

WIRRAL COUNCIL

STREETLIGHTING POLICY

2020-2025

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Street lighting illuminates all types of Highway and public access, assisting road safety and ease of movement for all users in the hours of darkness. Improved visibility reduces the likelihood of traffic collisions and improves road safety.

Effective street lighting has a positive effect on the ambiance of a place and improve an areas reputation, especially in terms of enhancing the night-time economy.

Street lighting also plays a part in reducing crime and fear of crime and contributes towards enhanced street environment and good quality of place, encouraging walking, cycling and public transport use. Lighting equipment provided should be suitable for fulfilling the lighting needs in each specific area. The main consideration is the ability of the lighting to illuminate the area in the most effective manner.

Inefficient Street lighting can have a negative impact on the environment through unnecessary energy usage and light pollution It is one of the aims of this strategy to minimise this impact.

2.0 WIRRAL COUNCIL VISION

Our priorities are clear: they are developed based on what people have told us in conversations, consultations, surveys and community events.

This Wirral Council Plan is a set of goals and objectives, which everyone involved in Wirral Council owns and will strive to achieve over these next five years. The Plan sets out 5 clear outcomes. Good quality, professionally managed streetlighting will contribute to these outcomes in a wide variety of ways as detailed below

2.1 WIRRAL PLAN: SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

OUR AMBITION	HOW STREETLIGHTING CONTRIBUTES
<p>The latest global scientific evidence makes clear that the way we live our lives is not sustainable. The impacts our lifestyles have on the earth’s life support systems and climate change present a deeply worrying picture</p> <p>We need to act fast to turn things around. We need a shift away from the use of fossil fuels for heat, power and transport to clean alternatives. We need to use resources and find ways of living that replenish and renew rather than consume and damage the environment upon which we ultimately rely.</p> <p>The challenge presents a massive opportunity to improve our environment, improve our health and create new jobs in a clean and sustainable economy. In short, working for a sustainable borough will make Wirral a better place.</p>	<p>The introduction of Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting across the whole of Wirral will make substantial energy savings and the consequent reduction in CO2 emissions.</p> <p>The more focused white light will also help to reduce light pollution and a consequential reduction of overspill and obtrusive light. We aim to save up to £700,000 annually in energy costs and carbon tax when the upgrade is completed.</p>

2.2 WIRRAL PLAN THEME: INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

OUR AMBITION	HOW STREETLIGHTING CONTRIBUTES
<p>We want to create ambitious and prosperous communities. Our plans for sustainable economic growth are about creating community wealth. They are about encouraging inclusive and sustainable growth, where the benefits are felt by every resident without damaging the environment on which we all rely. They are about creating opportunities for local people, and inspiring ambition. Prosperous communities are happier, healthier and better places to live.</p> <p>People want the chance to get a good job, and live in a nice home on a clean, safe street. A successful local economy – built on these inclusive principles – helps deliver that. Attracting investment into our borough helps create good jobs for our residents. It helps people improve their skills, improve their prospects, and raise the aspirations of their whole family. It is about helping everyone in the borough to become better off and live more comfortably</p>	<p>It is proven that a well-lit environment combined with an efficient transport infrastructure will encourage economic investment into Wirral.</p> <p>Good quality streetlighting makes a real difference to the feel and ambiance of an area. Making people feel safer will have huge economic benefits especially for the night-time economy</p>

2.3 WIRRAL PLAN THEME BRIGHTER FUTURES

OUR AMBITION	HOW STREETLIGHTING CONTRIBUTES
<p>There is no limit to our ambition for families in Wirral. We put the support in place so people can increase – and achieve – their aspirations. Children are the forefront of every decision we make. They are right at the top of our list of priorities, and they will stay there.</p>	<p>We will ensure our highways are well lit so that they can be used safely and reliably. We will ensure areas close to school and where there are known groups of vulnerable people will be well lit and contribute to making people feel</p>

<p>A family’s history should not and will not impact on the ambition of the child. We are focussed on breaking the cycle of poor outcomes and low ambition, raising the aspirations of every child in Wirral – regardless of where they live or their background. Our job is to encourage, and inspire, and we are relentless in pursuit of that goal. We will enable families to bring up children in safe, happy and secure environments.</p>	<p>safe to enable all Wirral residents to achieve their full potential.</p>
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2.4 WIRRAL PLAN THEME ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIVES

OUR AMBITION	HOW STREETLIGHTING CONTRIBUTES
<p>In Wirral we want all our residents to have a good quality of life. Good health and wellbeing is key to this and achieving that is more than about health services. A good start in life, education, decent work and housing, the environment in which we live and strong and supportive relationships all play a part.</p> <p>Wirral is a place where older people are treated with dignity and respect, supported by our Ageing Well and Dementia Friendly approaches. Wirral is a place and where having a disability is never a barrier to leading a full and fulfilling life. We are an accessible borough, which welcomes diversity and champions inclusion and social cohesion.</p> <p>We promote active lifestyles. We are proud of our reputation as the leisure peninsula, and our residents benefit from first-class opportunities for leisure, sports</p>	<p>We will ensure our highways are maintained and all street lighting units adopted by Wirral Council shall be maintained to a standard that ensures, as far as is possible, their safe, economic, effective, reliable, and sustainable operation. This is to benefit all highway users and deliver enhanced access for alternative and sustainable routes for all modes of transport.</p>

<p>and exercise – through our fitness centres or in our world-class parks, beaches and open spaces. Where people need extra help to stay healthy, we commission outstanding services to help people live more healthily.</p> <p>Vulnerable people are supported, protected and inspired. We embrace new technologies to help people to live independently, and we engage with communities who do invaluable work to keep their neighbours safe and happy.</p>	
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2.5 WIRRAL PLAN THEME SAFE & PLEASANT COMMUNITIES

OUR AMBITION	HOW STREETLIGHTING CONTRIBUTES
<p>For many thousands of our residents, the thing which is most important to them is what they see when they open their front door. They want to see clean streets, parks and beaches which are well-maintained and attractive. They want to live in a place which is free of anti-social behaviour and crime, and to be able to take an active role in making their community a better place to live.</p> <p>Our job is to help make this happen. The everyday services people want the most – street cleaning, tackling dog-fouling, road maintenance, streetlights, grass-cutting – will be delivered to the best possible standard. Almost as importantly, we will be responsive: if a resident asks us something, we will aim to answer – quickly, clearly and with empathy.</p>	<p>Lighting plays a key role in the prevention of crime. Good lighting contributes to people’s perception of an area and provides them with the confidence to use the public realm after dark.</p> <p>Improvements in light quality helps support CCTV, helping to deter and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. The use of higher quality lighting with its more accurate rendering of colours combined with improved camera technology can result in more efficient use of CCTV and help towards reducing crime and the fear of crime.</p>

3.0 PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

It is well known that street lighting can enhance the night-time environment and social scene, encourage the use of facilities by young and old and contribute to a general ‘well-being’ within communities.

Principles	Objectives:
Promote and maintain the safety for all highway users particularly the more vulnerable modes of walking and cycling	Provide a safe and attractive road network for all road users.
Respecting and enhancing the local streetscape.	Provide a cost-effective and sustainable public lighting service.
Using consistent quality materials	Conserve energy and promote sustainability.
Maintaining consistently high standards of design.	Help reduce crime and fear of crime
Reducing the amount of clutter on our streets	Only install equipment where required and remove redundant equipment when no longer required.
Making the street environment safer.	Promote a general feeling of well-being.
Enabling equal and inclusive consideration for all road users	Aid movement across the network

4.0 LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

There is no statutory requirement on local authorities in the United Kingdom to provide public lighting. The following statute empowers local authorities to light roads but does not impose a duty. In England and Wales, the Highways Act 1980 empowers a Highway Authority to provide lighting for any highway or proposed highway for which they are, or will be, the Highway Authority.

Highway Authorities do have a duty of care to the road user. Any loss to an individual as a consequence of the inappropriate use of these powers may result in action being taken to recover the loss. Such action could be taken on several grounds:

- negligent exercise of power (including failure to use that power). There is no blanket immunity.
- action for misfeasance of public office; and
- breach of common law duty of care (if it can be established).

NOTE: This duty of care does not imply any duty on Highway Authority to keep the public lighting lit. However, an authority responsible for the maintenance of public lighting should be able to demonstrate that they have systems in place to maintain the public lighting equipment in a safe condition, including the detection of dangerous equipment.

Further information and guidance can be found within the [Code of Practice – Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure 2016 \(part D – Lighting\)](#).

The Electricity at Work Regulations also imposes a duty on the owners and operators of electrical equipment to ensure its safety

The Highways Act 1980, Section 97 states;

(1)...”every local highway authority may provide lighting for the purposes of any highway or proposed highway for which they are or will be the highway authority, and may for that purpose –

- (a) Contract with any persons for the supply of gas, electricity or other means of lighting; and
- (b) Construct and maintain such lamps, posts and other works as they consider necessary

5.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT – HIGHWAY LIGHTING

Wirral Council has responsibility for maintaining 37,329 streetlights and 5,711 illuminated signs and traffic bollards along 737 miles of road over 60 square miles.

Details of all lighting assets owned by Wirral Council are stored on our asset / works management system and this inventory is also inclusive of historical maintenance data. This data is used for, but not limited to, many different attributes such as providing the energy returns to our energy provider, works prioritisation, production and reporting of local performance data, identifying routine maintenance intervals (electrical / structural testing for example) deterioration modelling and life cycle planning.

Further information about **Asset Data Management** can be found within the [UKRLG Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance \(HIAMG\), Part B](#)

Further information about **Asset Management Systems** can be found within the [UKRLG Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance \(HIAMG\), Part C](#)

Wirral Council are currently making a 9.29 - million-pound investment to improve our streetlighting provision over the next two years.

We have already replaced almost 9,000 streetlights in Wirral with new LED lights. In October 2019 we started work to replace a further 26,000 inefficient streetlights across the borough with efficient LED lights.

Wirral Council has recently carried out a survey of all its lamp posts. Over the next two years (2020 - 2022) we will be replacing approximately 9,200 lamp post columns.

Further column replacements will be required and ongoing following on from this project as other equipment reaches the end of its serviceable life. This will also include power supply cables owned and maintained by Wirral Council.

Our current aim is to have approximately 26,000 lights and around 9,200 lighting columns replaced by early 2022.

Number of streetlights	37,329
Illuminated signs and traffic bollards	5,711
Miles of Highway	737
Lights already replaced with LEDs	9000

Lights to be replaced with LEDs by early 2022	26000
Number of lighting columns to be replaced by early 2022	9200

6.0 ADDITIONAL OR UPGRADING LIGHTING

Wirral Council has a duty to ensure that, where provided, the Highway lighting stock is kept in a safe condition. However, as there is no requirement to provide street lighting, there is also no requirement for Wirral Council to provide any additional lighting or upgrade existing street lighting.

There are four main reasons where additional or improved lighting may be considered:

- The incidence of multiple traffic accidents in a particular area.
- As part of a planned lighting scheme to replace aged streetlights.
- Part of a regeneration scheme.
- Part of an energy reduction scheme.

7.0 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

If new developments are to be subject to a Section 38 or Section 278 adoption process, whereby roads become maintainable at public expense, developers are required to work in partnership with Wirral Council. The design and specification of the proposed lighting, for the development, will be agreed by Wirral Council Highways Department, prior to installation and must be designed and installed in accordance with relevant British Standards including BS5489 and BS7671.

A developer specification is available on request which contains specific details and equipment specifications to ensure all new lighting installations meet our adoptable standard.

When considering any new street lighting scheme, the potential impact on the natural environment will be considered to avoid disturbance of protected species.

Further information can be found under the [Conservation \(Natural Habitats, &c\) Regulations 1994, and as amended in 2007](#) or any future amendments.

8.0 INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Wirral Council's Highways Department are responsible for the maintenance of the authority's streetlights, illuminated traffic signs and traffic bollards.

Wirral Council carry out limited daytime and monthly night-time inspections to identify streetlights and / or signs which are damaged or not working. However due to severe financial and staff constraints this service cannot be guaranteed and we are more reliant on reports of faults from members of the public.

We do aim to respond to reported Street Light faults within 15 working days from the reported date. On average we respond to at least sixty reported streetlights or illuminated signs each working day. However, demand will always outstrip our resources, so we do have to categorise and prioritise repairs. Around 80% of problems are fixed during the first visit, but some faults may need extra work such as replacement equipment that needs to be ordered specifically from the manufacturers. Due to the material costs and storage requirements Street Lighting equipment is manufactured to order, which can often take 8 – 12 weeks to arrive from the date the order was placed. Sometimes there are underground cable faults that may require major excavations or additional work from other providers such as Scottish Power Energy Networks. These requirements often take much longer than normal to repair.

Periodic inspections are carried out on all lighting stock, which includes, but not limited to, electrical and structural safety tests. The Electricity at Works Regulations 1989 require all systems to be constructed, maintained and operated, so far as is reasonably practicable to prevent danger. Electrical testing frequency is detailed within BS 7671. However, inspections are assessed on a risk based approach and the person carrying out subsequent inspections may recommend that the interval between future inspections be increased or decreased as a result of the findings of their inspection. Visual assessments of structural integrity are carried out during each routine repair visit, or as part of cyclical maintenance programmes of inspections in accordance with ILP GN22 – Asset Management Toolkit: Minor Structures (ATOMS).

Further information and guidance can be found within the [Code of Practice – Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure 2016 \(part D – Lighting; Sections D5 & D6\)](#).

Our LED street light replacement programme will replace many of these faulty lights, but this may not be completed until early 2022.

Repairs are made on a priority basis, with highest priority being given to faults presenting the greatest risk. The criteria for prioritisation are detailed on page 14:

Priority Category	Criteria
Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposed wiring • Top of lights that are hanging loose • Traffic accident damage • Damaged lamppost
Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busy or dangerous junctions • Outside Schools • Outside Sheltered, supported accommodation • Outside Hospitals and medical facilities • Areas of proven high crime
Important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside shops on the high street • Areas with high night-time foot fall • Busy roads
Routine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside houses in residential areas • Roads in generally rural areas

9.0 WIRRAL'S LED REPLACEMENT SCHEME

There are many advantages to the introduction of Wirral Council's LED replacement scheme.

LEDs have extremely long lives -- they do not have filaments that can quickly burn out -- and they do not contain toxic chemicals like mercury, unlike traditional low and high-pressure sodium lamps or mercury-vapor lamps.

An LED light can last up to 100,000 hours. These lights also have reduced maintenance costs because of their long lives, and they give off less heat than other type of light source. Because they last so long, LEDs are suitable for places where replacing lights is expensive, inconvenient, or otherwise difficult.

LEDs are highly energy efficient have double the energy efficiency of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). In general, they use 15 percent of the energy of an incandescent light source while generating more light per watt.

Wirral Council are aware that LED lights may initially appear to be brighter to many people, particularly when compared to the orange or yellow light of traditional older streetlights. From experience, residents do tend to become accustomed to the new lighting over a short period of time and are able to appreciate the improvement to the night-time environment.

All newly installed LED lighting is set to dim between midnight and 05:00am to further reduce our energy consumption and to further reduce potential light pollution. Also LED lighting is more directional so the light distribution is directed to the intended surface to illuminate thus minimising light pollution. Trimming is also achieved with the chosen photocell (or Photo-Electronic Control Unit – ('PECU') and by using modern technology we can keep operating times to a minimum, thus switching on or off when required, also there is no warm up time required with LED technology so this all adds to our overall energy saving and carbon reduction.

Wirral's major LED replacement scheme which will have replaced an additional 26,000 Street Lights with LEDs is due to be completed early 2022.

10.0 HERITAGE LIGHTING

The current proposal seeks to fully replace and upgrade all of the existing street and amenity lighting to LED whilst wherever possible retaining and enhancing historic and heritage lanterns in Conservation Areas as recommended within BS5489 – 1:2020 and the Civic Amenities Act 1967. Conservation areas that have standard lighting equipment currently installed will not be considered for anything other than standard equipment when replacements are required. However, consideration will be given to the local ecology in accordance with Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994, or subsequent amendments.

Areas that have heritage / ornate equipment installed currently, but the area does not have heritage status shall have suitable standard lighting equipment installed when any replacements are required, as anything else would not be sustainable.

Not only will the upgrade allow smaller and more efficient light fixtures to be employed that will save energy and reduce environmental impact, but also the ability to dim the street lighting will allow for a general reduction in brightness without compromise to safety and security.

Such an upgrade could also allow for improvements to mounting heights, a reduction to glare and promote a potential reduction in the amount of lighting equipment and its supporting infrastructure.

Along specific roads, conservation areas and historically sensitive areas the use of a lower colour temperature such as a warmer white light output as opposed to a neutral white light output for new lighting will be considered.

11.0 ATTACHMENTS & POWER SUPPLIES FROM LIGHTING

COLUMNS

Wirral Council as the Highway Lighting Authority requires where legislation exists, all third-party attachments; temporary or permanent, illuminated, or non-illuminated, to be controlled by licence or permit consent. Requests for power supplies from lighting columns, for example: temporary traffic light signal controls, CCTV equipment, electric vehicle charging units, festive lighting, banners, hanging baskets...etc; should in the first instance be directed to the Council. The Council does not always involve itself in the planning or erection of these attachments or decorations, but in the interests of safety,

as Highway Authority, it does advise organisations who wish to erect such equipment on or across the Highway.

The erection of seasonal decorations and / or any attachment on or above the highway shall only be carried out with the prior written approval of the Highway Authority. The organising party shall also contact our local planning department to ascertain whether planning permission is required or not.

The following sections of the Highways Act, defines various activities for which a licence or consent is applicable:

- Highways Act 1980
- Section 142 – Planting/cultivation on the highway (e.g. flower baskets).
- Section 178 – Banners/advertisement signs attached to columns over the Highway
- Section 178 – Cables/wires over the highway
- Section 178 – Decorative/festive lights over the highway

The proposer shall advise the Highway Authority of the requirements of the attachment or equipment they wish to install including, but not limited to:

- Fixing or mounting method
- Weight of the equipment
- Height above ground
- Time to remain on site
- Wind loading
- Electrical consumption and fuse rating
- Electrical test certificate
- Time clock requirement (Christmas Lighting)
- Evidence must be provided to show that adequate public liability insurance is in place.
- Evidence must be provided to show ongoing maintenance to ensure the safety of the apparatus.

With the exception of lighting columns or posts specifically designed for the purpose, all units required for use must be structurally tested, and certification provided by a structural testing company recognised by Wirral Council. All associated costs of these structural tests shall be paid for by the requisitioner of the equipment to be attached.

It should be noted that concrete columns cannot be used under any circumstances.

All attachments shall be installed in compliance with the following Codes of Practice, statutes and regulations: -

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Electricity-at-Work Regulations 1989
- BS 7671 Regulations for Electrical Installation
- CDM 2015

Appendix 1: LED Replacement schedule

Area	Expected Duration	Work expected to take place between the dates below	
FULL LIGHTING COLUMN & LANTERN UPGRADE			

LEASOWE	7 days	Thu 02/01/20	Fri 10/01/20
WALLASEY	12 days	Mon 13/01/20	Tue 28/01/20
LISCARD	41 days	Wed 29/01/20	Wed 25/03/20
POULTON	25 days	Thu 26/03/20	Fri 01/05/20
EGREMONT	21 days	Mon 04/05/20	Wed 03/06/20
SEACOMBE	19 days	Thu 04/06/20	Tue 30/06/20
BIRKENHEAD	8 days	Wed 01/07/20	Fri 10/07/20
TRANMERE	12 days	Mon 13/07/20	Tue 28/07/20
UPTON	14 days	Wed 29/07/20	Mon 17/08/20
WOODCHURCH	10 days	Tue 18/08/20	Tue 01/09/20
MORETON	25 days	Wed 02/09/20	Tue 06/10/20

BIDSTON	3 days	Wed 07/10/20	Fri 09/10/20
CLAUGHTON	4 days	Mon 12/10/20	Thu 15/10/20
BEECHWOOD	4 days	Fri 16/10/20	Wed 21/10/20
NOCTORUM	5 days	Thu 22/10/20	Wed 28/10/20
SAUGHALL MASSIE	3 days	Thu 29/10/20	Mon 02/11/20
OXTON	15 days	Tue 03/11/20	Mon 23/11/20
PRENTON	15 days	Tue 24/11/20	Mon 14/12/20
BEBINGTON	11 days	Tue 15/12/20	Thu 31/12/20
HIGHER BEBINGTON	15 days	Mon 04/01/21	Fri 22/01/21
NEW BRIGHTON	11 days	Mon 25/01/21	Mon 08/02/21
ROCK FERRY	13 days	Tue 09/02/21	Thu 25/02/21

Appendix 1 : LED Replacement schedule

NEW FERRY	3 days	Fri 26/02/21	Tue 02/03/21
BROMBOROUGH	13 days	Wed 03/03/21	Fri 19/03/21
EASTHAM	9 days	Mon 22/03/21	Thu 01/04/21
HESWALL, BARNSTON & GAYTON	37 days	Tue 06/04/21	Thu 27/05/21
THURSTASTON	1 day	Fri 28/05/21	Fri 28/05/21
CALDY	5 days	Tue 01/06/21	Mon 07/06/21
NEWTON	12 days	Tue 08/06/21	Wed 23/06/21
WEST KIRBY	10 days	Thu 24/06/21	Wed 07/07/21
HOYLAKE	2 days	Thu 08/07/21	Fri 09/07/21
MEOLS	7 days	Mon 12/07/21	Tue 20/07/21
GREASBY &FRANKBY	8 days	Wed 21/07/21	Fri 30/07/21

IRBY	6 days	Mon 02/08/21	Mon 09/08/21
PENSBY	9 days	Tue 10/08/21	Fri 20/08/21
THINGWALL	4 days	Mon 23/08/21	Thu 26/08/21
THORNTON HOUGH & BRIMSTAGE	2 days	Fri 27/08/21	Tue 31/08/21
POULTON-SPITAL, RABY & RABY MERE	3 days	Wed 01/09/21	Fri 03/09/21
RE-VISIT & INSTALL PREVIOUSLY INACCESSIBLE ASSETS	20 days	Mon 06/09/21	Fri 01/10/21
HIGH MAST LIGHTING COLUMNS - BIRKENHEAD AREA			
INSTALLATION AND INSPECTION	15 days	Thu 13/02/20	Wed 04/03/20
TRAFFIC ROUTE LIGHTING COLUMN AND LANTERN REPLACEMENT	160 days	Wed 15/01/20	Tue 01/09/20
LIFE EXPIRED LIGHTING COLUMNS VARIOUS LOCATIONS	29 days	Mon 02/12/19	Tue 14/01/20

Appendix 2: Reporting Streetlight Faults

The existing procedures for reporting streetlighting faults are:

Call: **0151 606 2004** (Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm)

Or call the out of hours service **0151 647 7810**

Or online at

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/street-lights-traffic-lights-and-signs/street-lights>

Appendix 3: BSI Standards and Good Practice

Links to BSI standards and good practice can be found at:

<https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/search/Standards?Term=Street+lighting&Source=category>

The Institute of Lighting Professionals

<https://theilp.org.uk/about/>