

## STREET LIGHTING POLICY

### Provision of Lighting

Road types vary in nature according to their use and location. Therefore, the level, type, design and maintenance of lighting systems will also vary. The decision as to what lighting standard should be provided depends primarily on local environmental factors. However, all schemes will be designed to the current British Standards and the relevant professional guidance in order to ensure safety is a key element of the designs.

In order to ensure consistency throughout the county, four environmental zones have been defined, which give a guide to the approach that will be taken.

Zone	Definition	General Principles
E1	<b>National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Beauty and other Sensitive Areas and Dark Landscapes.</b>	Specifically not lit except where overriding safety issues can be demonstrated.
E2	<b>Areas of Low District Brightness.</b> i.e. roads in general rural areas within Cheshire, but outside those in Zone E1.	Generally not lit except where road safety or personal security issues can be demonstrated.
E3	<b>Areas of Medium District Brightness.</b> i.e. roads in an urban* location.	Generally lit
E4	<b>Areas of High District Brightness.</b> i.e. roads in urban* centers with high night-time activity.	To be lit

\*Urban centres are generally defined as being within 30mph limits

The decision as to whether lighting should be provided or not at a location depends on various factors including:-

- The availability of funding, particularly sources of funding from the private sector, e.g. new residential developments.
- The dereliction of existing lighting and the need for replacement.
- The incidence of traffic accidents Identified by the road safety section.
- The personal security of highway users

The Street Lighting Section is an active partner in each of the Community Safety Partnerships and hence there is a coordinated approach to dealing with the safety needs of highway users. Some of the initiatives with which the Section assists include provision/improvements in lighting to assist with the effective operation of CCTV schemes and also Safer Routes to School schemes.

Where lighting is considered desirable, on either road safety or personal security grounds, then full consideration will be given to the environmental impact when designing any lighting proposal.

### **Maintenance of Lighting**

The street lighting section operates its maintenance procedures in accordance with the 'Road Lighting Maintenance Code of Good Practice' published by the LGA, which provides guidance to ensure the efficient, effective delivery of a service as per the principles of Best Value.

All street lighting units adopted by Cheshire County Council shall be maintained to a standard that ensures, as far as is possible, their safe, economic, effective and reliable operation. The County Council will endeavour to maintain the asset value of the provision to give the lowest life cycle cost and replace the provision with new at the best time relative to performance, running costs and safety.

In order to achieve this, the County Council will:-

- Maintain an up-to-date electronic-based inventory of all lighting units to ensure satisfactory management of the maintenance process and to assist in the competitive purchase of energy.
- Maintain systems for the reporting of defective lights by members of the public and attend faults within a reasonable time period.
- Carry out periodic audits to identify defective lights
- Maintain the design standard of illumination to a reasonable degree of certainty.
- Carry out periodic structural inspections in order to identify defects and enable the planning of replacement programmes.
- Carry out periodic electrical inspections in order to identify defects and enable the planning of maintenance programmes.

### **Seasonal Decorations on or Above The Highway**

The County Council receives a number of requests from organisations each year for seasonal decorations. These may include Christmas illuminations,

hanging baskets, flags, banners and the like. The County Council does not involve itself in the planning or erection of these decorations, but in the interests of safety, as Highway Authority, it does advise organisations who wish to erect decorations on or across the highway.

The erection of seasonal decorations on or above the highway shall only be carried out with the prior written approval of the Highway Authority. The local planning authority should also be consulted to ascertain whether planning permission is required or not.

All works associated with the provision of seasonal decorations shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the following documents:-

- County Surveyors' Society (CSS) "Code of Practice for the Installation and Operation of Seasonal Decorations on or Above the Public Highway", ENG/7-95, October 1995 or any subsequent amendment thereto and in force at the time of approval.
- Cheshire County Council's "Specification for Temporary Supplies to Electrical Installations on the Highway".
- be the sole responsibility of the body installing the decorations and shall be insured for a minimum of £2 million for anyone incident, with the Highway Authority being fully indemnified.