

LED Lighting

1. Current Position

The current pricing for electricity supply for street lighting is contracted as £1,500 for FY2021/22 increasing by the rate of inflation for FY 2022/23.

The budget for FY22/23 assumed that this would result in supply costs of £1,545.

The supply costs for FY23/24 will be at the market rate, which is projected to rise significantly.

It is not unreasonable to expect future supply costs to be at least £3,000, possibly more given current events.

This will require a significant rise in the level of the precept to support the increase the cost of electricity supply.

2. Mitigation

30 of the street lights are SON (sodium) light, and 9 are LED street lights.

If all Freshford street lights used LED bulbs then there would be a significant drop in the electricity supply costs in the region of 40-50%.

The maintenance costs for both SON and LED street lights are similar.

Therefore, if all the Freshford SON street lights were converted to be LED lights, the cost of electricity supply in FY2023/24 would not be expected to be significantly higher than the current costs. If prices rise beyond those currently being discussed, then the amount of this increase would be significantly less than if the 30 SON street lights are not converted to LED lighting.

These figures are broad as the precise increase in pricing is unknown, and also the exact reduction in the cost of supply needs to be confirmed.

3. Costs for Implementing LED lights

The precise costs for this need to be confirmed.

However, a broad estimate can be obtained using the cost of recent work.

Light 25 – Abbey Lane – was converted from SON to LED at a cost of £496.

This implies that the cost of converting the 30 remaining SON lights to LED would be c.£15,000.

There will be additional costs, increased cost of LED units as well as inflation to take into account.

It is not unreasonable to include a contingency on this amount for budgeting purposes:

- 20% contingency – overall budget of £18,000
- 30% contingency – overall budget of £19,500