

Council meeting – 12 December 2012

Questions:-

The Leader of the Council

Question running order:

1st: Labour

2nd: Liberal Democrat

3rd: Conservative

1. Councillor Simpson

Struggling families due to the current economic and financial climate are turning to loan sharks and pay day loans to make ends meet, especially during the Christmas period, plunging them into a cycle of never ending debt, sometimes having to pay small loans several times over. What can this council do to stop the pay day loans companies popping up all over the borough and also stop illegal loan sharking in Bury?

A. Trading Standards work to protect financially vulnerable consumers in a number of ways. Initially we are consulted by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) in relation to new and renewable credit providers when they apply for a consumer credit licence. This is done to provide local knowledge with regards to the suitability of the applicant and comment on their fitness to hold such a licence.

We have carried out a number of audits of credit providers and provided reports to the OFT on the suitability of applicants. These have resulted in the refusal of some licences.

Illegal money lending covers a range of activities from persons who are actually licensed but are acting unlawfully as well as lenders who over loans without being licenced.

Illegal money lending is a criminal offence and the majority of moneylenders are required to be licenced by the Consumer Credit Act. Trading Standards have statutory powers to investigate this type of illegal activity.

Last month the council signed a protocol with the National Illegal Money Lending Team authorising their officers to work in partnership with the council with regards to illegal money lenders operating within the borough.

Also as part of this work trading standards has met with the financial inclusion officer of the IML Team and a partnership week of action is planned early in 2013 to raise awareness of illegal money lending as well as offering advice and assistance to ensure the financial wellbeing of members of local communities.

2. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Leader please outline any recent or proposed changes to the Youth Offending Team and how it is managed? When were decisions made about these changes?

A. The Youth Offending Team is part of the Social Care Division in Children's Services. Over recent years the numbers of young people offending has reduced considerably, which is excellent news. We have kept the structure and management arrangement for the service under review in the light of this reduction in workload and have moved staff to other areas with Social Care where demand has grown considerably.

As the Team has reduced in size we have also reviewed its management arrangements and have developed a joint approach with Rochdale. This makes sense as they have a much bigger team than us giving us access to economies of scale. We also share a Youth Court following the closure of the courts in Rochdale so it makes sense for us to work together.

We have been having discussion with Rochdale over recent months to integrate the services still further and we will be publishing a consultation on proposed changes to staff and the trade unions in the near future, in accordance with agreed processes.

3. Councillor Walker

In view of the availability in Prestwich Library of Labour Party leaflets publicising the seven Labour Councillors in that area, with their photos, phone numbers, Email addresses and Surgery dates, can it be assumed that the same facility is available for other councillors in the Borough to utilise in other civic library buildings?

A. Yes

Councillors need to be actively engaged with all parts of the community if they are to be effective leaders. They need to be empowered and supported to engage with residents and community groups. The Council can assist in this in a small way, by providing basic support in terms of ward activities – such as the dissemination of newsletters (provided they comply with appropriate protocols) through Council owned public buildings.

4. Councillor Holt

Does the Leader agree that work to build cohesive communities in Bury is central to what we do? What plans are in place to improve Hate Crime reporting?

A. As I've often said before, Bury is a place where I am very proud to live, work as a councillor and enjoy my free time. Community Cohesion lies at the heart of what makes us a strong, vibrant and safe community and is central to all we do.

I am pleased to say we have (through Team Bury) agreed our Community Cohesion Plan for 2013 to 2016. This Plan received the support of Cabinet (on behalf of the Council) on 28 November 2012. One of our priorities is to develop safe and resilient communities across the Borough. Through this priority we will continue to work with partners to tackle hate crime. This includes our multi-agency work to combat hate crime and improve the reporting of hate crime, work through schools such as the 'Be Safe, Be Cool' initiative, work to support Councillors as community leaders and the development of Township Plans

In addition to this, we are bringing together a Hate Crime Forum with the remit of looking at all aspects of hate crime, with specific emphasis on disability hate crime and homophobic bullying. This Forum will have links into the Team Bury Partnership and a Greater Manchester Police steering Group for Hate Crime.

I am committed to ensuring that the Council's contribution to the refreshed Team Bury Cohesion Plan for 2013-16 will build on the good work already undertaken in Bury and ensure the Council's continuing and valuable role in this vital area of work.

5. Councillor O'Hanlon

Could the Leader please inform members what events and activities have been supported by the Council's Ranger service in the last two years?

A. The ranger service provides a comprehensive programme of events and activities including summer play schemes, health walks and guided walks, volunteer tasking sessions, safety patrols, dog fouling enforcement and other ranger led events.

The rangers also support volunteers and community groups such as friends of parks, sports clubs and voluntary groups with larger events such as Party in the Park, Prestwich Clough event and Crucial Crew, together with providing support for training, child protection, health and safety and general organisation. The Council is aware of the good work that is carried out by the rangers and volunteers but in these challenging times we have to review how support is provided to the 3rd sector across the Council and what level of events and activities we can afford to sustain.

6. Councillor Bevan

Will the Leader of the Council join me in congratulating the organisers of the Ramsbottom Chocolate Festival, who won 'Small Event of the Year' at the recent Manchester Tourism Awards?

A. The Ramsbottom Chocolate Festival is a great example of how initiatives from the local communities and businesses can be developed and supported by the Council to achieve a great success. The award reflects well on the businesses behind the event and the Ramsbottom Business Group as a whole.

We were pleased to be able to support the organisers of the event and welcome this continued relationship with the Business Group to help deliver this and other community initiatives.

Whilst there are potential changes to the way Destination Management is to be provided this will continue to include support for the local business community.

7. Councillor S Smith

Please can the Leader provide an update on what the Chancellor's Autumn Statement will mean for Bury Council?

A. Can I thank Councillor Smith for the question. The simple answer is that the Autumn Statement means yet more bad news for the country as a whole, more bad news for local government and more bad news for Bury Council.

The Statement showed the extent to which George Osborne's Plan A is failing with his own figures showing that the economy is shrinking, growth forecasts for future years are being downgraded and the country's debt is rising despite the savage cuts that he's inflicted on the country's public services and the one-off windfall from the sale of the 4G network.

Local government was already facing cuts in funding of around 25% in the first four years of this Con Dem coalition and the Autumn Statement simply made this worse with the Chancellor taking a further 2% off local government for 2014/15, meaning that a colossal £445m will be stripped out of the amount that the Government contributes towards local services. As for what this means for Bury I'm afraid that due to the Government's incompetence it is extremely difficult to say. Despite being only two months away from setting our budget we still have no idea what Government grant we'll be getting for 2013/14, we still don't know precisely what the Government's rules will be for the localisation of business rates and they haven't even bothered to tell us what our rates base will be. This means that it is impossible to say what the effect of the additional 2% cut will be in 2014/15 because we don't yet know what the starting point for that year will be.

The Autumn Statement will definitely mean less money for vital front-line services and more cuts to the very services that Bury people rely on because like most councils this Government's cuts have been so savage that we have long since exhausted the sort of simple efficiency measures that have so far allowed us to limit the impact on service delivery to the public.

Of course the fact that people on low and middle incomes are being hit hard with higher VAT, the granny tax, and real terms cuts to tax credits, jobseekers allowance, maternity pay and child and housing benefit means that demand for local services is also likely to be higher which will put further pressure on our budgets irrespective of the Chancellor's cuts.

8. Councillor O'Hanlon

Could the Leader inform members how much money has been paid out (by financial year) in settlement of equal pay claims? How much of this has been from reserves and how much from borrowing? What proportion of claims remain outstanding?

A. I am very pleased you have asked this question as it gives me the opportunity to update Members on the progress made to date in settling Equal pay claims.

You will recall that when we gained control, we gave a commitment to tackle the issue of Equal Pay claims - to deal with the significant liability the Council was facing, but also to end years of uncertainty for the individuals concerned.

I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress in settling claims; to date over 1,700 claims have been settled, however, as anticipated, a number still remain, which we are dealing with. Reaching settlements is a legal process, and for this reason I am advised that it is not appropriate to disclose financial details at this stage, however we have previously given a commitment to do so once the full exercise is complete.

The costs of settling will be addressed through a combination of borrowing (for which we have the necessary Government permission), and through the use of reserves (where we have highlighted sufficient headroom).

However I cannot give details of the precise funding package until the exercise is complete and the final cost is established.

We have made significant progress, however we cannot say the exercise is complete until the last claim has been settled.

For this reason, the risk remains on the Council's "Corporate Risk Register" - albeit at a lower level to reflect the progress made

9. Councillor Daly

Can the Leader of the Council assure me that this Council in its forthcoming core strategy will seek to favour building on brown field sites rather than green field sites?

A. Yes, the simple answer to Councillor Daly's question is that the Council is seeking to favour the development of brownfield sites in the Borough's emerging Core Strategy.

In line with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, published in March 2012, the emerging Core Strategy seeks to promote sustainable development.

What this means for Bury's Core Strategy is that the Council will take an integrated approach towards development proposals with the aim of delivering the Strategy's key objectives of:

- Delivering high quality development in sustainable locations;
- Delivering a competitive local economy;
- Promoting strong, vibrant and healthy communities;
- Improving and managing the Borough's environment; and
- Improving transport and connectivity.

In identifying specific locations for new development and in determining development proposals, **Policy SF1** of the latest Draft version of the Core Strategy, makes clear that the Council will be seeking to encourage that the best use is made of existing resources and infrastructure by adopting a sequential approach to guiding and controlling future development.

This approach prioritises, **first**, using existing buildings (including conversions) and previously developed land (i.e. brownfield land) within the urban area; **second**, using other suitable infill opportunities within the urban area; and, **third**, the development of other land where this is well located in relation to housing, jobs, other services and infrastructure.

This approach does not necessarily mean that there will be no development of greenfield land in the Borough but it does demonstrate that the first priority of the Core Strategy is to encourage the re-development and re-use of brownfield land.

However, current Central Government policy is likely to make it increasingly difficult for Bury to hold this line.

Indeed, current Central Government policy appears to be putting ever greater pressure on local authorities to increase the supply of housing and employment sites which are **attractive to developers**. Inevitably, this is encouraging developers to bring forward green field sites and seek the release of Green Belt. In neighbouring Greater Manchester boroughs we have recently seen the effects of this approach with Inspectors examining Core Strategies in Wigan and Salford both calling for more land to be identified for development. As a result Wigan is identifying additional greenfield land for 2,500 dwellings and Salford has withdrawn its Core Strategy whilst they reconsider their position on housing and employment land, with developers calling for significant releases of green belt.

So, despite Government claims about 'localism' and letting communities decide, what we are seeing is increasing power being put in the hands of developers and landowners (– and the Council being caught in the middle).

10. Councillor Southworth

Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council what has been done to improve recycling rates in the Borough?

A. The introduction of the changes to the waste collection service in October 2011, which involved the collection of refuse fortnightly and an improvement in recycling provision saw Bury's household waste recycling rate move from less than 28% to circa 46%.

However, the Council does not wish to be complacent in any way and is determined to push on and drive recycling up to 50% and beyond because of the significant financial savings involved.

To this end it has recently launched a campaign designed to encourage residents to improve their recycling performance. This has involved a range of initiatives which have either been delivered or are in the pipeline. They include:

- **Promotions such as posters, banners, feather flags, lamp post boards being produced, a flyer being delivered to every household and a series of press releases.**
- **Livery of the new collection vehicle fleet.**
- **Employment of door to door canvassers in areas of poor recycling participation.**
- **A drive to get more trade waste customers recycling.**
- **Additional recycling of waste in parks.**

- **On–street town centre recycling bins.**
- **Expansion of brown bins into more rural areas in the north of the borough e.g. Nangreaves, Shuttleworth and Holcombe Village.**
- **An improvement in schools waste recycling and the introduction of food waste collections from schools and other Council buildings.**
- **Roll out of recycling to all residents living in flats and apartments.**

11. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Leader please outline how much additional income the Council has received in the last two years from Government for social care, and how much is envisaged over the next two years? How has this money been spent / how will this money be spent?

A. In the 2011/12 financial year, the Council received from the Department of Health, via NHS Bury, a total of £3,312,572.

In the current financial year, the Council has received from the Department of Health, also via NHS Bury, a total of £2,657,000.

The notifications as to Department of Health Adult Social Care funding levels for 2013/14 & 2014/15 for Bury are still awaited – we expect to find out later this month, but indications are that funding in these years will be similar to that in 2012/13.

All the unspent 2011/12 Department of Health funds were carried forward into the current financial year.

The objectives for this funding were:

- **To support social care expenditure where it benefits health, including meeting the rising costs of existing social care provision**
- **To devise more efficient and productive ways of combining resources to reduce cost pressures in both the health and social care system.**
- **To promote better services for patients on discharge from hospital.**

- **To develop current reablement capacity in the Council and community health services.**

Working in conjunction with our Health partners, we currently have a wide range of projects funded from these funds, including:

- **Developing community services for people with dementia**
- **Upgrades to Falcon & Griffin Extra Care Housing**
- **Improving services available to carers**
- **Improving services for people with autism**
- **Developing improved services for young people in transition**
- **Supporting a dementia advisory service**
- **Investments in our Intermediate Care facilities**
- **Investments in Spurr House older peoples home**
- **Strengthening Safeguarding procedures & services**
- **Funding the Crisis Response service pilot**
- **Additional purchases of health related equipment for vulnerable people**

As we stated in Plan for Change at the start of the year, we have used a small proportion of this funding to offset the costs of a number of recently developed services which have a positive impact in managing health related demand as well as social care demand, & preventing people from escalating into crisis.

In addition, as stated in the November corporate financial monitoring report to Cabinet, the rising demand for social care services means that we will need to use more of this funding for this purpose.

In both cases, the use of this funding as a saving effectively represents health investment into these areas.

At the present time not all of the funds have been committed, and further options to develop new services & improve existing ones are under consideration.

12. Councillor Gunther

Would the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder please explain why according to this recent leaflet, green waste is currently costing £55 per tonne to turn into compost when in the recent past this waste was sent to an outside contractor at a cost of approximately £18 per tonne for the same purpose?

A. Garden waste collected in Bury has always been delivered to the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority for treatment. The outside contractor referred to would have been either GM Waste Ltd, the WDA's wholly owned company, or one of its sub contractors.

Prior to the WDA PFI contract being signed, garden waste was sent for fairly rudimentary outdoor windrow composting at a relatively low cost per tonne.

Under the PFI contract, garden and food waste *mixed* is sent to an In Vessel Composter for treatment in tightly controlled, enclosed conditions. This facility attracts a higher gate fee.

Food waste cannot be composted in an open air windrow.

To look at the two gate fees together does not represent a like for like comparison therefore.

13. Councillor Fitzgerald

Can the Cabinet Member give Council an update on the progress of the twenty mile an hour scheme for the Borough?

A. In September this year, the Cabinet approved the promotion of a programme of schemes for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in residential estates and areas throughout the Borough. Over a three year period, this programme will see £750 000 invested in these measures, which will be individually designed with input from local residents.

It is proposed that the 20mph strategy will be officially launched during January 2013 through the Council's website and more traditional media outlets.

It is intended that a dedicated webpage will appear on the website which will provide information about the strategy and introduce the Educational, Training and Publicity projects which are being developed to complement it.

The webpage will provide links to a list of potential 20mph schemes within the Borough. Officers are currently carrying out investigatory works in respect of those schemes which are expected to be promoted within the first year of the strategy.

14. Councillor Wiseman

Can the Leader of the Council please explain to the residents and traders of Radcliffe why the Christmas lights purchased by a LAP grant will this year be spending Christmas at Fernhill Depot?

A. The Christmas lights in Radcliffe were paid for in part by a Council funded LAP grant. However this did not contribute towards the ongoing maintenance, installation and energy cost.

Due to unprecedented financial challenges, it is regrettable that the Council simply can't sustain the level of funding which has been provided for Bury and Radcliffe in previous years.

However, we do recognise it is important to acknowledge the festive season, which is why resources have been retained to fund a Christmas tree for each of the 6 townships and one in Bury West.

Christmas lights will still be on display in Ramsbottom and Tottington as these have been funded and erected by local businesses and shops, as has been the case for several years.

15. Councillor Quinn

Could the Leader please tell us given our ageing school state, how much schools have for maintenance this year 2012-13 compared to 2009-10?

A. In 2009/10 £14.9m of capital funding was available for the maintenance of schools, falling to £5.5m in 2012/13.

16. Councillor Gartside

What is the Council doing to secure part of the rural BDUK £900,000 funding now with Greater Manchester for the above enablement for BURY ?

A. Greater Manchester's ambition is to become one of the world's top 20 digital cities by 2020. This Local Broadband Plan (LBP) complements Manchester's Urban Broadband Fund (UBF) bid to deliver a world-class solution for the whole of Greater Manchester, to ensure that the provision of superfast broadband goes wider, deeper and faster than could otherwise be provided by the market without intervention.

The Plan will ensure that coverage across the whole of Greater Manchester is at least and in most areas significantly better than 90% coverage of superfast (30Mb/s) broadband and 10% basic (2Mb/s) broadband.

This Council wants to ensure all our residents and businesses benefit from this investment.

The next steps are as follows:

On behalf of Bury and the other Greater Manchester Combined Authorities, New Economy will carry out a review of all broadband providers across Greater Manchester *

The review will identify those premises not receiving basic broadband (<2Mb/s) and those areas not receiving superfast broadband (<30Mb/s) from any provider.

The Local Broadband Plan (LBP) follows Government policy and is focused on ensuring that all premises in Greater Manchester have access to at least basic broadband (2Mb/s).

Once the open market review is complete, a specification based on the LBP, which is based on Government policy, will go out to procurement.

Providers will respond to this procurement with their proposed solutions and the organisation(s) offering the best value for money will be selected.

The final solution rolled out and its ultimate implications for any particular premises will therefore depend upon the response from the market in relation to the amount of funding awarded by the Government (£900,000 for Greater Manchester).

It is therefore not possible at this stage to state exactly what support any particular community in Bury may receive or what speeds any individual premise may get.

This Council will continue to support our rural communities by ensuring we play our part at a strategic level with the combined authority.

17. Councillor Tariq

Many residents have raised with me their concerns about the street lights on the motorway being turned off. Many people say it is dangerous and can put some drivers at risk. Would it be possible for the Council to look at reinstating these street lights along the M66, particularly after death following a collision at the M66 junction in Bury on 21 October this year?

A. Bury Council is not responsible for the lighting on the M66, or any other motorway.

This is the responsibility of the Highways Agency, and any enquiries regarding motorway lighting should be forwarded onto them.

18. Councillor Gunther

Would the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder please give a detailed account of what action is being taken to address the matter of all contaminated bins in the Borough?

A. Wherever possible, contaminated recycling bins are identified by the Driver of the recycling collection vehicle via the iPad in the cab. This is generally straightforward at properties where bins are collected from the front.

This enables an Officer to run a report, listing all these addresses, which then enables individual letters to be sent out. The letters advise residents of the wastes which should be placed in each bin and how they are able to decontaminate bins themselves or get contaminated bins emptied. It stresses the importance of only placing the correct items in each bin and of the consequences of not doing so, in terms of increased costs of disposal.

However, the majority of contaminated recycling bins appear in back streets, where quite often neither back gates or bins are numbered. This therefore makes it very difficult or impossible for Drivers to identity the address to which a contaminated bin belongs.

Recently we have trialled an approach where we emptied all the contaminated bins in a particular set of back streets and then leafleted all the houses in the area, telling them what we have done and what the exercise has cost in terms of waste disposal. This gives residents an opportunity to start recycling afresh with an empty bin.

Furthermore, we are striving to get as many bins and back gates in back streets numbered as we can, utilising door to door canvassers who are currently employed in areas of poor recycling participation (typically areas with back street collections). They also encourage residents to retrieve bins after collection because bins left out permanently in back streets often become contaminated by others.

19. Councillor Carter

Please will the Leader explain exactly what the so-called Bedroom Tax will mean for Bury's benefit claimants?

A. The Bedroom Tax, or the 'under occupancy penalty' to give it its proper title, means that Housing Benefit will be restricted for tenants living in social housing if their house is too large for the size household. The proposed reductions in benefit are:

- 14% of the amount of rent charged for 1 spare bedroom**
- 25% of the amount of rent charged for 2 bedrooms and above**

The Government's rules also mean that younger children will be expected to share bedrooms and there will be no extra allowances for foster children or for children who stay part of the week. So much for a Government that pretends to care about families.

Across the country as a whole the Bedroom Tax will mean that around 95,000 people could be forced into rent arrears and poverty because there are no smaller homes for them to move into.

In Bury, based on current caseloads, there will be 1,468 tenants affected, of which 907 are Six Town Housing tenants. Of this total, 1,194 have 1 bedroom too many, 263 have 2 bedrooms too many and 11 have 3 bedrooms too many.

Our best estimates are that these households will have a staggering £1.3m a year taken off their benefits as a result of the Bedroom Tax.

20. Councillor Wright

As this Council has sought suggestions to increase attendance at Township Forums, does the Leader agree with me that now is an opportune time to consider devolving some 106 monies (Contributions from Developers in Planning Applications) to Township Forums to allow residents to have input on how it is spent ?

A. This issue was considered as part of a review of the Township Forum initiative we undertook in May 2012. Recommendations relating to section 106 funds and Township Forums were developed as part of this review. The report containing these recommendations was agreed by Council on 16 May 2012.

This report shows how opportunities to involve Township Forums in influencing prioritisation of Section 106 funds are constrained by legal limitations. This is because spend must reasonably relate to the development which is subject to the granting of planning permission. At this time we agreed the following recommendations:

- 1. The Executive Director (Environment and Development Services) considers (in addition to other key plans and strategies) the agreed priorities contained within each Township Plan, when drawing up proposals for Section 106 funding schemes for green infrastructure or public art.**
- 2. Ward councillors shall continue to be consulted on proposed section 106 funding schemes for green infrastructure or public art, seeking their views before they are finalised.**
- 3. The Executive Director (Environment and Development Services) will (where given reasonable notice), make reasonable efforts to support requests for representatives to attend Township Forum meetings to discuss Section 106 scheme proposals.**

21. Councillor Quinn

Will the Leader urgently organise a meeting with Council Officers to explain to the Jewish Community in Prestwich to fully explain the changes to the Benefits System? Many Jewish families have many children and they are very concerned.

A. Yes I would be happy to ensure that the meeting as suggested takes place.

22. Councillor Walker

Will the Leader endorse the guarantee from the Electoral Services Manager that the situation appertaining to the Greenhill School Polling Station in the Church Ward By Election on 15th November will never happen again?

Instead of the usual easy access to the hall, voters had to pass through a "kissing gate" (which deterred people with prams or in wheelchairs) and then walk on a long path through the playing field to an out building. This deterred some elderly people in daylight but by 5.0 pm, with no lighting, this involved a walk in darkness until 10.0 pm.

Would he therefore also join me in thanking the member of our Security staff sent from Bradley Fold who, armed with a torch, escorted those wishing to vote through the darkness for four hours displaying friendliness, patience and courtesy ?

A. The particular polling station used was the pre-school premises which I agree proved to be unsuitable. I would expect the main School premises to be used for future elections.

With regard to the second point, I wholeheartedly endorse your comments in respect of the superb effort shown by the member of Security present in assisting voters.

23. Councillor D Bailey

Can we have an update on the Radcliffe empty property scheme?

A. Following on from approval at Cabinet on 22nd August 2012, considerable progress has been made on this project as follows:

- **Attendance at Radcliffe Township Forum to inform and consult on the project – inclusion in their work plan with updates to be provided to this forum as appropriate.**
- **Development work on the inclusion of local community benefit into the project.**
- **Have been through a procurement and evaluation process to determine a registered provider partner/s that can bring financial resources to the table and work with the Council to deliver the project, to bring about renting at affordable rent levels in line with the Commuted Sums funding. Final decision on partner/s imminent, subject to completion of due diligence.**
- **Development of other no and low cost options in addition to the above eg loans, leasing schemes.**
- **A detailed engagement strategy has been developed.**

- **Identification and engagement with owners of target empty properties to date has identified a number interested in selling onto the Council and others interest in other options eg leasing.**
- **Development of a plan of action for each property, including the potential use of enforcement where appropriate.**
- **The first properties could potentially be purchased by the Council within this financial year 2012/13.**

24. Councillor Heneghan

Can I have an update on the roll out of the new LED scheme for street lighting?

A. Cabinet approved an invest to save project in November that will allow up to 11,000 side road lights to be upgraded to LED lamps over the next 4 years. The energy savings alone could be £200,000 per year with further savings from avoiding carbon costs

For 2012/13 the tender for the supply of LED lanterns has now been awarded. This will mean that works for this financial year are expect commence mid to late February 2013.

Led lighting is more effective because it uses less energy, they will not have failed lamps that need replacing and they provide a whiter light that allows better colour recognition while still maintaining lighting in accordance with British Standards

Lighting schemes will be designed on a street by street basis and monitored as the project progresses. By implementing on an annual phased basis it allows us to ensure we are always fitting the most up to date technology available.