



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18th March 2025

Report of Councillor Rhys Baker
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Waste

Progress update on upgrade of District Council Streetlights to LED

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

This report provides a progress update on the ongoing project to upgrade District Council operated streetlights to energy efficient LED units.

Recommendations

That the Committee notes the updates regarding the upgrade programme of LED streetlights

Decision Information

Does the report contain any
exempt or confidential
information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate
priorities?

Clean and sustainable environment

Which wards are impacted?

All wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The overall electricity spend for the Council continues to reduce following a reduction in overall consumption rates and energy prices. This invest to save initiative continues to contribute towards the overall savings to the Council.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 Councils do not have a duty to provide streetlighting, however once provided, the local authority does have a duty to maintain the system in a safe condition.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Climate Change

- 1.3 Streetlights represent the single largest area of electricity consumption for the Council. Upgrading existing lamps to LED is projected to reduce energy consumption by 75%, resulting in significant carbon savings. Annual carbon savings are included within the report which will contribute towards the Council's carbon reduction target.

Completed by: Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 South Kesteven District Council is responsible for managing a total of 3,893 streetlights within the district all of which are funded from the Council's General Fund. These lights are predominantly for providing lighting to footways, as opposed to the separate and much more significant stock of streetlights provided for highways in the district, which are managed by Lincolnshire County Council.

- 2.2 The majority of lights operated by the Council remain 35W (or 36W) low pressure sodium lamps. The total electricity consumption arising from the lamps result in just over 4% of the Council's total carbon emissions – the single largest category for electricity use of Council assets.
- 2.3 Following deliberation by [Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22nd June 2023](#), [Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th July 2023](#), and discussion by [Cabinet on 11th September 2023](#), [Council on 28th September 2023](#) agreed to approve an allocation of £1m to accelerate the replacement of Council operated streetlights with LED lamps.
- 2.4 A procurement exercise was completed in early 2024 and EON Energy Solutions Ltd. were appointed as the successful bidder. The specification for the upgraded lamps included:
- Replacement dimmable LED luminaires, with dimming profile set from midnight to 6AM
 - Photocell controllers to activate lamp automatically at dusk and switch off at dawn
 - NEMA socket to facilitate future connection to a networked system if required
- 2.5 Following project mobilisation, a fuller update was provided to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on [7th October 2024](#) on installations to end of August 2024. This update also shared that the supplier's project of energy saving from the new LED lanterns had improved, with expected savings of 75% for every lamp upgraded. At current electricity costs this results in a payback period of 3.7 years and an annual carbon emissions saving of 148 tonnes.
- 2.6 The latest year-to-year comparison for February 2025 shows that electricity consumption has reduced by 56% through lamps upgraded to date.
- 2.7 Regarding the upgrade programme, each upgraded streetlight is supplied with a full condition report advising the condition of the column, bracket, lantern, door & paint condition, along with an electrical test report. If required, the light is renumbered/identified.
- 2.8 As of 25th February 2025, a total of 2,385 streetlights have been successfully upgraded to LED. This equates to 61% of the council's total stock of streetlights.

Status		Number of Street Lights Upgraded
	Completed with no additional work required	2,267
Additional work required to complete upgrade	Column Replacement	16
	Bracket Replacement	102
	Found streetlights, not on inventory	6
Advisory work completed on upgraded lights	Bracket replacement	50
	Column Replacement	71
Columns inspected but not upgraded	Inaccessible requiring landowner permission	14
	Under investigation/LCC	9
	Ornate lanterns, requiring quotation	11
Columns not found	Removed from old wooden poles without Council knowledge	5

- 2.9 Of the original £1m budget allocation to the project to upgrade streetlights, £800k has been committed to date for agreed upgrades, with a further £200k to be addressed later in the year. It is expected that all upgrades will be completed by late 2025.
- 2.10 A list of locations where the Council has streetlight assets is provided at Appendix A. Locations which appear in green have been completed, with those locations in white awaiting some or all of the streetlights that the Council is responsible for to be upgraded.
- 2.11 There are a limited number of heritage style ornate lamps clustered within conservation areas in the district, which have been planned to be addressed as part of this upgrade programme.
- 2.12 Some of the street lighting which has been upgraded also require additional work which is classed as advisory. Whilst this is not necessarily urgent, the Council has investigated each light and raised orders if it has deemed sensible to address the problem while funds are available. This ensures that the lights are future proofed, and we benefit from a lower cost compared to a call out in the future. This work includes: proactive column upgrades; pole bracket upgrades; straightening columns and re-concreting, upgrading supply box and brackets.

- 2.13 The resident feedback regarding any lamps that have been upgraded to LED has been very minimal to date. A small number of requests to review the brightness of the upgraded lamps has been received, either where the lamp is perceived as providing insufficient illumination during hours of darkness or where a lamp is perceived as too bright in its surroundings. Overall feedback on the upgrade programme has been positive.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 Current unit cost for electricity remains at a historic high and there is a strong case for accelerated upgrade of the council's stock of streetlights, to maximise savings on energy costs and return on investment.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The report is provided for information rather than decision. Members are asked to take note of the update on the progress of the project to date.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 The report is provided for information to note of the update on the progress of the project to date.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee 22nd June 2023 - [Streetlights report.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#)
- 6.2 Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11th July 2023 - [Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th July 2023](#)
- 6.3 Cabinet 11th September 2023 - [Cabinet on 11th September 2023](#)
- 6.4 Council 28th September 2023 - [Council on 28th September 2023](#)
- 6.5 Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee - [Agenda for Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 7th October, 2024, 2.00 pm | South Kesteven District Council](#)

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix A: List of settlements streetlight upgrades have been completed