

Footway Lighting-Funding Allocation ENW

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Peter Kane
LEAD OFFICER: Janice Carrol, Head of Copeland Services
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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

All stakeholders will have a clear understanding of the funding available for replacement of footway lighting where lighting has been removed from poles by ENW as part of their Pole Replacement Programme.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

(eg Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council,etc.)

This report gives an update on the current position regards funding allocated from ENW for the replacement of footway lighting that is being removed as part of the Pole Replacement Programme

RECOMMENDATIONS:

CBC hold the funds allocated from ENW to be distributed to Parish Councils wishing to replace lights and take over future maintenance and utility costs, funding to be allocated pro-rata to the number of lights being removed in the initial phase, any remaining funding to be utilised on the same basis for lights removed in later phases. Any remaining funding after all lights on ENW poles have been removed to be returned to ENW.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Electricity North West are currently carrying out a programme to replace wooden poles, whilst they are carrying out this pole replacement programme they will no longer replace any footway lighting that is fixed to these poles. We have now been notified of the poles that will be replaced as part of this programme which will take place between now and the 31st March 2015.

1.2 CBC has a total of 201 lights that is or was on poles and which will be removed by ENWL as part of their pole replacement programme over a 20 year programme. 52 have been identified and in some cases have already been removed to be carried out by 31st March 2015. We are still awaiting clarification from ENW on these numbers

1.3 ENWL has made available £250,000 for the replacement of footway lights that are affected by their pole replacement programme in Cumbria only. This fund is to be shared by the 5 Borough Councils and the District Council to replace any of the lights that are to be removed in their area.

1.4 £55.8K has been allocated by ENWL to the Copeland area to be shared with Cumbria County Council based on the number of lights already identified for removal (currently 52) which would be approx £25K for Copeland Borough Council. The average cost for a new column to be provided is £2,500.

1.5 ENWL wishes to transfer the funds to the Borough and District Councils respectively and for them to deal directly with the associated parish councils in their geographical footprint and administer their share of the fund responsibly and fairly.

2. PROPOSALS

2.1 We will write to all Parish Councils to make them aware that ENWL have made these funds available and that the fund is being transferred to CBC to administer.

2.2 To inform them that in line with CBC Revised Footway Lighting Policy CBC will not be able to contribute to any replacement footway lighting, the parish councils will therefore need to contribute to any replacement lighting costs not provided by the funding along with any on-going maintenance and utility costs.

2.3 Parish Councils will need to notify us of any lights they wish to be replaced using the funding which will be allocated pro-rata by the number of lights that are being removed which would be approximately £480 per light. The Parish Councils will need to meet the additional costs associated with the replacement lights and any future maintenance and utility costs.

2.4 Should the Parishes not use the funds to replace lights in the initial stage of replacements until 31st March 2015, the funds will remain to be allocated on the same basis for lights that will be removed from ENW poles in future years, all the 201 lights on ENW poles will eventually be removed when the poles need replaced which could be over a 20 year period.

2.5 Any funding remaining after all the poles have been removed will be returned to ENW

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

3.1 The full available funding to be allocated equally between all Parish Councils that express an interest in replacing any affected lights in their area and agreeing to take over any future maintenance and utility costs, with any remaining funding will remain to be allocated for replacement of lights in future years.

4. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

5.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: No Comment

5.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: Electricity North West (ENW) have taken the decision, in phase 1 of the operation, to remove 52 lamp posts in Copeland and have allocated £26k as a 'contribution' towards the cost of any possible replacements posts.
Copeland will be accepting the £26k for onward distribution to parishes who choose to replace the lighting poles and pay for the future maintenance of them at their expense.
Each new post will cost approximately £2.5k and £80 a year maintenance, this cost will not be met by CBC as this authority does not have a statutory obligation to provide street lighting, however each new post will be allocated 1/52 of the funds or approximately £470 which CBC can pass to a parish to use towards the purchase and installation of a new post, should they choose to replace and maintain it.
Should the parishes not bid on the funds they will remain to be utilised in later phases, any funding not used at completion will be returned to ENW.
ENW require CBC to hold and allocate this money on their behalf and inform them when monies are used to replace a post. This process is not envisaged to be onerous so no cost implications are anticipated for the authority.

5.3 EIA comments; The Council considers the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector equality duty and the impact of replacement of footway lighting and the impact on the protected characteristics to ensure that we take advantage of any opportunities to advance equalities.

5.4 Policy Framework Comments; In line with the Council's key priorities it will work to be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland, as well as working to help build capacity within communities to respond to the changes, find solutions and seek opportunities to help deliver local services for those who are or may be affected by the removal/replacement of footway lighting.

5.5 Other consultee comments, if any: None

List of Appendices - None

List of Background Documents: