

## Concrete Column Replacement Programme

### Background

Following the 2020 streetlighting column inspection programme 28 columns were identified as needing urgent replacement.

Under minute point 244/20 in September 2020 the Town Council passed the following resolution

- **To agree in principal to undertake a 3 year streetlighting column and bracket replacement programme to replace all columns identified as level 5 in the street lighting survey, subject to a more detailed quote being submitted to the October meeting.**

Work was delayed due to supply issues brought about by covid but a three year replacement programme has been introduced.

Priority was given to replace the old cast iron columns on Lowe Hill road in year 1 and these were replaced 2021.

Following a further column inspection in 2022 the Town Council was informed that all concrete columns were now to be categorised as category 5 (in need of replacement) and that the Town Council was advised to replace all concrete columns on a 5 year programme.

Under minute 330/22 The following recommendation was approved by the Town Council - *actual minute from 6.10.22 Amenities and Services Committee Minutes copied below for context.*

*i) to consider updated maintenance report and associated quote.*

*A discussion took place on this item and it was reported that the contractor is currently categorising all concrete columns as a 5 and it was recommended that the council should have a plan in place to replace all concrete columns within the next 5 years.*

*21 lights have been identified that require replacement in 2022-23 which along with 3 feeder pillar replacements will cost approx. £40,000. This work will be carried out under the streetlighting contract and can be covered from earmarked reserves and the current lighting budget.*

*That would leave 74 columns to replace in the next 4 years.*

**Resolved:- to recommend that the quote received from the Streetlighting Contractor for the replacement of 21 columns and 3 feeder pillars is approved and that sufficient allocation is made in future budgets for the replacement of the remaining 74 concrete columns.**

In March 2023 21 columns and 3 feeder pillars were replaced.

### Budget Implications

There is currently £24,673 in ear marked reserves for column replacement and £15,000 in the current budget which is sufficient for the 16 columns identified in the table for replacement to be replaced in 2023-24 as per the quote supplied.

The main cost of column replacement is the Scottish Power connection costs which are fixed.

It should be noted that to replace columns at a rate of 15 per year at current prices an annual budget for column replacement of £35,000 will be required. This is more than double the existing budget of £15000.

It is recommended that in 2023-24 a further 16 columns as identified in the attached table are replaced leaving a balance of 58. This would mean that approximately 14 columns will need to be replaced per year for the next 5 years.

**Decision required.**

To approve the 16 columns identified for replacement as part of the 2023-24 Column replacement programme.