

CMK Streetlighting

Infrastructure upgrade 23/24



Background

Unlike the streetlights across other roads in MK, the city centre streetlights are connected in 'blocks', which means that if there is a fault with one, they are all affected and will not light up after dark.

The only option is to override the system, but this means the lights will be on all the time, known as 'dayburners'.

The power cabinets, located in the porte cocheres and underpasses, are past their design life and overdue for an upgrade which involves replacing old electrical parts and cables.

The streetlight lanterns also need to be brought up to date with more energy-efficient LEDs. These changes to the aged infrastructure and cables will help to significantly reduce the number of faults, provide better lighting levels and if there are any issues, we will be able to fix them quickly and easily.

It also means that the other lights will not be affected if one light is faulty, stopping the whole block from being out or dayburning.

Completed works in 2022

In autumn, we identified and repaired 238 individual lights. A further 30 blocks affecting over 170 lights were also repaired plus:

- 6 electrical cabinets located inside porte cocheres were upgraded.
- 16 electrical cabinets or feeder pillars upgraded to date.
- 218 lights converted to LED on the three boulevards and Saxon Gate, Secklow Gate and Witan Gate.

Planned works for 2023

During night-time checks in January, highways officers logged faults with a further 127 lights plus 9 blocks affecting a further 76 lights. This high number of faults can be attributed to the old infrastructure and way the lights are connected to each other.

Over the next few months an extensive programme of repairs and upgrades will take place along the main roads including an additional 5 electrical cabinets inside porte cocheres and 44 electrical cabinets or feeder pillars to be upgraded.

We're also carrying out works as part of the 'Safer Streets' project to install CCTV cameras on street light columns across the city centre. The cameras are powered from the street light columns.

We have deliberately switched some lights on permanently because there is a camera located on it and the streetlight is faulty but not yet upgraded. This is to prevent a loss of power to the camera.

Planned works for 2024

Streetlights in the car park areas will be upgraded during 2023/2024.

This is an extensive programme involving some complex electrical installations within the city centre.

There will be some disruptions as we will need to close off sections of road, car park or footway to carry out the work safely.

However once completed, the streetlights in CMK will provide crisper light, produce less light pollution, and reduce energy consumption.

Further information

Details about all highways programmes, schemes and projects can be found on the Highways section of our website, www.milton-keynes.gov.uk

You can also view planned works for MK on one.network. This website includes details about all works on the highways including utilities, events and other closures including our own works.

To report an issue to us, please use the Report It section on our website or call 01908 252353 or email customerservices@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

We also post information regularly on our social media channels, Facebook ([mkcouncil1](https://www.facebook.com/mkcouncil1)) and Twitter [@mkcouncil](https://twitter.com/mkcouncil)