

Where next for Local Authority Lighting?

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Local Authority Lighting Issues



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- Smart Cities - diversification of role of street lighting professionals
 - Sustainability and the Circular Economy
 - Staff recruitment, retention, training and skills development
 - Private Finance Initiative (PFI) expiry

Institution of Lighting Professionals

– Who are we?



- Founded in 1924 as the Association of Public Lighting Engineers
 - Centenary in 2024
- 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

Supporting lighting
professionals for the
benefit of society

Institution of Lighting Professionals
STRATEGY 2026



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 – not just lighting!
 - CCTV
 - Wireless data services
 - Smart Cities sensor & data collection
 - EV on-street charging access
- Pressure to provide these services via existing assets
 - Are they able to support that ambition?
 - Who supports and pays?
 - Liability?

Smart Cities - diversification of role of street lighting professionals

- AI – threat or friend?
 - Tools to help in lighting design
 - Help efficient Central Management Systems (CMS) operation
 - Risk enabler for resource reduction
- 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



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- 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 CMS to give smart control
 - Manufacturers increasingly looking to produce reusable and 'future-proof' components – Circular Economy, beyond recycling and energy efficiency

Sustainability and the Circular Economy



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- 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 (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, training and skills development



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- 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”

Staff recruitment, retention and training and skills development



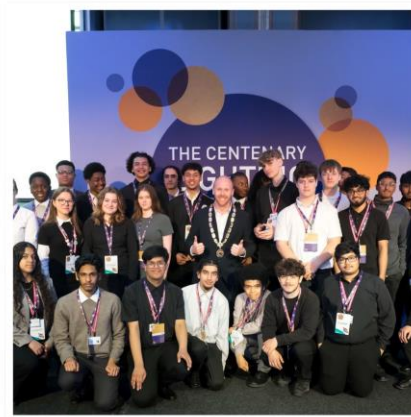
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- ILP acting as the “Voice of the Profession”
 - making the case to decision makers for appropriate resource and skills development
 - ILP offering events and training accessible in-person and online – flexible learning options
 - Collaborating with other stakeholders (Highways Electrical Association & Lighting Industry Association) to help engage with decision makers and new entrants technical guidance

Staff recruitment, retention and training and skills development



- What about the future lighting talent pipeline?
 - Promotion of lighting as a career option
 - Mapping the qualification routes
 - Developing new qualifications & training
- New project to encourage and support new talent – **Pathways into Lighting** led by Perry Hazell, ILP President
 - **Project Light Ville** – working with University Technical Colleges (London Design & Engineering & Doncaster) to deliver student real-world lighting projects as part of the curriculum
 - Engaging via Lighting Live conferences and events to include student interaction and experiences with attendees and exhibitors

Staff recruitment, retention and training and skills development



Private Finance Initiative (PFI) expiry

- PFI expiry a key issue in lighting
- Several Local Authorities approaching PFI expiry soon (2027)
- Are we ready for handover & handback?
 - Future financing – where’s the money coming from?
 - Skills & competencies needed internally
 - Specific lighting skills
 - Contract/legal/finance skills
 - Reliance on external consultancies
 - Outsourced
 - Train staff
 - Recruit

Private Finance Initiative (PFI) expiry

- Asset Inventory
 - What have we got?
 - Asset condition
 - Who tests?
 - How?
 - Variance to original contract terms
 - Asset replacement over the years
- ILP offering guidance and support
 - Local Authority Lighting Committee
 - Regional Branches
 - Lighting Live events

2025 ILP
The Lighting Live
Annual Conference



Crowne Plaza Hotel, 18th-19th June

Want to find out more?



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- Visit www.theilp.org.uk
 - Email justin@theilp.org.uk