

New LED lighting in Bolton

Bolton Council is replacing its street lighting on residential and main roads with LED lighting. Work is scheduled to start in the first areas on Tuesday, April 7.

The environmentally friendly, energy efficient lights should save the council up to £0.7m a year, £14m over 20 years, and reduce energy use by around 50 per cent as well as reducing carbon emissions.

Please find below some frequently asked questions.

Q. What is an LED?

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

Q. Why are you replacing the streetlights on residential roads?

The council's existing street lighting on residential and main roads uses less efficient conventional streetlights which emit the traditional forms of "orange light". As manufacturers are beginning to stop making the lights, replacements and spare parts are not easily sourced and the lights are costly to maintain.

Due to the high quality white light source of the LEDs, the streetlights will improve visibility on our residential roads; this increased visibility has many community benefits, including the prevention of night time road accidents, the provision of a safe environment for both car drivers and pedestrians, assisting in the reduction of street crime and the fear of crime and contributing to the local night time economy

The typical lifespan of a LED streetlight is estimated to be 100,000 hours/25 years which is a significant improvement on the costly maintenance regimes required for the current streetlights in both their up-keeping and regular wholesale lantern changes.

In addition to the obvious energy savings due to the lights being more efficient, the change will also have a significant impact on CO2 emissions, helping to cut the council's carbon tax commitment.

To support the LED change the council are also implementing a wireless streetlight control system called a Central Management System (CMS); this technology is relatively new and allows the council to increase energy savings by dimming the lighting levels of streetlights where appropriate to do so. In addition, this system allows real-time remote fault recognition for maintenance teams such that issues can be dealt with more efficiently.

Q. When and where will the work start?

Approximately 26,000 street lights and around 1,500 other street lighting assets such as bollards, and sign lights will be replaced in Bolton between April 2015 and April 2017.

Work will first start in Bolton town centre and Westhoughton. Teams will also move into Tonge and Heaton in May, followed by Smithills (in October) and Blackrod (in November).

Removing the existing older, orange lanterns and replacing them with new LED lights will vary depending on the number of lights and size of the area.

The remainder of the work throughout the borough will be delivered via a district by district basis.

Q. How do I know when you're going to change the lights on my street?

We will keep this page updated to let you know which areas our teams are working in.

Q. Will the work be disruptive?

The work carried out in your area will be simply the removal of the existing lantern and replacing it with an LED lantern – all works will be conducted during the daytime.

The mobile work disruption will be kept to a minimum, to which the lantern retrofit should take about 20 minutes per lighting point. If you live on a residential road and we are working outside your home there may be a slight disturbance.

If there are any issues gaining access to the lighting columns due to issues such as parking, we will attempt to notify the owner and revisit the site within five working days.

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

The LED light source is a different quality than the old lights and is designed to light the road and footpath only. This minimises light pollution by directing the light to the specific areas where it is needed. There may be a perception that it is brighter because it is a different colour, but this is not the case.

As LEDs emit light in a specific direction, which is aimed at providing uniform illumination of the area to be lit, it will reduce light trespass and light pollution.

Q. When you upgrade the light, will you be replacing the column?

We are only replacing the lantern on top of the column. We will not remove or replace the column as part of the work, unless it has been identified as requiring replacement

Q. Is there a health risk associated with this type of LED lighting?

There are no known health issues associated with the LED units we are using and they all meet the appropriate British Standard. LED is a low energy light source which has been used successfully and safely in public lighting for several years.

Q. How can I find out more information?

Please e-mail streetcare@bolton.gov.uk or phone 01204 336431

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