

Email response from Hertfordshire Highways to issues raised following a site visit to underpasses in Stevenage in August 2016

**From:** Peter Simpson, Hertfordshire Highways to Robert Woodisse, SBC Engineering Services Manager

**Sent:** 10 October 2016 10:49

**To:** Rob.Woodisse

**Subject:** FW: Summary of Decisions - E & E Committee - 29/09/2016 - Stevenage Underpasses

Hi Rob

Apologies for the delay in responding (a member of my team was dealing with this but is on leave at present).

I can confirm that HCC's arrangements for cleansing of underpass lights is undertaken on an ad-hoc needs basis subject to affordability. I can advise that some underpass lights will be cleaned within the current financial year as part of HCC's restoration programme (HCC Horizons magazine summer edition refers).

Apologies if there was any misunderstanding regarding the ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the underpass structure and lighting (HCC). I understand, but please correct me if I am wrong, that Districts undertake street cleaning of the footway within the underpass.

I note from the attached notes of the Environment and Economy Committee that District Members voiced their concerns over safety issues due to continued lack of lighting in some underpasses. Please forward details and I will arrange to have these issues investigated by Ringway (HCC Term Maintenance Contractor, copied in).

Regards  
Peter

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Scrutiny Officers interpretation of HCC response:

Hertfordshire County Council's Highways criteria for cleaning underpass lighting is needs based, on an ad hoc basis and driven by external reporting and on affordability.

On the maintenance/replacement of faulty lights HCC Highways now rely on the public, Members and District officers who carry out the cleansing to report it. Because of budget pressures HCC have moved away from a routine inspection regime and now rely on the public/Members/District officers to tell them where there are faults. When HCC Highways receive this information they instruct their contractor to fix it.