

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**  
**Wednesday 9 January 2019**

**1. QUESTION FROM MR KNIGHT**  
**Re: Costs of Transferred Ownership**

In terms of the three lights in Sea Lawn Terrace, Dawlish, how much money has it cost the Council to seek to transfer ownership to 'the owners of any such private/unadopted road' over the last 18 months, and how much money would turning these three street lights off save the Council each year in real terms?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

There have been a number of instances where private streetlights have been divested at very little cost. However, the extensive Sea Lawn Terrace correspondence is estimated to have incurred over 130 hours of staff time and about £300 cost from our contractor. The current annual cost to run the three lights is in the region of £151 plus the cost of lanterns and column replacement when they are required. If the lanterns were kept, they would be converted to LED at a cost of about £750.

**2. QUESTION FROM MR BARNESLEY**  
**Re: Definition of Private Road**

What is meant by a 'private road' in the 2019 Street Lighting Policy and which roads in Devon will be affected by this policy?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

A private road referred to above is defined as a road which is not designated as a Highway Maintainable at Public Expense (see the Highways Act 1980) and for which the County Council has no legal duty to maintain.

**3. QUESTION FROM MRS HUGHES**  
**Re: Leaving on Street Lights**

Why can't the three streetlights, which serve 59 properties (all of whom pay full council tax) at a total cost of around £102.27 per year, be left on?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

Section 12 (c) of the Cabinet report presents this as an option stating "Retaining responsibility for private roads in all circumstances where we have historically done so. This is not being proposed as the authority should try and reasonably save costs where it can reasonably do so and should not automatically take on responsibility for matters where it is not required to do so." However, the policy that is being proposed does allow discretion to be exercised, and therefore an outcome, if the proposed policy is approved my members, could be that a decision is taken for the council to carry on maintaining these specific streetlights, given the specific circumstances.

**4. QUESTION FROM MRS WILLIAMS**  
**Re: Proposed Savings**

How much would the policy proposed above cost/save the Council in comparison to the proposal in the 2019 Street Lighting Policy

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

Whilst there is always an initial cost in officer time which will vary for each situation, the principle and response to question 3 applies also to this question.

**5. QUESTION FROM MR ELLIS**  
**Re: Cost of Implementation**

How much will it cost the Council to implement the proposed policy and how much will it save the Council if the cost is only £34 per light per year?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

See the response to questions 3 and 4 above.

**6. QUESTION FROM MR SPURWAY**  
**Re: IPCC Special Report and Zero Carbon at Devon County Council**

Considering the scientific consensus in the IPCC Special Report published in October 2018 that we only have 12 years in which to stop climate change, has DCC developed a detailed plan to enable Devon County Council to go Zero Carbon by 2030.

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD**

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Special Report recommends reducing global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% by 2030 in comparison to 2010 levels, reaching net-zero by 2050. DCC's current Corporate Energy Policy is projected to reduce the Authority's GHG emissions by 50% by 2030 from 2012/13 levels and therefore exceeds the IPCC's 2030 recommendation.

DCC's GHG emissions have reduced by 36% since 2012/13, the detail of which is available in the annual Environmental Performance Statement available at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/environment/environmental-policy>

The Corporate Energy Policy targets are under review by DCC's Environmental Performance Board to set more stretching but realistic goals. The review will consider the recommendation expected in March 2019 to government from the UK Committee on Climate Change, the independent advisory body that monitors the implementation of the Climate Change Act, on a revised GHG reduction target for the UK. The review is expected to conclude in summer 2019.

Note: A factual briefing on the IPCC's Special Report is available at Item 11g of this Cabinet meeting's Agenda Report Pack.

**7. QUESTION FROM MRS HEXTER**  
**Re: Consultation and Awareness of Policy**

Aside from housing associations, is there any evidence to suggest that any Devon residents beyond those that reside in, or use, Sea Lawn Terrace and Riviera Terrace in Dawlish are aware of this proposed policy (see below, in italics)? If yes, who is aware and how were they made aware?

*(Devon County Council will seek to transfer the ownership of street lights which have been identified as being on a private road. It was discussed that, while it would be beneficial for street lights to be passed to the owners of any such private road, a pragmatic approach would be paramount in any negotiations. Local members should be consulted, and it was suggested that they could also assist in setting up any new residents' associations.)*

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES**

Given that the policy proposal is to allow discretion to be exercised in situations such as Sea Lawn Terrace and Riviera Terrace in Dawlish, following earlier correspondence, it was considered that consultation with a group of Scrutiny Committee members was adequate for the changes to policy that were being proposed.