

LED Street Light Replacement

Frequently Asked Questions

■ Do LEDs have any health risks?

Public Health England has carried out several years of research on LEDs, which confirms there are no known health issues associated with the units that we are using.

■ The light from LEDs is different to normal and looks 'harder'.

LEDs produce a whiter light than given off by traditional sodium lights, making colours much more identifiable and objects much clearer. Different colour temperatures are available, and we propose to continue using a mid-range neutral white which we have successfully used to date.

■ Why can't you simply dim the existing street lights, why are you spending money replacing them?

Many of the existing street lights are reaching the end of their life and are becoming obsolete. Future maintenance will become uneconomical as a result as replacement parts become harder to get. Replacing them now with modern LED units will be more cost effective in the long term, as well as enabling us to introduce dimming measures.

■ My taxes pay for these lights, if the Council is saving money will I get a reduction in Council tax?

No. Changes in Central Government funding for local authorities challenges us to 'do more with less'. Savings from initiatives such as these are needed to maintain frontline services and continue to successfully deliver the Council's key priorities.

■ Will it shine in my window?

The light from an LED lamp is far more directional than existing street lamps. We can control where it falls, directing it onto footways and carriageways where it is most needed and reducing stray light.

■ As part of these improvements, will you be moving the columns?

The existing lights are being replaced on a 'like for like' basis and we do not intend to change the existing column spacing.

■ Will dimming of light at night impact on the safety of pedestrians or road users?

Councils elsewhere have carried out total switch off during certain hours of the night. In B&NES we do not believe that this is appropriate and therefore proposing dimming as the best compromise, maintaining adequate lighting levels while still achieving high energy saving benefits. The dimming profile is staged appropriately for the amount of people who are using the streets during the night.

■ How much darker will pavements be during the night? Will it make it harder to spot trip hazards etc?

There is no reason for the pavements to be darker than those lit by sodium lighting. All areas to be lit with new LED lights will be checked to ensure that the light levels achieved comply with the minimum standards of the relevant British Standard.