

Please find below responses to the public queries raised at the South Area Committee meeting on the 5th of October 2015

What energy savings are to be made?

With the introduction of part night lighting, the saving we will make from this operation is expected to be £272,000 for 2016/2017. This will go towards the £41 million Cambridgeshire County Council needs to save for this period.

What regulations allowed street lights to be dimmed or switched off?

There are no legal requirements for street lighting to be provided by the County Council.

- The Highways Act 1980 allows the County Council as highway authority to place streetlights on the highway for the purposes of lighting roads but does not obligate the Authority to keep them lit.
- The Highways Authority do have a statutory duty to highlight obstructions they have placed on the highway. We will continue to honour this by lighting traffic calming measurements (i.e. road bumps), roundabouts and any other road obstructions which we place on the highway.
- We are also empowered to provide lighting which, in our opinion, would prevent road traffic accidents; this is why we have focused on continuing to light high traffic density routes and accident black spots.

What type of streetlights, why not LEDs?

The new streetlights we are installing should lead to an energy saving of 45%.

- We are now investigating the use of LED technology as they have become less expensive since the writing of the contract with Balfour Beatty eight years ago. We are discussing with Balfour Beatty the possibility of implementing LED lights in certain circumstances where it will be most cost efficient in the long term.

Could individual streets pay to implement lights as a result of safety concerns due to lack of lighting?

Local and parish councils have been invited to contribute towards paying for lighting on roads they select within their areas at the cost of £12 per streetlight for the 2016/17 year. This has also been offered to the City Council. Unfortunately individual streets won't be able to implement lighting themselves. We will continue to work closely with the police and perform our own risk analysis to ensure safety is constant priority with any streetlight decision.