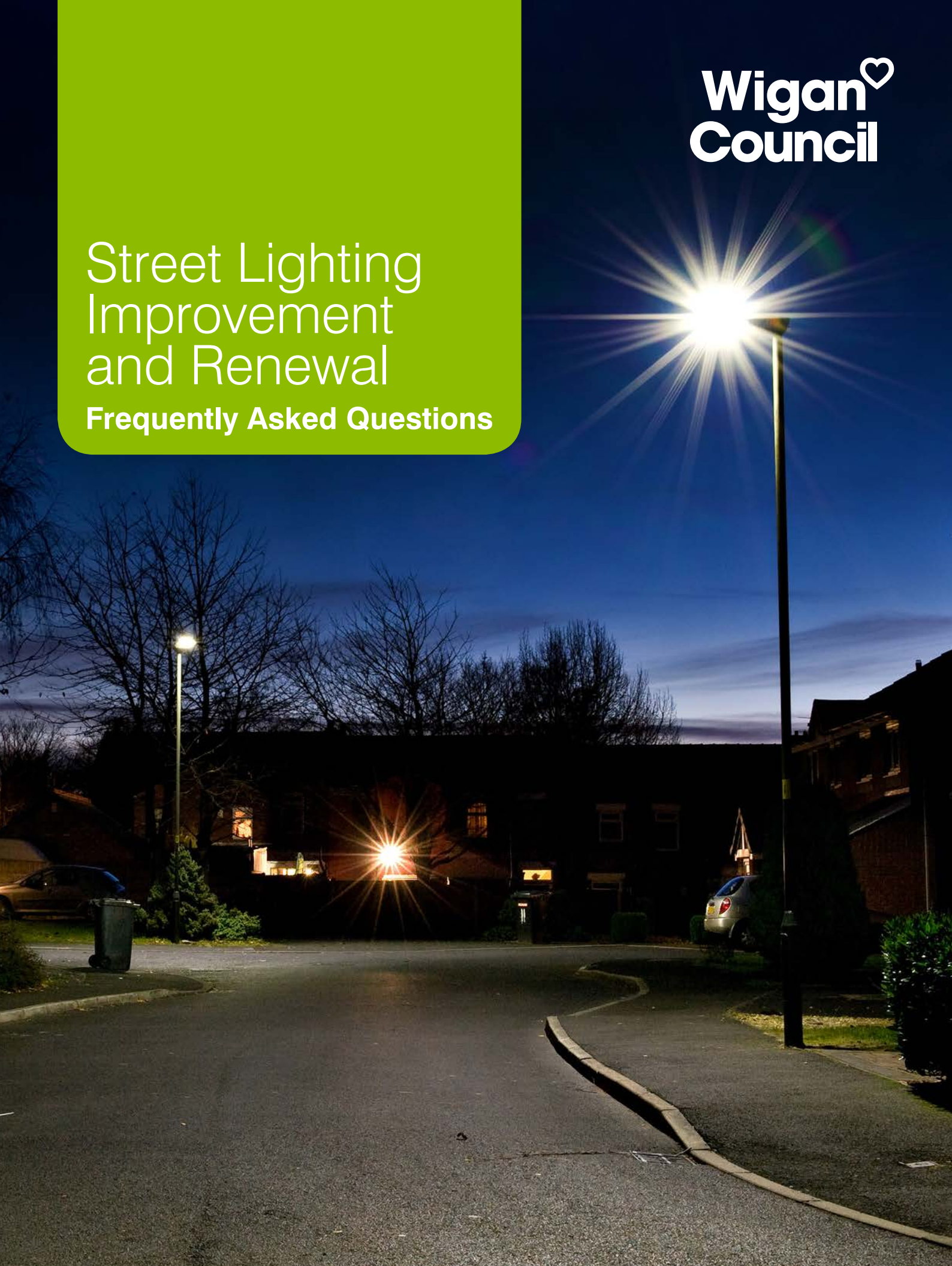


Street Lighting
Improvement
and Renewal
Frequently Asked Questions



This leaflet has been prepared to help you understand the street lighting column installation and removal service provided by Wigan Council.

The Council recognises that street lighting is important to householders, not only as an amenity, but also for security and road safety.

At times it is necessary for your street lighting system to be replaced and we thought that you would like to know about the processes involved.

Some of the frequently asked questions are answered here.

Why is replacement necessary?

Some of the existing lighting equipment is in a bad structural condition through age, or the lighting levels do not meet modern standards.

What will happen?

The locations of the new street lights will be marked out on the ground and the new columns installed. Only after the new lights are connected to the electricity cable will any old ones be removed.

Why are new street lights sometimes in different positions to the old ones?

In the first instance, we will try to replace columns near to the existing column to minimise changes. However, on occasion to comply with codes of practise and provide even levels of lighting along the whole street, we will need to place the columns in new positions away from existing columns.

Is there a policy about where columns are located?

We aim to site columns between houses, between drives or on the house side of the drive. However, this is not always possible. Columns are normally sited at the back of footways or in verges. This minimises obstruction on the footway and damage to columns caused by vehicles.

Does anybody check the column positions before they are put up?

Every column position is checked on site to make sure that access to properties is not obstructed.

How will the works be carried out on site?

In most cases the new lighting column will be installed and connected to the electricity cables by the same contractor. When the new light is working the old column will be disconnected from the electricity supply and removed from site.

The work on site will generally involve some excavation of the highway to gain access to the underground electricity cables. Once the works have been completed a permanent re-instatement will be carried out.

How will this work affect me?

Throughout the works we will do everything we can to keep any disruption to a minimum. If we are only replacing the lanterns on a column, this should only take around 15 minutes per street light. Where we are installing a lighting column the work will take longer as this will involve disconnecting and re-connecting the electricity supply. The work we carry out will not affect access or the electricity supply to your property.



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Once the installation works have been completed and all the new lights are working:

Will I notice any difference?

Yes. The most notable change will be the colour of the new light. It might take a little time for you to get used to your new lighting as the new LED's have a crisp white/clear colour instead of the dull orange/yellow colour of the old fittings. You may also notice that the light is focused downwards rather than spilling into surrounding gardens, driveways or fronts of properties. This makes sure the footpaths and roads are lit to the correct standard.

The new street lighting you have installed is too bright and shines into my bedroom window. What can you do to assist with this?

The lighting is designed to British Standards and has to meet the right lighting level for your street. This is why it has the current level of brightness. This cannot be changed.

The new lights use white light and are designed to shine downwards and are more directional than the previous lighting units. To ensure we have a fair assessment of residents' concerns we would ask for residents to become accustomed to the new lighting system before we consider making any changes.

Where it is demonstrable that light is shining into a bedroom window then the light output of the lantern maybe adjusted or a diffuser fitted to reduce this.

You have installed new street lighting in my street but I can no longer see my front door when I arrive home in the evening.

The lighting is designed to meet British Standards and will have the right lighting level for your street. The directional nature of LED lights helps reduce light pollution, ensuring that footpaths and roads are lit but avoiding intrusion of light into people's homes and gardens. This is why it has the current level of brightness. This cannot be changed. Street lighting is specifically designed to light the footway and roads only and will not provide lighting to house doors that are set back from the highway.

What should I do if I want more information about the proposed works?

In the first instance you should contact the Infrastructure Asset Management team within the Places Directorate. A member of the team will then assist you with your enquiry.

For more information please contact:

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