

## **Background**

*Lancashire County Council has recently requested that Councils who use lampposts to locate hanging baskets in the spring and summer pay £30 per lamppost to ensure the lamppost is capable of supporting a hanging basket. They have circulated draft guidance (1) to outline the situation. This specifies what can and cannot be attached to a lamppost, and suggests a method for attaching hanging baskets.*

*My view is that LCC must have an inspection system to ensure their lampposts are fit for the purpose they are installed namely supporting the lighting. If they don't have a suitable inspection regime in place, then in my opinion, LCC will be in breach of relevant Statutory Legislation.*

*If LCC do have an inspection system in place to assure themselves of the integrity of their lampposts, then they should know what condition the lampposts are in and what additional load they could be reasonably expected to carry, if indeed any additional load could be imposed. It seems that this must have been the system in the past few years. If not LCC have not been managing lampposts safely.*

*The arrangements whereby hanging baskets are attached to lampposts is not new. I suggest it should continue subject to LCC approving lampposts as fit to support hanging baskets of a given size/weight.*

*What should not happen is that Parish Councils fund LCC's lamppost inspection regime.*

*(1) Draft LCC Guidance provided by Sean Blake, Team Leader Chorley BC, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021.*

*Cllr Kevin O'Donnell, Adlington Town Mayor*