

## Frequently Asked Questions

Streetlighting scheme, New Bradwell

### **What's happening?**

We'll be installing streetlight columns onto some residential streets in New Bradwell to replace the old lights that are attached to the front of some properties.

### **Which streets will this include?**

The new columns will be installed on: Caledonian Street, Wallace Street, Wood Street, St Mary Street, School Street, King Edward Street and Queen Anne Street. These are the streets where the majority of streetlights are attached to the front of houses.

### **Why does this work need to take place?**

The old lights need to be replaced to comply with the latest legal requirements around power supply. An isolator must be installed with the electricity connection for safety. For ongoing maintenance and accessibility, it is easier to install streetlight columns that are connected to a main feeder pillar. The old lights are fed from cables and boxes that are inside or on the properties. This creates complications with access and ownership if any works need to take place.

### **Why can't you upgrade the existing lights on the houses instead?**

We look after over 58,000 streetlights across Milton Keynes and are in the process of upgrading the remaining older lights to LED to provide energy savings, reduce light pollution and streamline our maintenance and repairs.

The wall-mounted lights on these streets are difficult to access, would require new legal agreements with each property owner and as we'd have to fit new isolators, they would also need additional equipment and cabling installed on each of them which could potentially damaged the brickwork.

### **Where will the new streetlights go?**

The new columns will be installed on the existing built out areas and planters where possible. On those streets where there are no build outs, the streetlight columns will be placed at the back of the footway.

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### **Will this mean streetlights shining into windows?**

No - the new LED streetlights are designed to be able to direct light where it is needed onto the road and footway. They can also be dimmed helping to save energy. If you find that there is an issue with the new lights, we can fit a shield to the back of the light.

### **Parking on these streets is already limited, won't lampposts make this worse?**

The new lampposts will be installed on the existing built out areas where possible. On the streets where there are no build outs, the columns will go on the back of the footway and most of these are wide enough to accommodate them.

On Caledonian Road and Wallace Street we will be installing additional streetlights at the end of the roads to provide additional lighting where there currently is none.

### **When will the works start?**

We will carry out a pilot scheme by the end of 2022 on School Street. This will help us to make any adjustments to the plans for the remaining six streets that will start in spring 2023.

We are working with the streetlight power supplier, Western Power Distribution, to start disconnecting the old lights in early 2023. We'll notify you in advance of any start dates and temporary road closures.

### **Why does it take so long?**

This is a large, complex scheme which will involve coordinating works with several other organisations, sourcing materials, installing new cables whilst minimising the disruption to residents and businesses too. There is a lot of work taking place 'behind the scenes' on a large scheme like this before any visible works can start including lighting designs, utilities checks, road closure permits and other safety checks.

### **Will the streets be lit all the time?**

Yes - as the old ones are disconnected, we will use solar powered temporary lights to continue to provide lighting in the area. We'll remove these temporary lights when the new ones are installed and are working correctly so there is no loss in lighting provision.

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### **Will you remove the old lights from the houses after they are disconnected?**

No - MK City Council will not remove the old lights. The disconnection of the old lights is being managed by Western Power Distribution. Once they are safely disconnected, they may be removed by the homeowner.

### **Are you doing any other works during this time?**

Yes - we'll be using this opportunity to give these streets a 'mini-makeover' including:

- weeding
- street cleansing and litter picking
- trimming bushes and trees
- refreshing the street name plates
- repainting the road markings
- cleaning the gullies (road drains)
- fixing any surfacing defects like potholes
- painting bollards and benches
- fixing and cleaning signs
- decluttering the streets of defunct street furniture

### **Where can I find out more about LED streetlights?**

There's lots of information about street lighting including LEDs on our website in the Streetlighting section. Go to [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways)

### **Who can I contact if I have a question about the scheme?**

You can contact the Highways team on 01908 252353 or email [customerservices@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@milton-keynes.gov.uk). Alternatively, you can contact your ward councillors or your local parish council who will be able to help answer your queries too. We'll keep residents updated with any key dates and details of road closures in advance.