

We're working for you

**Street lighting
LED improvements**

What to expect




**Cheshire East
Council**
Highways

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways

0300 123 5020

@CECHighways

What is happening?

Cheshire East Council is investing to improve the authority's street lighting, by upgrading it to light emitting diode (LED) technology.

LED street lighting emits a 'white light' and is a more energy efficient way to light roads and pavements that are the responsibility of Cheshire East Council.

Benefits of LED

The new, innovative LED street lighting will bring a number of benefits to residents, road users and the authority in Cheshire East including:

- The future proofing of the authority's street lighting assets
- LEDs minimise light pollution into homes and gardens by directing light onto the road and pavement
- The white light improves visibility and colour recognition on street, helping people feel safer
- LEDs have a longer life span and a reduced likelihood of faults
- They are much more energy efficient, reducing energy consumption by as much as 75%

When is it happening?

It will take a number of years to upgrade all of Cheshire East Council's street lights to LED. Our area approach ensures that works are completed with minimal disruption to local communities.

- 2014-15: Pilot LED upgrade of 1,000 lights in residential areas
- 2015-16: LED upgrades of street lights on traffic routes
- 2016-17: LED upgrades of street lighting in residential areas (excluding Crewe & Macclesfield)
- 2017-18: LED upgrades in residential areas in Crewe
- 2018-19: LED upgrades in residential areas in Macclesfield

LED improvement works in residential areas of Crewe and Macclesfield take place from 2017 onwards, where works will be carefully coordinated with highway works associated with key development projects. Traffic routes in these areas have already benefitted from the LED upgrades.

Street Lighting Column replacements

All street lighting columns that are the responsibility of Cheshire East Council have also been structurally inspected. Some will need to be replaced as part of the LED replacement programme, but only the light itself will be upgraded in most cases.

What to expect before we start works

What is LED street lighting?

LED street lighting emits a 'white light' and is a more efficient way to light roads and pavements that are the responsibility of Cheshire East Council.

Unlike traditional, 'orange' street lights, LED lighting makes it easier to distinguish colours, improving visibility on street.

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 confirms the safety of this technology and they are being widely installed throughout the UK.

Why does the upgrade of LEDs in residential areas of Crewe and Macclesfield take place in later years?

The LED upgrades are to benefit a significant number of street lights in Cheshire East which means that they need to be planned over a number of years. The improvements in the main towns of Crewe and Macclesfield will need to be coordinated with other highways projects and are included in later years to allow for this planning to take place.

How will I find out about works on my road?

If your road is to benefit from the LED improvements, we will place signage on your road and send you a letter notifying of works. You can also keep up to date with how the works are progressing throughout Cheshire East on our street lighting pages at cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways.



What to expect during works

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 whilst we work. However, there may be very short periods when we need to stop traffic to protect the safety of both the travelling public and our workforce.

Although there may be some minor obstructions, we understand that access to your property may be required for personal 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. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

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

We have structurally inspected all street lighting columns that are the responsibility of Cheshire East Council and some may need to be replaced to ensure they remain safe. These replacements will be planned in conjunction with the LED upgrades to ensure all works are completed at the same time, minimising disruption.

How long will the works take?

In most cases, we will be upgrading the lantern only to LED. When we are replacing the existing lantern with a new LED lantern, we would expect each change to take no longer than 15 minutes.

When we are replacing the street lighting column as well as the lantern, we expect to have both the column and lantern replaced and working in the same day.

Sometimes, the completion of our works can be delayed. Some electrical connections have to be undertaken by electricity companies and we may be waiting for them to complete the works. We may also be resolving a column relocation issue, or we may have encountered a safety issue.

How do I contact Cheshire East Highways about these works?

Our team onsite are your best point of contact to discuss the works further. If they cannot help, you can contact us at:

cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways or
by calling **0300 123 5020**.



What to expect after works

Why are the new street lights white and not orange or yellow like the old ones?

Traditional street lighting burns sodium, which produces a light that appears orange in colour whereas LEDs produce a white light, which is brighter and makes it easier to recognise colours, improving visibility for road users.



Why has the position of some street lights changed?

When we replace the street lighting column, we will look to move its position to the back of the pavement, where possible. This is to reduce the risk of motorists hitting the column and causing injury to themselves and other road users.

In some circumstances, the lighting column cannot be placed at the back of the pavement due to the presence of underground services. If this is the case, and if there are no alternative locations available, then the position of the column will not change.

In most cases, we will be upgrading the lantern only to LED, which means the position of the street light will not change.

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

If we are replacing all street lighting columns on a road, they may be replaced by columns that are of a different height. This is because they have been designed to maximise the distribution of light on to the road which may require a change in height. For example, if the existing columns on a road are 5 metres tall and we are replacing all of them, they may be replaced with 6 metre columns instead.

If we are not replacing all street lighting columns on a road, the column will be replaced on a like for like basis. For example, if all columns on the road are 6 metres tall and one column is to be replaced, this will be 6 metres tall too.

Will I be disturbed by light shining through my window?

Traditional street lighting tends to spread light in all directions, including upwards. LED street lighting is less wasteful and directs the distribution of light generally down towards the road and pavement to minimise any light intrusion into homes and gardens. This is also important to ensure that road users can see potential hazards clearly.

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

All street lighting that Cheshire East 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.

A new street light has been installed but it is not working, who do I contact?

If an old or new street light on your road is not in light at night, please report it to us online at cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways or by calling us on 0300 123 5020 and we will endeavour to fix it as soon as we are able to.

Contacting us

Our team onsite are your best point of contact to discuss the works further. If they cannot help, you can contact us at cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways or by calling us on **0300 123 5020**.

Installation of LED street lighting is a positive change for most residents, but it can take some time to get used to the white light.

We welcome your feedback, so please take a moment to complete the short survey included in the back of your residents letter, and we would be grateful if you could return it to us – postage is free.

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