



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LED Street Lights

Frequently Asked Questions

www.stockport.gov.uk/led-streetlights

 @StockportMBC

 StockportCouncil

Introduction

Over the next five years, we're investing to improve street lighting across Stockport.

Over 33,000 street lights will be upgraded to LED, providing brighter, more targeted lighting to roads and pavements across the borough and improving the quality of lighting for residents and businesses.

The new lighting will also make our town greener. Using less energy than the existing street lights, the LED replacements will significantly reduce Stockport's carbon emissions each year and our carbon footprint.

LED lighting is widely used across the UK in many everyday items such as mobile phones, TVs and tablets and will now be used to light our streets.

As well as benefitting residents and businesses, the investment will help the Council continue to deliver vital services.

At the moment, 54% of the Council's electricity costs (excluding schools) relate to energy use on street lights. Once our investment in LED lighting has been made, these costs will be reduced by around 40% a year. Reactive maintenance costs will also be reduced. Savings that are vital for the Council.

This document aims to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about LED street lighting. If you have any other questions about the work taking place please do contact us.



Technical

Q. What is LED street lighting?

LED stands for light-emitting diode.

It is a modern lighting technology that uses a large number of highly energy efficient, tiny light emitting units (diodes) that are grouped together to provide a light source. They are highly efficient and environmentally friendly. The LED light source is more controllable and concentrates light on where it's needed with less light pollution.

LED street lighting emits a 'white light'. Unlike the Council's existing traditional, 'orange' street lights, making it easier to distinguish colours and improves visibility for road users.



Q. What are the advantages of switching to LED?

There are many advantages of switching to LED street lighting. Here are just some of these.

LEDs:

- Use much less electricity than other lamps, reducing energy cost.
- They have long lives compared to traditional lights reducing maintenance costs. An LED light has an expected lifetime of up to 100,000 hours which is significantly longer than a typical conventional street lighting lamp.
- Produce very little heat.
- Produce less carbon emissions.
- Do not contain mercury which is kinder to the environment.
- Can operate effectively in extremely cold and hot environments making them more reliable.
- Provide an improved quality of light.
- Are much more directional than other lights reducing 'sky glow' and glare.
- Are instantaneous with no warm-up time and function at full output when switched on, meaning streets will be lit as soon as lighting is needed.

Q. Are LEDs safe?

Exposure to light from an LED is as safe as being exposed to natural lighting or any other artificial light source. There is a wealth of research that supports the use of this technology and they are being widely used successfully and safely in public lighting throughout the UK.

Environmental

Q. How 'green' are LEDs?

LEDs produce the same light output but with a lower wattage. For example, a 30W LED will provide a similar road lighting level to an existing 70W High Pressure Sodium light, reducing the amount of energy that will be required to light our streets.

Q. Do LEDs reduce carbon consumption?

Yes. Reducing the energy use will significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

Q. Do LEDs produce heat?

LEDs produce very little amounts of heat compared to traditional light sources. Lower heat should improve the life of the LED and will significantly reduce failures.

Work taking place in Stockport

Q. When and where will the work start?

The work will be carried out in phases and will replace the lanterns on existing columns, starting in Stepping Hill Ward in October 2018 and then continuing into Cheadle & Gatley Ward.

The remainder of the work throughout the Borough will be delivered on a Ward by Ward basis. You can find out when work will be starting in your area by visiting our LED webpages – www.stockport.gov.uk/led-streetlights

There are approximately 33,000 street lights and other lighting such as bollards, and sign lights to be replaced over a 5 year programme.

Q. There are individual street lights on my road where the post has been replaced as well as the light itself. Why is this?

We will structurally inspect all the street lighting columns ahead of work beginning and replace any where we find this is necessary. These replacements will be planned in conjunction with the upgrades to LED in order to minimise any disruption.

Q. Why has the position of some street lights changed?

When we replace the street lighting column we will, where possible, look to move its position to the back of the pavement to keep the footways clear for pedestrians and reduce the risk of it being hit by motorists. In some instances, the lighting column cannot be placed at the back of the pavement due to underground services eg Gas, Electric etc. In this instance the position of the column will not change.

In some cases we may also need to adjust the position of an existing column or install additional columns to achieve the required lighting levels for the road.

Q. Why has the height of some of the street lights changed?

Some columns may be replaced with column that are a different height because they have been designed to maximise the distribution of light on to the road.

Q. How long will the works take?

In most cases, only the lantern will be upgraded to an LED and we expect each change to take no longer than 20 minutes.

When we are replacing both the street lighting column and the lantern, we will aim to have them replaced as quickly as possible. However, if there is

a construction issue or the completion of our works needs to be co-ordinated with an electrical connection provider, Electricity North West this may extend the length of works.

Q. Will I still be able to gain access to my property whilst the LEDs are installed?

We will make every effort to ensure the road remains open while we work. However, there may be very short periods when we need to stop traffic for safety reasons.

If you need to access your property at any time during our works, please inform our team on site at the earliest opportunity and arrangements will be made where we can. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

Q. Will the new light be brighter and shine into my bedroom window?

It may seem that the light is brighter because it is a different colour, but this is not the case. One of the advantages of LED lighting is that it is more directional, this means that glare and light intrusion will be minimised, as well as ensuring that road users can see potential hazards clearly.

Q. The new LED light doesn't light up my driveway anymore?

All street lighting that Stockport Council is responsible for is designed to light the adopted road and pavement. The lighting of private property is the responsibility of the home owner or tenant.

Q. How will I find out about works on my road?

When we carry out LED improvements we will place information signage in the area. You can also keep up to date with how the works are progressing via our street lighting pages at www.stockport.gov.uk/led-streetlights.