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## **ATTACHMENTS TO STREET LIGHTING ASSETS**

To: **Tonbridge and Malling Joint Transportation Board**

By: **Andrew Loosemore, Head of Highways Asset Management  
Sue Kinsella, Street Light Asset Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Electoral division: **Tonbridge and Malling**

Ward:

Date: **7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

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**Summary:** **This information report outlines the process for applying to place attachments on street lighting columns.**

### **For Information**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and background**

- 1.1 KCC, as a responsible asset owner, is aware of the danger posed by unsound street lighting columns, where corrosion can occur that can't be seen. An asset owner (such as a County/District/Parish council), or an organisation responsible for a lighting scheme supporting additional attachments, is required by law (Health and Safety at Work Act 1974) to ensure the safety of their scheme. In this respect, the capability of the lighting asset to take any additional load must be assured.
- 1.2 Streetlighting columns have a specific and limited structural capacity and are designed to have a bracket and lantern attached they are not designed to take additional attachments or loading. Any attachment creates an additional load therefore we need to ensure that our assets are not going to fail if an attachment is added.
- 1.3 To determine if lighting columns can withstand the additional load of an attachment, a structural test with a design (load test) should be carried out demonstrating compliance with the British and European Standards, BS EN40. A detailed calculation is completed to identify column strength and avert the potential for catastrophic collapse due to column overload
- 1.4 The application process enables us to check that any electrical connections required by attachments meet current standards. The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 places a legal responsibility on KCC to ensure that the electrical systems associated with street lighting assets are safe.

- 1.5 Each year KCC receives more than 220 permit requests to install additional equipment to street lighting assets. We receive requests for many different types of attachments such as festive decorations, hanging baskets, banners, signs, CCTV cameras, ANPR cameras, traffic count equipment etc. Regardless of the type of attachment, KCC needs to be informed of the intention to use street lighting assets for the attachment.
- 1.6 Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 require that the right people are engaged on various aspects of work in the public domain. The application requires the applicant to provide evidence that competent contractors are working on the highway and on our assets.
- 1.7 The application process also checks that adequate public liability insurance is in place and that energy use is paid for where electrical supply is required as part of the attachment.
- 1.8 The process has been put in place to ensure the safety of highway users and safeguard both the applicant and KCC and is applicable to everyone wishing to use KCC street lighting assets for attachments. This process is standard practice across Local Authorities.

## **2.0 Application Process.**

- 2.1 On applying the following information is required:
  - street lighting asset numbers intended to be used
  - dimensions and weight of the attachment
  - manufacturers specification or a photograph of the attachment
  - details of the method of installation of the attachment
  - evidence of public liability insurance
  - evidence that the installing contractor is competent to work on street lighting assets and work on the highway.
  - details of the method of electrical connection
  - evidence that energy consumption will be paid via an unmetered supply agreement
- 2.2 Once the above information is provided, we will carry out a check of our asset records, which includes our standard structural testing records, any existing attachments, any outstanding or proposed works orders etc. The area Street Lighting Engineer is also consulted to see if they are aware of anything that may prevent permission being granted.
- 2.3 Following these checks, a decision will be made as to whether the assets is potentially suitable for the attachment. If the asset may be suitable, we require further testing to be done to ensure that the asset is strong enough to take both the additional weight of the attachment and the surface area which has an impact on the wind loading. The test that is carried out is a load test and is required for all attachments.

- 2.4 Whilst KCC has a robust programme of structural inspection this covers the integrity of the base of the column and the joint at the shoulder of the column. This test considers the weight of the existing bracket and lantern but does not allow for any other attachments. A load test is therefore carried out to assess the impact of the attachment.
- 2.5 A load test is carried out by a specialist contractor and the results will approve/decline the use of the asset. Where approved, the result also recommends the optimum height at which to install the attachment. A test result approving the additional load is guaranteed for 3 years, following which load testing will be required to be repeated.

### 3.0 Fees

- 3.1 In 2016 fees were introduced for the processing of permits. This recovers the administrative and engineer time taken to review each permit. The fee does not include any load testing that may be required. The cost of the load test is chargeable to the applicant and KCC only charges the actual costs of the testing.
- 3.2 A new permit application or change in assets to be used currently attracts a fee of £103.00. A repeat application using the same assets and attachments is charged at £30.00. Fees are reviewed each year and new rates are published in April.
- 3.3 An application is required every year so that we can carry out the checks identified above and verify that assets are still suitable to be used.
- 3.4 The charges made are not a guarantee that an application will be authorised, they are made to cover investigations carried out by Technicians and Engineers within the Street Lighting Department.
- 3.5 The permit application form can be found on the KCC website: [Street lights - Kent County Council](#)

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