

## **NOTE OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE UK LIGHTING BOARD**

**23 February 2005, Room LG4 Great Minster House, London**

### **Present:**

Roger Elphick	CSS/ Durham CC
David Coatham	Institute of Lighting Engineers
Patrick Baldrey	Lighting Industry Federation
Ian Holmes	DfT RLTSF
David Williams	DfT Traffic Management
Jim Milne	SCOTS
Alan Houston	Roads Service, Northern Ireland
Jake Dempster	Scottish Executive
David Johnson	Transport for London (TfL)
Terry Felstead	LOTAG
Lee Evans	Caerphilly CBC
Hilary Graves	BRE
Geoff Crabb	TRL
Edward Bunting	DfT RLTSF
Andrew Oldland	DfT RLTSF(Secretariat)
Chris Hudson	DfT RLTSF(Secretariat)

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Matt Williams, Vivien Collins and Colin Payne.

### **2. Matters Arising**

### **3. Roads Liaison Group Feedback**

The action points from the meeting of 8 December were circulated to the Board.

**ACTION:** The Secretariat will circulate Andrew Hugill's presentation on Private Finance to the Board. Andrew Hugill will be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

**ACTION:** The Secretariat will circulate Anne Stanford's paper on the Gershon Review which was recently discussed at the Bridges Board. Anne Stanford will be invited to the next meeting of the Lighting Board.

**ACTION:** A possible arrangement for the production of a Board Newsletter is to be investigated by DfT.

#### **4. Increased Energy Charges**

The Electricity Supply Companies have recently announced increases of around 44% for un-metered supplied from 1 April 2005. The Lighting Board has written to OFGEM expressing its concern at these extremely large increases in energy prices for street lighting that will have a significant impact on local authorities already over-stretched revenue budgets. A letter has also been addressed to the DTI Select Committee who has recently been considering fuel charges. It was also considered important to keep the All Party Parliamentary Lighting Group (APPLG) informed of our concerns.

Sean O'Hara of OFGEM attended the meeting to discuss these concerns and explained that wholesale electricity prices were being particularly affected by international gas prices and the additional cost of using renewable resources. However, the increase in street lighting energy costs does appear to be disproportionate in comparison with other business users and domestic customers. Most street lighting energy is off-peak and although un-metered is also based on good inventory information. These cost differentials were a particular cause for concern and additional information is to be collated by the local authorities and forwarded to OFGEM for further investigation.

**ACTION: The CSS Lighting Group were to look into this matter and report back to the Roads Liaison Group at its 9 March meeting in Edinburgh. This has now been done.**

**ACTION: The Lighting Board to circulate a questionnaire to local authorities via the Government Offices to obtain feedback on the differential between street lighting and other energy price increases.**

#### **5. RLG and the Boards Strategic Plans**

The draft version of a revised RLG Strategic Plan was considered to be reasonable with some minor modifications. The membership list was incomplete and the need for RLG and Board meetings to be synchronised as at present was considered to be important. The need for the wide dissemination of best practice was considered to be particularly important. It was agreed that the Strategic Plan for the Lighting Board would be re-drafted in accordance with the revised RLG plan.

**ACTION: Lighting Board members should forward their comments concerning a revised Terms of Reference to Edward Bunting.**

**ACTION: Roger Elphick will forward his comments regarding Lighting Board representation to Edward Bunting.**

#### **6. LTP Issues**

The LTP2 guidance will include reference to the need for detailed inventories (in accordance with Appendix B) to be completed and advise that a condition indicator based on the risk management analysis procedures would be introduced from

2006/07. A request for updated Appendix A summary data would again be made by the Lighting Board in 2005 rather than through the APR. Analysis of the data submitted in August 2004 has yet to be completed due to resource problems at DfT. It was considered important that this was completed and circulated as soon as possible as it was the first time full national data had been available.

The APPLG had recently held a meeting with the Minister, Charlotte Atkins, to emphasise our concerns regarding the street lighting maintenance backlog and reinforce the need for an indicative allocation for street lighting maintenance. This is to be considered as part of the next LTP settlement now that inventories and condition assessment procedures have been established.

**ACTION: The Secretariat will circulate the LTP Guidance to the Lighting Board.**

## **7. Street Lighting Code of Practice**

The Code of Practice had been successfully released at the ILE/Surveyor Lighting Conference in November last year. Further publicity was required to increase awareness and it was now important to receive feedback on the document. Initial reaction with regard to the quality and content of the document had been favourable. It was pointed out however that there had been some difficulty in getting hold of the Code and that the suppliers need to be aware that "Well-lit Highways" and the new Code of Practice for Street Lighting are one and the same.

**ACTION: Ian Holmes' team will shortly be embarking on a series of Highway Maintenance seminars at Government Office headquarters. They will take the Code of Practice flyers with them and make them available to the local authorities that attend the seminars.**

## **8. Competition for Connections**

Important progress has now been made in implementing the national Service Level Agreement (SLA) for un-metered connections produced by the Electricity Connections Steering Group. Letters were circulated to authorities in December from both the Board and OFGEM outlining details of the SLA trial that is to be undertaken from 1 April 2005 for an initial period of six months. With the assistance of the CSS and ILE, area representatives have been nominated who will promote and monitor the implementation of SLA's by authorities during the trial period. At this stage no specific response targets or levels of penalty payments have been agreed but it is hoped that these will be rationalised nationally in due course. However, it will allow national comparisons to be made for the first time of the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) performance in undertaking street lighting works. A further letter is to be sent out by the Board confirming the implementation and monitoring arrangements.

**ACTION: Lee Evans will produce the letter to local authorities, which will be circulated by the Secretariat, via Government Offices.**

Triangular contract arrangements for work on service cables are also required to be put in place by DNOs by 1 March 2005 and this will also be monitored by the area representatives who are to meet again in May.

## **9. Asset Management Framework**

The availability of detailed inventories and condition indicators in 2006 will provide a sound basis for street lighting valuation in asset management plans. The development of plans would continue to be monitored by the Board and the importance of regular inventory reviews was emphasised for both management and valuation purposes.

**ACTION: This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Lighting Board.**

## **10. Light Pollution Issues**

It was noted that legislation to control the increasing spread of light pollution was included in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill that is currently being debated. Whilst street lighting was specifically excluded from the legislation, both the Board and the ILE consider appropriate guidance for authorities on the design, installation and maintenance of street lighting was essential. Following an APPLG meeting to consider light pollution in February, it was suggested that the Board should work with the ILE and CPRE to promote good practice guidelines. An ILE guidance note on the reduction of obtrusive light was currently being drafted and this would be endorsed by the Board providing that it adequately covered street lighting advice. Letters have been sent to the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP by the Board and the ILE outlining these views.

**ACTION: This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Lighting Board.**

## **11. The Numelite Project Final Report**

A presentation was given to the Board by TRL. Some of the significant conclusions were that:

- reducing luminance levels by 50% did not significantly impair observers detection distances
- at the tested luminance levels there was no significant difference between high pressure sodium (HPS) and ceramic metal halide (CMH) lamps.
- the use of lower wattage lamps could provide greater energy savings than dimming systems.

Proposals for further field trials in the UK are currently being developed with DfT funding involving the use of lower wattage lamps and increased dimming.

**ACTION: The outcomes of the research need to be made more widely available.**

## **12. Research Update**

(a) It was reported that good progress was being made with the review of the lighting column risk assessment procedures and the development of an appropriate condition indicator. This is being funded by CSS and recommendations are expected to be available by the end of April. It was disappointing that more authorities had been unable to provide the necessary detailed inventory and analysis data and this emphasised the importance of encouraging authorities to complete inventory compilation. However, it was felt that the data provided was adequate to enable the review to be completed although further information would be analysed if available. The outcomes will enable a condition indicator to be introduced in 2006/7.

(b) Arrangements are now being made for the final report on the 'Power Demand of Discharge Lamps used in Public Lighting' to be circulated. Whilst the general validity of field measurements undertaken has been endorsed, reasons for discrepancies have been identified and important recommendations have been made for a revised procedure for future determinations of the power demand values for different lamp/ballast combinations.

**ACTION: The final report or a summary for this research project needs to be circulated to all authorities.**

(c) The research into the effect of road surface materials on road lighting performance is now making progress and links with the Numelite project have been noted.

(d) It had been anticipated that the Highways Agency were to take forward a research project into the passive safety of lighting columns following the issue of the recent technical guidance note on traffic signs. Earlier research in 2001 for the Highways Agency had recommended that further studies and trials should be undertaken. However, the Board has been informed that a new draft technical guidance note (Draft TA89/05) regarding passively safe lighting columns has already been prepared. The Board expressed its surprise and concerns regarding the adequacy of the background research, the lack of consultation and the appropriateness of the proposals for local roads. Further discussions are to take place and it is hoped the proposals will be reconsidered before the Advice Note is issued. It is understood that the HA are also considering research projects into lighting levels, dimming and luminaires and it is important that this is co-ordinated with the requirements for local roads. These issues have already been identified as possible research topics by the Board.

**ACTION: The HA are to investigate the process for co-ordination of their research projects with local roads requirements.**

(e) It was noted that research bids for 2005/6 have yet to be considered and there was concern as to the likely timescale of a decision regarding funding this year. This has implications for decisions on funding by the CSS Research Fund Board. TfL have offered joint funding for a project on Road Lighting as an Accident Remedial Measure but this is dependent upon other funding being confirmed. An outline design brief is to be developed in the meantime for this project.

**ACTION: An update is to be produced for the next Board meeting.**

(f) Funding for the production of Term Maintenance Contract Documentation is now in place from ILE, CSS and ASLEC and a start is imminent. It is hoped to complete the documentation in eight months.

### **13. Disability Discrimination Act Guidance**

It was considered that the proposed note gave good general guidance however further advice on what were considered to be 'reasonable adjustments' would be useful in due course although this may ultimately depend on case law. This could be provided in future Codes of Practice or a separate RLG guidance note.

### **15. Best Value Performance Indicators**

It has been confirmed that a new indicator to monitor the 'time taken by the highway authority to rectify defective street lights' will be introduced from April 2005. This is now to be split into two parts, one relating to local authority repairs and the other for faults that are the responsibility of the electricity companies.

### **16. 3G Networks**

With regard to the safety of the proposed systems, it is understood that advice has now been received from the National Radiological Board confirming their safety, but confirmation of this is still awaited.

### **17. Any Other Business**

Revised Light Pollution Guidance is being prepared by the ILE has now been published. Dave Coatham will send details to the Secretariat.

### **Date and Venue of next meeting**

**25 May 2005**, Great Minster House, London

Department for Transport  
Regional and Local Transport Strategy and Funding Division  
6 April 2005