

Transcribed Statement from Cllr Charlotte Cornell (Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage and Council Services) at Canterbury City Council ([Full Council](#)) meeting 8th January 2026:

There's been quite a lot of media coverage on them over the last week and I want to set out the latest work that we have been undertaking alongside some of the Kent County Council Officer colleagues. So, by way, as an update, Canterbury City Council management have been meeting with both engineering and heritage officers and this work is now being treated as a priority. Kent County Council has a new Heritage Officer who's picking this up and our own Heritage Officer is doing the same. The heritage lamp posts produced by the Biggleston foundry are a vitally important part of Canterbury's built heritage. They're not just street furniture, but they're really locally distinctive and they help define the character of our historic streets. Retaining, referencing and where necessary, replicating that legacy is a clear objective for this council. At the same time, we appreciate we must strike a pragmatic balance between heritage outcomes, public safety and cost, since a full cast iron replacement costs upwards of £5,000 each.

Since 2020, cast iron columns have only been replaced where they've been unsafe, and that's usually with internal corrosion or underground damage or vehicular damage. These can't be fixed just by repainting. Full refurbishment is often impractical and prohibitively expensive. We do agree, in those cases, steel columns with heritage style features have often been used. Kent County Council reuse the original ornate lanterns and this does deliver some sense of continuity and value for money. Importantly we, Canterbury City Council, have our own Biggleston style mould, commissioned through the Levelling Up Fund as part of the connected Canterbury work to improve our public spaces. And much of that's happening right now.

We're casting upwards of 20 cast iron columns for our own public spaces. And of course, this mould would be available for Kent County Council to use where appropriate, and others. Alongside this, we are working with Kent County Council to develop a Canterbury specific embellishment kit. Not a generic one, one that's really pertinent and references our own city, and that will be based on some of the Biggleston design. Officers from ourselves and from Kent County Council are meeting to discuss this. The feasibility, the costs and where cast iron full replacements might genuinely be required, such as the city centre and World Heritage Site buffer zone. It is the wish of the Cabinet that those particular zones, the city centre and the World Heritage Site buffer zones, do get cast iron replacements and this is being discussed with Kent County Council.

Finally, our Heritage Officer is developing a new Heritage Strategy Action Plan for this year and next year (2026/27) and that will bring together all heritage related interventions and initiatives across departments. Street lighting can and will be included within that framework. Members can also reference our existing [Outdoor Lighting Guidance](#) which sits as an SPD, to the current local plan. These both and future inclusion in future reg 19 are about setting out a clear, joined up long term approach that delivers safety, heritage and value for money.

As a final, final note, there is an agreement with Kent County Council that nothing will happen to the Cossington Road lampposts until further discussions on how these can be replaced in a sympathetic and heritage adjacent way is decided.

Thank you.