

# South Cambridgeshire District Council's Streetlighting Policy

## Version 2

January 2024

## 1. Background and purpose

In accordance with the Highways Act 1980, Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, there is no statutory requirement for local authorities to provide public lighting. Councils do, however, have the power to provide lighting and once provided, have a duty of care to ensure that assets for which they retain responsibility are maintained in a safe condition. Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), as the Highway Authority, is responsible for all streetlighting on the public highway and maintains most streetlights (around 52,000) across Cambridgeshire, including illuminated signs and bollards.

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), as a permitted lighting authority, has retained responsibility for a small number of lights (around 1800), defined as 'footway lighting' which are generally located in residential areas within a number of villages across South Cambridgeshire. No new additional footway lighting is provided by the authority. For simplicity the service refers to its footway lights as streetlights and will refer to them as such throughout this document.

The SCDC streetlights are maintained in partnership with Parish Councils and under this partnership arrangement SCDC has responsibility for maintaining the lights whilst Parish Councils pay for electricity.

This policy document outlines the responsibilities, basic principles and standards for SCDC's maintenance of its streetlights and planned improvements to this stock. The document has been developed with reference to CCC's Street Lighting Policy and in consultation with parish and neighbouring district councils.

The document will be reviewed every 3 years or as required.

## 2. Partnership working

Given the shared arrangements for street lighting in Cambridgeshire, SCDC recognises the importance of working closely with partners in the delivery and development of the service and has set up a Cambridgeshire Street Lighting Network with a view to future service developments.

The service works closely with Parish Councils and Members in the maintenance and development of street lighting.

A partnership has also been formed with Suffolk County Council to deliver streetlighting maintenance services for SCDC streetlights from February 2024.

## 3. Streetlighting maintenance

SCDC is responsible for the following in accordance with all relevant standards and legislation:

- Providing and maintaining an inventory of all streetlights it maintains.
- The repair and maintenance of all streetlights on the inventory.
- Cyclical structural inspection and electrical testing of all streetlights on the inventory.
- The removal of streetlights, following an impact assessment and where agreed with the Highways Authority and Parish Councils.
- Assessment and approval of any attachments to the streetlights on the inventory in accordance with point 5 below.
- Labelling and numbering of all streetlights on the inventory. All SCDC lights are identifiable by an 'SC' prefix.

Maintenance of SCDC streetlights is undertaken by Suffolk County Council.

### 3.1 Fault reporting

General faults with SCDC streetlights can be reported via:

- The SCDC website: [Report a streetlighting fault](#)
- Urgent faults should be reported via telephone to 0345 606 6171 to ensure they are dealt with immediately.

### 3.2. Fault response standards

A report of a faulty streetlight to SCDC will be categorised at the point of receipt and responded to within the following times:

Fault	Response Time
General faults (for example, a light is dim or not working)	Attendance within 10 days
Emergency attendance (where there is a risk of serious injury or immediate risk to life)	Attendance within 4 hours

In an emergency attendance the asset shall in the first instance be made safe by the contractor in accordance with the above response times, following which any required repairs will be made.

### 3.3. Cyclical Testing

In accordance with relevant regulations and standard, the streetlights will be:

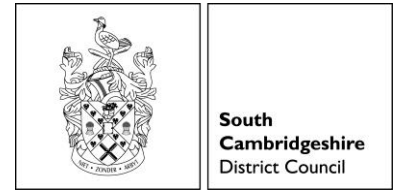
- Structurally inspected at required intervals in accordance with Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note 22/19 and as required by the results of previous structural testing.
- Electrically tested every 6 years.

## 4. Street lighting improvements

SCDC changed all its streetlamps to LEDs by March 2023, which is estimated to have saved a little over 70% in energy use. Works included upgrading all heritage style streetlights and the replacement of entire units (columns and pole brackets) where required.

## 5. Attachments to streetlights

Any attachment to a streetlight may affect the structural integrity of the light or interfere with public access and access required for maintenance. Approval for an attachment to an SCDC streetlight is therefore required from SCDC prior to any action being taken. Any un-approved attachments may need to be removed by SCDC without notice.



SCDC accepts applications for attachments from non-commercial organisations only, for the approval of signs, vehicle speed indication devices, CCTV and Smart City measures. Where vehicle speed indications devices are intended these should be battery operated. SCDC will not approve applications for the attachment of hanging baskets, festive decorations, catenary wires, litter or dog bins, or banners to its streetlights.

SCDC will generally make the arrangements for the installation of attachments such as speed monitoring devices for the applicant, which ensures adherence to all relevant requirements and mitigates any potential damage to the asset. As assessments of applications and installation works will vary, depending on the request, there may be a charge at the discretion of the responsible officer.

Enquiries regarding permission for an attachment to an SCDC streetlight should be sent to [Asset&Compliance@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:Asset&Compliance@scamb.gov.uk)