



# Evolution of Local Authority Lighting

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# Institution of Lighting Professionals

## – who are we?



- Founded in 1924 as the Association of Public Lighting Engineers
- Not-for-Profit Professional Membership and Technical Learned Society
- Circa 2000 individual professional members – lighting engineers, designers and other roles in private and public sector
- Provide peer-reviewed, trusted technical information and continuous professional development (CPD) for lighting professionals
  - Conferences, seminars and local regional events
  - Training and skills development (in-person and online) – Exterior Lighting Diploma
- Competence development and assessment based on peer-review model (members assess prospective members)
- Licensed by Engineering Council to award Engineering Technician, Incorporated Engineer and Chartered Engineer registrations to qualified members

# New Strategic Roadmap



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Supporting lighting professionals for the benefit of society

Institution of Lighting Professionals  
**STRATEGY 2026**

# What do we want to achieve? – strategic aims



- **Aim 1** – To be respected for our professionalism and competence in lighting
- **Aim 2** – To be trusted as a source of technical information on lighting by supporting and enabling a diverse community of practitioners
- **Aim 3** – To deliver value, information and services to members and the professional lighting community 365/24/7 regardless of location using digital platforms
- **Aim 4** – To secure the future of the lighting profession by encouraging the next generation of lighting professionals to join the industry and equip them with the skills and knowledge to succeed
- **Aim 5** – To ensure that legislation, technical standards, and other legal instruments that impact lighting have best practice as their foundation

# Current Issues in Street Lighting



- Smart Cities - diversification of role of street lighting professionals
- Sustainability and the Circular Economy
- Staff recruitment, retention and training and skills development
- Energy Crisis – ‘Between a rock and a hard place’

# Smart Cities - diversification of role of street lighting professionals



- Ever changing technology & societal expectation for improved services
- Provision of ever-widening services via street lighting architecture
  - CCTV
  - Wireless data services
  - Smart Cities
  - EV on-street charging access
- Pressure to provide these services via existing assets – are they able to support that ambition?
- Skills and competences required beyond basic lighting competency – good example of life-long adult learning / CPD requirement
  - Rapidly changing technology
  - Supplier assessment and selection
  - Impact on existing services provision
- ILP developing technical guidance and CPD to address the changes

# Sustainability and the Circular Economy



- Society expects solutions to carbon reduction and Net Zero
- Lighting profession has to play its part – but how?
- LED roll out will continue where the location is appropriate
- Increasing investment case for Central Management Systems (CMS) to give smart control
- Manufacturers increasingly looking to produce reusable and 'future-proof' components – Circular Economy, beyond recycling and energy efficiency
- Lighting design needs to challenge assumptions and offer more sustainable solutions
- ILP providing CPD and skills development to address sustainability challenge
- Collaborating with other stakeholders (manufacturers, consultancies, Lighting Industry Association, CIE, Society for Light and Lighting) to produce standards and best practice guidance for lighting component reuse – TM66 Creating a circular economy in the lighting industry publication

# Staff recruitment, retention and training and skills development



- Lack of sufficient and appropriately skilled staff a growing issue
- Budgetary restraints and post-pandemic general staffing trends having significant negative impact – 40% staff turnover rates in technical engineering roles
- Increasing move to generalise highway electrical roles – are they competent and do they have the knowledge and skills required?
- Ability to access appropriate training and skills development restricted
- Lack of defined routes into the profession – “I fell into lighting”
- ILP acting as the “Voice of the Profession” making the case to decision makers for appropriate resource and skills development
- ILP offering events and training accessible in-person and online – flexible learning options
- Collaborating with other stakeholders (APSE, Highways Electrical Association) to help engage with decision makers and those in need of technical knowledge & guidance
- New project to encourage and support new talent – Pathways into Lighting led by Fiona Horgan, ILP President



# Energy Crisis – ‘Between a rock and a hard place’



- All aware of inflation – it’s back with a vengeance
  - Post-Covid pandemic ripple effects
  - War in Ukraine
  - Reliance on imported raw materials and production
  - Impact of world energy market pricing (some correction recently)
- Impacting everyone to varying degrees
- Price increases are part of the new normal
- Particularly acute impact in Local Authority lighting
- Pressure for cost restraint versus requirement to provide safe, sustainable public lighting service
  - ‘Rock and a hard place’

# Energy Crisis – ‘Between a rock and a hard place’



- No magic fixes
- Main technical and legal points to note relevant to lighting:
  - A Highway Authority has a power, not a duty to provide lighting
  - If lighting is provided, it must be maintained
  - If the lighting is removed then the Local Authority must show the risks resulting in the original installation are no longer present
  - If lighting is amended the person making the change becomes the designer under CDM regulations and must be competent to carry out that duty
  - Uniformity of lighting is more important than level
- ILP are responding with peer-reviewed technical and legislative guidance
  - “Strategies for Tackling the Energy Crisis” publication launched last December
  - Tackling the Energy Crisis for Local Authorities seminar on 2nd February 2023 shared best practice
  - Regional LDC events are continuing the dialogue, picking up local issues
  - Core topic for our Professional Lighting Summit in Manchester, 14-15<sup>th</sup> June

# Want to find out more?



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