of street lighting is a recognised crime prevention measure. Maintaining the street lighting asset to an appropriate standard contributes to the crime prevention benefits associated with street lighting.
Health and Well Being	The provision of street lighting is important part of the highway asset in terms of road safety and assisting to promote sustainable travel.
Sustainability	The specification for the replacement has been considered and efficient lanterns are being proposed with alterations to the on and off times to reduce electricity use and improve efficiency.
Diversity	No impact
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	The report requests release of funds from the Council's budget. It does not affect the Policy Framework.
Key Decision	This is a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Maintaining street lighting provides crime prevention benefits that contribute to the Safer Darlington theme. The changes that will be made to the specification also contribute to the Greener Darlington theme.
Efficiency	The latest efficient lanterns are proposed with alterations to the on and off times to reduce electricity usage. This is expected to save approximately 50 hours burning time per annum for each column. The combined effect of these measures is an annual reduction of around 30 kilowatt hours per column resulting in a total electricity saving for all the columns replaced of approximately £1,350 per annum.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. Darlington Borough Council has more than 12,500 lamp columns to maintain. These are of varying types, steel, concrete and a few remaining cast iron. The Council is continually renewing the asset on an annual programme basis. However, there are more than 400 concrete lamp columns that are in excess of 40 years old (list of streets included at **Appendix 1**). The Council operates a programme of testing and inspection to maximise street lighting column life expectancy. However, these have reached the limit of the reasonable life expectancy of a column.
8. A provision of £475k was included in the capital programme approved by Council on 26 February 2009 to fund a complete replacement of the remaining concrete street lighting columns. This is to be funded by prudential borrowing, included within the revenue medium term financial plan at a financing cost of £30,600 per annum for 25 years.
9. It is proposed that the replacement columns will be tubular steel with an anticipated life span of thirty years. The lanterns used will in the main be 42w PL-T (fluorescent) white light, which are electronically controlled and highly efficient. On more highly trafficked roads, the lanterns will be 70w SON (high pressure sodium) lanterns, again electronically controlled and highly efficient.
10. As an additional environmental and efficiency measure, the photo cells controlling these new lanterns will be 35 lux switch on, 18 lux switch off as against conventional 70 lux switch on, 35 lux switch off. In effect this means a slightly delayed “on” time and a slightly earlier “off” time, reducing the actual burning hours by approximately 50 hours per annum for each column. Some small scale trials have been undertaken and this was not noticed by residents.
11. The combined effect of these measures is a reduction of around 30 kilowatt hours and an approximate annual energy saving of £3 per unit, which when multiplied by the number of columns being replaced results in an electricity saving of approximately £1,350 per annum.

Street Column Replacements Identified by Ward

NUMBER OF COLUMNS	WARD
7	BANK TOP
3	COCKERTON EAST
89	COCKERTON WEST
37	EASTBOURNE
16	EASTBOURNE LASCELLES PARK EAST PARK WEST Note: streets in multiple wards
26	HUMMERSKNOTT
8	HUMMERSKNOTT MOWDEN Note: streets in multiple wards
46	LASCELLES
39	LINGFIELD
195	MOWDEN
1	MOWDEN WHESOE
467	TOTAL