

ADEPT Street Lighting Working Group update September 2020

The Lighting Group met on 17th September as an on-line video meeting.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the on-line system worked.

Following an initial cessation of most works at the start of UK lockdown, most are now delivering all services, albeit with regard to social distancing. Though works were halted for a time, schemes such as LED lantern replacements were continuing. These works are showing dramatic energy savings, with London reporting a decrease of around 40% since 2008. Similar consumption savings were reported elsewhere.

Most UK lighting and signs use unmetered electrical supplies. There was some discussion in the meeting about electricity prices and increases in recent contract renewals. An issue identified was where authorities had an authority-wide energy procurement, there tended to be a blended billing process, where metered supplies were priced differently from unmetered. Though the 'bottom line' may show savings, this could be at the expense of unmetered supplies. As most energy saving LED lighting schemes have a business case based on energy consumption, they don't generally have an inbuilt energy cost risk.

Concern was expressed regarding the use of street lighting equipment to host 5G communications apparatus. Some installers are quoting the Telecommunications Act by stating it is their view that a lighting column (or similar) is an extension of the Highway, therefore giving them a right to mount their apparatus. Due to a general deterioration in lighting assets there is concern this could lead to premature failure of assets, there are also access issues to be considered as well as unmetered energy billing.