Frequently Asked Questions

**Central Management System, CMS**

**What does CMS stand for?**

CMS is an acronym for Central Management System. It may also be called telemanagement.

**What is it?**

Each streetlight will be fitted with a node which receives and sends information to a central control. This will allow us to know if there is a fault with a streetlight as soon as it happens, and we can remotely control the lights. It also acts like a dimmer switch so we can use it to turn the lighting levels up or down from a remotely controller server. The nodes are similar in shape and size to a hockey puck and sit on top of the lantern.

**Where and when will the lights be fitted with a node?**

The programme for this work can be viewed on our website in the Streetlighting section. This timetable is provisional and may be subject to change.

**Does this mean you will be switching streetlights off?**

We are not switching any lights off now, but this system will give us the option to do this in the future if we choose to or change the lighting output to more efficient levels. Some areas have little or no traffic at certain times of the night so being able to turn off the lights when they are not required will help us to reduce our energy consumption and light pollution. We can also increase lighting levels where needed for example at the request of emergency services.

**How much will this cost?**

The CMS rollout will cost £6 million.

**How long will it take to install these nodes?**

This work will be conducted at the same time as the LED upgrade and is expected to be completed by 2024. The nodes replace the sensors that are in the existing lanterns that detect lighting levels (dusk/dawn).

**What type of information will the nodes send to the central control?**

Basic information about the streetlight will be sent from the nodes to a central highway’s server. This information will tell us whether the light is on or off or if there is a fault with the power supply. It does not collect speed data or other information.

**Will there be cameras or 4G/5G on these too?**

No - the nodes and server are limited to processing streetlight information only.

**What are the benefits of CMS?**

CMS will tell us where we need to repair or replace a streetlight as soon as it stops working. This should help is to conduct and plan our streetlighting repairs more efficiently. It will also give us the option to save on streetlight energy consumption as we can switch off or dim lights when there is little or no traffic in an area.

It can also allow us to increase the lighting levels in a particular area if needed for example, if the emergency services request it or there is a large public event. It also can adjust the programmed light output so as the lantern gets older the light levels will adjust extending the life of the lantern.