

## **DRAFT NOTE OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE UK LIGHTING BOARD**

**5 September 2005, Scottish Executive Headquarters, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh**

### **Present:**

Roger Elphick	CSS/ Durham CC
Edward Bunting	DfT RLTSF
Jim Milne	SCOTS
Colin Payne	CSS/Leeds City Council
Alan Houston	Roads Service, Northern Ireland
Jake Dempster	Scottish Executive
Dave Williams	DfT Traffic Management
David Johnson	Transport for London (TfL)
Lee Evans	Caerphilly CBC
Patrick Baldrey	Lighting Industry Federation
Matt Williams	Dudley MBC
Terry Felstead	LB Kensington & Chelsea
Chris Hudson	DfT RLTSF (Secretariat)

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mike Smith, Vivien Collins, Dave Coatham, Ian Holmes and Andrew Oldland.

### **2. Note of last meeting of UK Lighting Board, 25 May 2005**

The Board suggested the following amendments to the note of the last meeting:

LTP Issues - Appendix "A" analysis results were required by the end of June rather than by the end of September, as it says in the note. The intention was that the results would be ready to be published at the end of September.

Proposed ILE Guidance - It should read Doctor Chris Baddiley and not "Badley".

Training - It is up to local authorities to decide whether or not they wish to adopt NVQ. There is no mandate, as is suggested in the note.

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

The new UK RLG website has been held up slightly. The specification is ready and the site should be ready in 2 to 3 months. In the meantime the new Codes of Practice are being held on a temporary site entitled

[www.roadscodes.org](http://www.roadscodes.org) . It wasn't considered appropriate to put the Codes on the DfT website because they are UK-wide documents and the DfT represents England only.

It was pointed out that in a year from now *Well-lit Highways* will be two years old and that this is considered to be halfway through its basic shelf life. It may be worthwhile looking into the possibility of a review at that time. If this is to happen, the Board will have to ask for the necessary funds in 2006.

#### **4. A Strategic Plan for the UK Roads Liaison Group and its Boards**

See also **LB 79/05** (Additional items for the Business Plan)

The Board were happy for the contents of **LB 79/05** to be transferred to **LB 71/05** (Revised UK Lighting Board Terms of Reference) Edward Bunting will do this.

It is proposed to publish a final version in the ILE Journal to provide a wider understanding of the role of the Boards and the RLG.

**Action: Edward Bunting to amend LB 71/05 as agreed.**

#### **5. LTP Issues - Update**

It was agreed that **LB 81/05** (Roger Elphick's letter about an indicative allocation for street lighting) should be sent, without further delay, to all Chief Highway Officers in England. It is also to be copied to colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, who may wish to produce an amended version of the letter for Roger Elphick to sign, reflecting local circumstances.

It was pointed out that there had been difficulties, in the past, in getting UK Lighting Board correspondence sent by DfT, via the Government Offices, to Chief Highway Officers in London. Dave Johnson pointed out that, in future, such correspondence should be sent via TfL. He will let Chris Hudson know to whom in TfL he should send Roger Elphick's letter on indicative allocations (and other letters of this kind that may be sent in the future).

Further meetings are being arranged by the All Party Parliamentary Lighting Group. Concerns in particular relate to funding and indicative allocations, the increasing backlog and the impact of large energy cost increases. Analysis of the 2004 national inventory data is urgently required to update the backlog assessment.

**Action: Secretariat/Dave Johnson**

#### **6. Gershon Review**

Edward Bunting will be asking the Highways Agency for an update on this subject. It is on the Agenda for the next meeting of the UK RLG on 21 September.

## **7. Code of Practice Feedback**

There has not yet been much feedback about *Well-lit Highways*. Most of what there has been has been complimentary.

It has been proposed that a consultant be appointed to overlook the 3 Codes of Practice that have been produced over the last year. DfT do not intend to go out to tender on this but simply to appoint a contractor who will conduct a watching brief, looking for developments that need to be incorporated into the different codes. This will also give a better idea as to when the three documents have reached the end of their shelf life.

A document has been produced, summarising the Codes of Practice, entitled 'Maintaining a Vital Asset'. It is still awaiting endorsement from the Ministers for Wales and Northern Ireland, and the Mayor of London. It is hoped that this will be resolved within the next 4 to 6 weeks. The document is intended mainly for the attention of local authority elected members.

## **8. Inventory Analysis**

Edward Bunting circulated amended figures for England and Wales (see **LB 86/05**). There was concern that the figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland were not also available. Edward Bunting will ask Drew Hird (DfT, Statistics) about the whereabouts of these figures. Revised "national" figures are needed in order to update the backlog assessment and to enable a revised *Protecting a Vital Asset* leaflet to be produced for the Surveyor Lighting Conference in December this year.

Patrick Baldrey would like to see the results as soon as possible, but by no later than mid-October. Edward Bunting will discuss this matter with Drew Hird on his return to London.

Clarification is needed as to what the inventory figures produced represent. Do they include trunk roads, for instance?

**Action: Edward Bunting**

## **9. Asset Management**

A document entitled *Guidance Document for Highway Infrastructure Asset Valuation* was published in July this year. Comments were invited from the Board, and this subject will be on the agenda for the 30 November meeting of the Board.

**Action: Secretariat**

**10. Energy Prices Update**

Responses by local authorities have now been submitted to the questionnaire issued by the Board regarding street lighting energy cost increases. An analysis of this data now needs to be completed as a matter of urgency. It is intended that the results will be widely disseminated, in particular to OFGEM, DTI and the Parliamentary Committee reviewing energy costs. There are concerns that similarly large increases are likely to occur in 2006 and this will have a further serious impact on street lighting revenue budgets.

The conclusions of the DTI Select Committee review of fuel prices held in January, to which evidence was submitted by the Board is still awaited. It is anticipated that a further meeting with OFGEM will be necessary when the results of the survey are available.

Chris Hudson will speak to Andrew Oldland concerning responses received to **LB 70/05** (Roger Elphick's letter of 12 May). The Secretariat will inform Roger Elphick as soon as possible.

**Action: Secretariat**

**11. Competition in Connections**

(See also **LB 87/05**)

Despite considerable effort by local authority representatives and the setting up of regional champions, progress with the national Service Level Agreement trial set up by OFGEM is disappointing. This was due to commence in April 2005 for an initial period of six months. The DNOs have been slow in setting up their arrangements and information requested by OFGEM by the end of July has not been provided in many cases. It now seems likely that it will be necessary to extend the trial up to 31 March 2006.

It is essential that local authorities take the initiative and continue to drive the process forward. A further meeting is being held with the DNOs in October and if the situation is still unsatisfactory a letter will be sent by the Board to OFGEM expressing concern. The Board considered it appropriate to invite OFGEM to the next Board meeting in November to discuss both this and energy price increases.

Slow progress is also being made with the proposed Tri-partite Agreement for third party connection to the distribution networks. Most DNOs have yet to produce proposals and they are raising concerns about accreditation requirements.

**Action: Secretariat**

## **12/13. Lighting Column Risk Assessment and Condition Indicator Development**

(See also **LB 78/05** and **LB 83/05**)

Research by TRL to review the lighting column risk assessment procedures and develop proposals for a condition indicator has now been completed. The final report and recommendations are due to be issued shortly. An associated revision of ILE Technical Report TR22 is required as a result of the work undertaken and it is intended that this will be available for the December Lighting Conference. Patrick Baldrey will contact Dave Coatham concerning the redraft of TR22.

Of the two options given for a performance indicator in **LB 83/05**, the Board chose to take forward Version A, *The percentage of the lighting column stock within the authority with a Current Priority greater than zero*. It is intended that the Indicator should be included in the proposals for Performance Indicators for use either as a BVPI or LTPPI to be reported from the year 2006/07. Arrangements are to be made for this requirement to be included in further supplementary LTP2 guidance to be issued as soon as possible.

## **14. Light Pollution**

(See also **LB 82/05**)

Consultation is currently being undertaken by DEFRA into their guidance with regard to the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Section 102 refers to artificial light and includes reference to street lighting. The Board are currently considering the need for a response to the consultation draft.

## **15. Passive Safety (TA89/05)**

(See also Mike Smith's email of 1 September - circulated to the Board the same day)

The Board noted that the Highways Agency had now finalised their technical guidance note (TA89/05) and that it had been forwarded for publication. The Board remained concerned at the adequacy of the background research, the level of consultation and consideration of the appropriateness of the proposals for local roads. Some guidance on the implications for local roads will be necessary. There appear to be several topics of HA guidance where better liaison is required at the development and drafting stages to ensure that the implications for local roads have been properly considered.

Roger Elphick will raise this matter at the meeting of the UK Roads Liaison Group on 21 September. In the meantime the Board will liaise with local

authorities and the Highways Agency on the appropriateness of local authorities applying Highways Agency standards.

## **16. PFI Update**

A Gateway Review Team will be visiting the Department for Transport in the week beginning 12 September, to review the PFI Programme. Dave Coatham is to be among those interviewed.

There was concern voiced regarding local authorities that were *very nearly successful* at the Bidding Round for Street Lighting PFI Credits that took place in 2003. A second Bidding Round is due to be announced later this year.

**Action: This item to be on the agenda for the 30 November meeting of the Board.**

## **17. Research Update**

Effect of Road Surface Materials - The Highways Agency has now joined and is providing data for this project, which is run by Sheffield Hallam University. The next Project Board Meeting will be in October. It is possible that something will be ready in December this year. Roger Elphick asked if the team supervising this project could be made aware of the NumeLiTe project.

Passive Lighting Column Proposal - This project is on hold for the moment. It was suggested that Board members give some thought as to how this project might best be applied to local authorities.

Better Streets Project Update - David Williams is now heading the team responsible for this project. The contract has been let for the production of "Manual for Streets" and work is going ahead.

Term Maintenance Contract Documentation - Due to David Coatham's absence, this project will be picked up at the next meeting.

Research Proposals 06/07 - This will be a separate item at the next meeting of the Board. In the meantime, if Board members have ideas for possible research projects they should let Edward Bunting know.

Edward Bunting advised the Board that they should consider projects that are not "too close to the market". DfT ministers will be looking for projects that are both important in themselves and unlikely to be undertaken by the Commercial Sector. Last year's proposals should be looked at again with this in mind.

## **18. 3G Networks**

The general advice is that these networks do not present a danger, providing that the usual precautions are taken when working close to the transmitters.

### **19. ILE Conference**

Dave Coatham is currently supervising preparations for this.

Edward Bunting informed the Board that at the forthcoming launch of the Code of Practice for bridges there would be a feature on the work of the UK Bridges Board. He suggested that the UK Lighting Board might like to do the same at the ILE conference. Roger Elphick will look into this.

**Action: Roger Elphick**

### **20. Training**

There have been no further developments in this area.

### **21. Any Other Business**

UK Roads Liaison Group and Boards - Meetings in 2006 - It was decided at the UK RLG meeting on 8 June that, in 2006, there would only be 3 scheduled meetings of the Group and its 4 Boards.

The Board discussed the proposed list of meetings for 2006. Alan Houston kindly offered to host the summer meeting in Belfast. This meeting is now scheduled for **Friday 30 June**. The Board were content with the other suggested dates (22 February and 25 October). Confirmation of the three dates will be circulated with the note of the September UK RLG meeting.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

**30 November 2005, at Great Minster House, London**