

Appendix 4

Frequently Asked Questions – LED Lighting (DRAFT)

Why are our lights being changed?

In June 2015 West Dunbartonshire Council Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee agreed to implement a street lighting energy efficiency scheme. This is in accordance with the Council's policy to help reduce energy consumption and reduce our carbon dioxide emissions. This energy efficiency scheme will convert our older yellow lights to white LED lights.

Why didn't we tell everyone individually?

We have not got the resources to contact each household individually.

Why not replace the lighting with new technology such as solar or wind powered lighting?

Solar or wind power is currently not suitable for highway lighting as it is not efficient enough to continuously power a street light capable of lighting the highway. However, West Dunbartonshire Council will continue to monitor new innovations.

Why have some of the columns been replaced?

Steel lamp posts and spalling concrete columns over the age of twenty years are structurally tested to ensure they are safe. Those which are past their useful life are replaced with columns which are sometimes taller and help us to meet the current lighting standards. This may mean changing the location of some lamp posts. If an existing lighting column is in good condition and in an appropriate location to meet the latest design standards the column will be reused and only the lantern changed.

What savings have been made due to the scheme?

When the works are complete we will reduce our electricity bill by £420,000 per year based on the 2013 electricity supply rate. There will also be an estimated saving per year of £250,000 on cyclical maintenance.

When will the scheme start in my area?

The scheme is being implemented across all of West Dunbartonshire and will start in January 2015 and be completed within 1 year.

Will I get a reduction in my Council Tax?

No, any savings will be used to support other Council services.

Will I get a say as to whether there is a street light outside my house?

In areas where the lighting is older, new designs will be necessary and the designers will follow guidelines, wherever possible, to place columns at property boundaries (i.e. the boundary line between two houses) rather than in line with windows, close to driveways, etc.

When it is time for the lights on your street to be replaced, we will notify you prior to the commencement of works by delivering an information leaflet to your property, erecting advanced warning notices and marking up the street with the proposed column positions. If you have any concerns when you receive this information or see marked out pavements then you should contact us immediately to discuss your situation. Contact details will be provided on the leaflet.

Will the lighting on my street be brighter?

Some of our streets still have the very old orange type lighting, which is expensive to operate and does not meet current lighting standards. The new LED lighting will increase lighting levels but avoids an intrusion of light into people's homes. Street lighting is designed to light the road and footways to ensure the Council meets its duty of care to road and footpath users.

The lighting on my street is too bright, can it be turned down?

New street lighting will be designed in accordance with British Standards taking account of traffic flow and the surrounding area. Therefore, it is not currently Council policy to reduce lighting levels below that specified in the British Standard.

What is being done to stop light intrusion?

Lighting control in modern street lights is much improved compared to the equipment available twenty years ago. Light is directed downwards to light the pavement and road as effectively as possible. If you encounter a specific problem with light intrusion (e.g. light shining into a bedroom window), please contact us in order to discuss your concerns. In certain circumstances, it may be possible for a shield to be fitted to a lantern to minimise the amount of glare/light intrusion you are experiencing however the new LED lights are very directional and will cause minimal dispersal into residential properties.

Will street lights be turned off early to save money/energy?

The Council is committed to making West Dunbartonshire a safer place and the contribution street lighting provides in reducing the fear of crime and road safety is vital. Although we will not switch off lights at set times, we will achieve significant savings through the use of more energy efficient apparatus and good design practices.

My road/footway has just been resurfaced, does this mean it will be dug up again.

It is anticipated the new LED energy efficient lanterns will be retro fitted on most of our existing columns. If possible where new columns are required it is hoped that these will be replaced on a one for one basis reducing the need to dig up the road.

Will the repair service be affected?

Our Lighting Maintenance Contractor will still require to meet strict performance target, which will be no less than those currently in operation.