

LED Street  
Lighting  
Programme

**Frequently Asked Questions**



## **This leaflet has been prepared to help you understand the Street Lighting LED Programme of works being carried out by Wigan Council.**

The Council recognises that street lighting is important to householders, not only as an amenity, but also for security and road safety.

At times it is necessary for your street lighting system to be replaced and we thought that you would like to know about the processes involved.

Some of the frequently asked questions are answered here.

### **Why the need for change?**

As a part of the Government's austerity measures most local Authorities need to save money. Many other local Authorities across the UK have taken the draconian decision to switch off street lights as a part of this process. However, Wigan Council has devised a transformational plan to improve the street lighting installations in Wigan, whilst at the same time saving money.

### **How will the works be funded?**

The works will be funded through an Invest to Save approach. The electricity bill for street lighting has increased dramatically over the past few years and energy prices are likely to continue to rise at above inflation levels.

The use of LED street lights will significantly reduce our electricity usage by around 55% or 6,500,000 kWh per year. Savings in carbon emissions will be around 3,500 tonnes per year which will save purchases of carbon allowances.

Additionally, the LED lighting units will be controlled by a central computerised management system and will require less planned maintenance than conventional lights.

### **What's happening and when?**

Over the last 5 years Wigan Council has installed around 5,500 LED street lights and fitted LED's to all of its 3,500 illuminated traffic signs.

The plan is that between June 2014 and March 2017 we will fit LED lighting units to the remaining 31,000 street lights on around 4,900 roads throughout the borough. These new lights will improve the overall efficiency and quality of the street lighting across the borough.

### **Why LED lighting?**

LED lighting has a much longer lifespan, requires a lot less maintenance and it is extremely energy efficient returning at least a 50% saving over traditional sodium lights. It also provides a white light source with better night-time colour recognition; and concentrates the light onto the road and footway where it is needed, with less light pollution into homes and gardens.

### **What work will you need to carry out?**

The work we carry out in your area will depend on what lighting columns you currently have. In most areas all we will need to do is remove the existing lantern and replace it with a new LED lantern. In other areas we may also need to install new street lighting columns as a part of our Street Lighting Improvement and Renewal programme of works.



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## How will this work affect me?

It is planned for the majority of the works to take place on Monday to Friday between 7.30 am to 4 pm. Throughout the works we will do everything we can to keep any disruption to a minimum. If we are only replacing the lanterns on your street, this should only take around 15 minutes per street light. If we need to repair, replace or install a street lighting column the work will take longer as this will involve disconnecting and re-connecting the electricity supply. The work we carry out will not affect access or the electricity supply to your property.

## Can we choose to keep the street lighting we have now?

No. This is not an option. It costs us too much to maintain the old and inefficient street lights you have now. Switching to LED lighting will improve the reliability of street lighting throughout the borough as well as help save tax payers' money.

## Have you had many complaints about LED lighting?

We already have around 5,500 LED lighting units operating in many streets. We have received some complaints mainly relating to local issues. However, we have also received a number of positive comments from residents who are happy with the new lighting.

## The new street lighting you have installed is too bright and shines into my bedroom window. What can you do to assist with this?

The lighting is designed to meet British Standards and will have the right lighting level for your street. This is why it has the current level of brightness. This cannot be changed.

The new lights use white light and are designed to shine downwards and are more directional than the previous lighting units. To ensure we have a fair assessment of residents' concerns we would ask for residents to become accustomed to the new lighting system before we consider making any changes.

Where it is demonstrable that light is shining into a bedroom window then the light output of the lantern maybe adjusted or a diffuser fitted to reduce this.



## **You have installed new street lighting in my street but I can no longer see my front door when I arrive home in the evening.**

The lighting is designed to meet British Standards and will have the right lighting level for your street. This is why it has the current level of brightness. This cannot be changed. Street lighting is specifically designed to light the footway and roads only and will not provide lighting to house doors that are set back from the highway.

## **My street is very dark. Could you install more street lighting when you come to my street?**

The lighting will be designed to meet British Standard and has to meet the right lighting level for your street. This is why it has the current level of brightness. This cannot be changed.

However, as we are replacing the LED unit on existing columns, in some cases where columns have been in place for many years, the new lighting may not achieve the overall levels of brightness as specified in the British Standards.

In these streets we may need to install new street lighting columns as a part of our future Street Lighting Improvement and Renewal programme of works.

However, in most cases the use of LED lights will result in an improvement in the quality of the light.

## **When you are replacing the lighting in my street, I would like you to move the column as it would be better in a new location.**

This project covers the replacement of lighting in the borough and is mainly on the basis of replacing the LED unit onto the existing column. Therefore, we are unable to move the column as a part of this project as it would change the design specification.

You may make an application for a column to be moved, at your expense, via the 'Contact Us' page on our website. However, the movement of columns is reviewed on a case by case basis.

## **What should I do if I want more information about the proposed works?**

In the first instance you should contact the Infrastructure Asset Management team within the Places Directorate. A member of the team will then assist you with your enquiry.

For more information please contact:

Wigan Council Street Lighting

Wigan Life Centre, College Avenue, Wigan, WN1 1NJ

Tel: 01942 404364

Email: [streetlighting@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:streetlighting@wigan.gov.uk)