

Briefing Note

Title of Briefing:	ELC 17/01 Road Lighting Provision on Principal Road Network (PRN)
Date:	15 March 2018
Author:	I Harker, Lighting Manager
Unit / Directorate:	Highways, Transport and Fleet, Environment and Community Services
Audience:	Eden Local Committee

1.0 Purpose of Briefing

- 1.1 To provide Eden Local Committee with a briefing on the ownership and responsibility for street lighting in the Eden area.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Prior to 1974 the responsibility for street lighting was spread across County, District (including Borough and Town councils) and Parish councils. In general rural road lighting systems were the responsibility of County councils with urban road lighting being the responsibility of District councils. Parish councils maintained footway lighting in villages and rural areas.
- 2.2 Following local government reorganisation in 1974 the responsibility for urban road lighting passed from the District councils to the new Cumbria County Council along with the rural road lighting maintained by the four (Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire and West Riding of Yorkshire) County councils. At this stage some Parish councils also transferred their footway lighting to the new District councils.

3.0 Types of Street Lighting Systems

- 3.1 Street lighting is a general term used to describe the two systems of lighting defined in the Highways Act 1980 (the Act).
- Road Lighting
 - Footway Lighting

The terms road and footway where they refer to lighting systems are slightly misleading as road lighting can be installed on footpaths while footway lighting can, and often is, installed on roads irrespective of the road classification.

- 3.2 The current definition for a footway or road lighting system is contained in Section 270 of the Act. You may view a copy of this document at www.legislation.gov.uk.
- 3.3 While in many instances the actual equipment used in both road and footway lighting systems is similar, on principal roads, road lighting systems are designed to meet the specific requirements of a designated lighting standard, use taller columns at a closer spacing.
- 3.4 Footway lighting systems have no defined lighting standard, tend to restrict the height of the column to five metres (although they can be as tall as six metres) and have larger spacing between columns or are individual columns adjacent to local amenities such as a bus shelter or phone box.
- 3.5 Drawing ELC-17-01-001 which is attached to this briefing gives examples of footway and road lighting systems at a standard principal road junction.

4.0 Ownership of Lighting Systems

- 4.1 The County Council are responsible for road lighting systems located on the network (adopted roads) for which they are the highway authority. This includes all classification of road and adopted footpaths.
- 4.2 Highways England is responsible for road lighting systems on trunk roads (A66) and the M6 motorway.
- 4.3 Eden District Council and some parish councils are responsible for systems of footway lighting on both the Council's and Highways England's networks and un-adopted roads and footpaths.
- 4.4 In some instances Housing Associations and property owners are responsible for the lighting on un-adopted or private roads.
- 4.5 As part of the highway authority the Council's road lighting service does not have the power to provide;
- Any lighting on un-adopted or private roads and footpaths
 - Systems of Footway Lighting, irrespective of road classification
 - Any "street" light mounted less than four metres from ground level (i.e. lit bollards)
 - Car park lighting systems

5.0 Provision of New and Replacement Road Lighting Systems

- 5.1 The Council will consider the provision of new road lighting systems based on the Council's strategic aims. Each scheme will be evaluated in respect of;
- Reduction of Night-time Accidents

- Reduction of Crime and Fear of Crime
- Impact on Capital and Maintenance Costs
- Reduction of Energy and Carbon Emissions (CO2e)
- Impact on the Local Environment
- Added Value to Commercial and Leisure Activities

5.2 Proposals will then be prioritised against other highway schemes for the available capital funding.

6.0 Transfer of Lighting Systems from one Authority to Another

6.1 It is possible for a district or parish council to transfer footway lighting to the County Council by entering into an agreement with the County Council to upgrade the footway lighting system, at their expense, to a road lighting system.

6.2 Section 270 of the Act outlines this process which, unfortunately, is quite onerous and can have a significant financial burden on the transferring authority.

6.3 In summary the district or parish council would need to upgrade the footway lighting system to a system of road lighting. All equipment would need to be installed to the current County Council specification and there shall be no outstanding liabilities (i.e. notification of removal by Electricity North West Limited) for which the County Council would need to meet the costs. Where lighting is located on third party equipment, the Council shall also require an easement to ensure lighting can be installed in perpetuity.

7.0 Identification of Road Lighting

7.1 The lighting service is aware of the difficulty in identifying one system of lighting from another and ownership of that lighting. We are investigating methods to give greater on site clarity of ownership through branding of the Council's road lighting stock.

7.2 Location details of all the Council's road lighting stock are available to view on the Council's website through Roads, Travel, Parking – Report a highway fault. Unfortunately this inventory does not hold details of footway lighting systems in the ownership of the district or parish councils.