

Subject: **A Review of Footway and Other Lighting**

Report to: Management Team, 10th July 2017
Environment Committee 18th July 2017

Report by: Jane Beck Head of Property Services
Glenn Buck Interim Head of Environmental Services

SUBJECT MATTER/RECOMMENDATIONS

This report seeks to advise Committee of the Council's responsibilities for footway and other lighting.

Members are recommended to;

- 1) Note the report and,**
- 2) Confirm the Future Footway Lighting Policy detailed in Appendix 1 and,**
- 3) Consider whether it wishes officers to bring back an in depth report detailing future options for savings.**

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Street and footway lighting within the Borough Council is provided by a number of agencies. Highways England are responsible for the lighting provided on main trunk roads, Norfolk County Council Highways are responsible for street lighting to a number of main roads. The Borough Council looks after a variety of footway, car parking and decorative lighting units together with some parish councils who also look after a number of units in their parishes. For the Borough Council this amounts to approximately 4500 footway and lighting units. The majority of these were inherited by the Borough Council as part of local government reorganisation in 1974, although up until 2006 the Borough Council did provide additional footway lighting.

The provision, renewal and maintenance of these lighting units is a significant capital spend with the Council approving a capital budget of £100K per year since 2009. In addition, in revenue terms, last year footway lighting cost approximately £280K for repairs, maintenance and energy costs

2. **FOOTWAY LIGHTING IN THE BOROUGH**

Having stopped providing new lighting in 2006, the Borough has concentrated on repairing and modernising the network it owns. In addition to the lamp standards above ground, the Borough is responsible for a number of private supply networks underground such as those supplying many of the rear passageway lighting columns. Given the age of the majority of the stock, there has been a rise in recent times in the number of faults developing on these underground cables. Piecemeal repairs tend to only be short term as the cable is likely to fail elsewhere. Cable replacement costs can stretch to several tens of thousands of pounds.

In gated rear passageways where the general public have been excluded, the Council has for the past two years only carried out repairs that are economical to do, for example replacement of bulbs or lighting heads on the columns. Where the system has failed completely and is life expired, the Council took the decision in December 2015 not to effect a repair. Committee may wish to reaffirm this decision. Where new cabling systems have been provided, the Council has endeavoured to secure that these are transferred to the national UK Power Network thus removing the Council's liability for future underground maintenance.

New Lighting Requests

The Council does receive regular requests for the lighting of new housing developments from the County Council but since 2006 has refused to take on additional schemes. With the rise in house building predicted and much of it as new estates, Committee are asked whether they propose to maintain this stance. New lighting in these areas is a decision for developers to make and for them to seek to cover the cost of maintenance by way of charging residents perhaps through a management company.

A Proposed Future Footway Lighting Policy

The various lighting policies around footway lighting that the Council have

approved have been consolidated into a single policy document which is attached as an appendix 1 to this report.

3. **OTHER LIGHTING**

Car Park Lighting

The Council provides lighting to its pay and display car parks by way of 56 lighting columns.

Decorative Lighting

The Council is responsible for most of the decorative lighting on public land which includes the ceiling of light on Regent Road, the light sabres around the Market Place and Britannia Pier, the light cannons on the promenade, and the uplighters in St Georges Park. It also includes lighting on North Drive and Gorleston Lower Esplanade, and the Christmas lights on King Street, Regent Street and the Market Place, as well as in Gorleston. The Council is also responsible for flood lighting to St Andrews Church in Gorleston and St Nicholas Minster and St Mary's Church in Great Yarmouth.

Recreational Lighting

This includes lighting to areas such as the multi-use games areas (MUGAs) which are lit by a total of 26 columns.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

As seen from above, the cost of repair, renewal and maintenance is ongoing. In order to reduce costs the following could be considered at sometime in the future;

- Partial overnight dimming or switch off as currently undertaken by Norfolk County Council
- Review the provision of existing lighting in certain areas
- Continue or speed up the current replacement programme for sodium lights by much cheaper to run LED units. Incorporate improved timing mechanisms for better control
- Cover the cost of the Community Housing footway lighting from the Housing Revenue Account budget.

5. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

We need to ensure that risk assessments are undertaken in relation to all footway lights. It is necessary on occasion to replace aging private underground cabling; this can lead to numbers of lights reported as being inoperative leading to reputational consequences for the Council.

6. **CONCLUSIONS**

The Boroughs lighting responsibilities are wide and varied and are provided and maintained as a complete cost to the Council. The age and condition of parts of the footway lighting in particular is such that it gives cause for concern and identifies the need to continue with the Capital scheme of replacement to actively manage safety requirements.

7. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the report and,
2. Confirm the Future Footway Lighting Policy as detailed in Appendix 1 and,
3. Consider receiving future reports in relation to areas whereby underground cabling rectification has been identified.

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	None
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	None
Existing Council Policies:	Yes
Financial Implications:	Yes
Legal Implications (including human rights):	none
Risk Implications:	Yes
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	None
Crime & Disorder:	Yes
Every Child Matters:	None

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Future Policy for Footway Lighting

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Borough Council is responsible for a number of different lighting systems throughout the Borough. One such system is footway lighting. In some areas the footway lights do provide lighting to roads but the Council does not own any highway lights. The lighting columns are found in the urban areas but also in many parishes, a few are on private land and a large number are on land that is the responsibility of Community Housing. This policy combines the Councils existing policies into this one document.

2.0 Background Information on Footway Lighting

2.1 The Council currently looks after approximately 4,500 lighting columns. This is a significant number for a small district council and has its origins in the local government re-organisation in 1974. There is no statutory requirement for the Borough Council to provide footway lighting so the provision of this service is discretionary. Where lighting is provided it can only be to footway standard to offer some assistance to pedestrians. Other lighting within the borough is provided by Highways England on trunk roads and Norfolk County Council's Highways Department as part of its legal obligation to promote road safety under the Road Safety Act.

2.2 Following a survey in 2006 a significant number of columns were found to be in a bad structural condition. As a result in 2008 the Council invested in a long term capital replacement programme which continues.

2.3 The ongoing maintenance works are handled by GYB services as part of the Joint Venture with the Council. GYB Services also manage the council's energy consumption and since 2013 the energy consumption has been reduced by 85,246 kWh equating to around £8,500 which has helped to off-set utility price increases.

2.4 Since 2008 743 columns have been replaced. This means that columns with an age of 0 – 20yrs is 1225 leaving the number of columns aged over 20yrs at 2954. The average life expectancy of older lighting columns was 25 years, however, the new lighting columns have been specified to have a life expectancy of 50 years. These life expectancies are design life expectancies and depending on where

columns are sited and their structural material these life spans can be exceeded.

2.5 Underground supplies vary between private and public networks and in some areas are reaching end of life. The private GYBC-owned electricity supply network currently supplies 2035 lighting columns (756 Yarmouth, 921 Gorleston and 358 within the parishes). Some of this cable, especially within Yarmouth, is approaching 100 years of age. As part of the capital replacement works new columns are, where possible, connected to the UK Power Networks (UKPN) supply cables and in doing this any future underground supply faults are repaired by UKPN at their cost.

2.6 Approximately 80% of our footway lights are either on the footway or highway on a combination of Borough Council and County Council owned land. The remaining lights are sited on land under control of Community Housing or private (unadopted) land such as numerous rear access paths and roads. Some footway lights do provide lighting to adopted highways although they are not of a standard that Norfolk County Highways can adopt.

3.0 Policy Decisions Covering Footway Lighting

3.1 To reaffirm the policy of continuing to maintain lighting to unadopted passageways until 'life expired' with a view to reviewing any significant passageways as the need arises.

3.2 The Council does receive regular requests for the lighting of new housing developments from the County Council but since 2006 has refused to take on additional schemes. New lighting in these areas is now a decision for developers to make and for them to seek to cover the cost of maintenance by way of a charging methodology perhaps through a management company.

3.3 To continue with the Capital Footway Lighting programme.

3.4 Continue with the policy of transferring all upgraded underground network cabling to UK Power Networks so that the new cables (and future maintenance liabilities) are taken on by them and incorporated into the national power network.

3.5 Refer back to Environment Committee any underground cabling issues with significant renewal costs.

4.0 Review

This policy will be subject to regular review by the Council and updated as appropriate.