

MINUTES OF THE 21st MEETING OF THE UK LIGHTING BOARD, 25 OCTOBER 2006

Venue: H4 Great Minster House, London

Present:

Roger Elphick	CSS/ Durham CC
Elizabeth Hopkins	DfT: IHPC (review of UKRLG)
Paul Foskett	DfT Regional and Local Transport
Mike Smith	Highways Agency
Francis Miskelly	DRDNI - Roads Service
Julia Bonde	Government Office for London
Dave Johnson	Transport for London
Tim Edwards	London Boroughs
Lee Evans	Caerphilly CBC
Patrick Baldrey	LIF
Lindsay McGregor	Dundee City Council (SCOTS)
Laura Nell	OFGEM
Tony Price	Capita Symonds
Dave Coatham	ILE
Andrew Oldland	DfT (Secretariat)

The Board were delighted that Elizabeth Hopkins was able to observe their work for part of the meeting.

Item 1 - Apologies

Apologies were received from Edward Bunting, Mike Williams, Vivien Collins, Alan Houston and Dave Williams.

Item 2 - Note of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Research on Street Lighting and Night-Time Road Casualties (see Item 8 of the 30 June Minutes).

HA have already done some research on this, but will consider providing funding for a UKRLG research project.

Condition Indicator Development and Risk Assessment (Item 11 of 30 June minutes).

The HA have already adopted the "Action Age" indicator for their lighting stock.

Light Pollution Guidance (Item 13 of 30 June minutes).

Transport Scotland will give the Secretariat a copy of their light pollution guidance for circulation.

Charity Street Lighting (Item 18 of 30 June minutes).

The point was made that donors of old lighting stock may not be able to install or maintain the lighting in the donee country.

Item 3 – Energy Cost Increases

National Survey (See Paper **UK LB 21/06** - Energy Survey Letter)

Unfortunately Roger Morgan was unable to attend on this occasion but the Board were delighted to welcome Laura Nell representing OFGEM. The Board has recently undertaken a further survey to determine the trend in energy cost increases for un-metered and metered supplies and the variation between them using the same format as last year. A letter was issued by the Board on the 22 August but this had evidently not been circulated in Scotland and Wales. It is hoped the DfT will have been able to complete an analysis of the available data by the end of November.

The Welsh local authorities have not yet submitted returns. The Board agreed that they should be given a further two weeks to submit these, so that these returns can then be included in the new analysis. Lee Evans agreed to pass this message on to the Welsh authorities.

Action - Lee Evans

OFGEM (Investigation into Differential Charges).

The results of the new energy cost analysis will then be passed to OFGEM. It was re-emphasised that authorities needed to have good quality inventories for use as the basis for un-metered charges by the electricity supply companies.

However, it transpires that OFGEM may only be able to regulate domestic supply costs. It may also be necessary to review system access charges.

In addition to the increase in energy costs, the Board also raised the issue of standing charges by the distribution network operators (DNOs). Some local authorities consider these too high. In some authorities, part of the cabling is owned by the authority rather than the DNO, but the DNO do not accept this as a reason for reducing standing charges.

The OFGEM representative stated that all changes to a DNO's standing charge regime need to be approved by OFGEM.

Although few Scottish authorities have responded to the survey, it was reported that Scotland has seen a large increase in unmetered charges, and authorities are having to use more of their maintenance budget to cover these charges.

Energy Management Review (See Papers **UKLB 22/06** and **UKLB 22a/06** - Invest to Save Letter and Guidance)

The Board issued an Interim Guidance Note on the Reduction or Removal of Street Lighting entitled 'Invest to Save' on the 22 August. This had been prepared by the Institution of Lighting Engineers in consultation with the County Surveyors Society in response to the need to provide some advice for authorities as quickly as possible. The guidance will enable the various options to be considered, stimulate further discussion and perhaps generate some new ideas. A high priority is being given to the need for any further research and it is hoped that the CSS will be able to issue some follow-up advice on case studies, including related cost/benefit analysis, by the end of January 2007.

It was noted that some authorities were already trialling dimming and partial turning off was also being undertaken. The implications that reductions in lighting may have for increases in crime and accidents would need to be considered. There may also be difficulty in negotiating arrangements for appropriate reductions in energy charges in connection with dimming and Elexon may need to be involved in a future meeting of the Board.

The point was also made that authorities with PFI street lighting schemes may have a reduced incentive to switch off lighting.

Item 4 – Competition for Connections/Service Level Agreements

Update on Trials

Performance data from the un-metered service level agreement trial is now available and this had shown an unacceptably wide variation in both the standards and performance between companies. For instance, on average, only 60 percent of emergency fault repairs were completed in two hours and only 43 percent of high priority faults were repaired within one working day.

OFGEM Workshop feedback

A successful workshop was held on the 12 October to consider these issues and OFGEM hope to produce a final decision document for comment in spring 2007. It was noted that any proposals requiring the agreement of the licensees would need to be referred to the Competition Commission and could take some time.

Caerphilly Council are operating a tripartite contract, commencing on 9 November. It is recognised that the contract will be expensive for all parties concerned.

The involvement of regional champions has been successfully co-ordinated by Lee Evans to ensure there has been wide awareness of the proposals.

OFGEM Consultation (See Paper **UKLB 23/06** Consultation Reminder).

OFGEM published a consultation document in August setting out proposals for developing competition for un-metered supplies and considering the future

for service level agreements. Responses were required by the end of October and a letter was issued by the Board on the 20 September reminding authorities of the need to respond.

Item 5 – UKRLG Feedback

It was noted that a Group with wide representation was being established by the IHT to deal with Road Worker Safety on all roads and it would be important for lighting issues to be fed into their deliberations. This may be an opportunity for the concerns of the Board in relation to the maintenance of bollards and lighting on refuges to be addressed. The need for better liaison between DfT and HA research programmes was also re-iterated.

There were also concerns about the reliability of the arrangements for the circulation of information from both the RLG and the Boards to all authorities. The terms of reference and business plan for the Lighting Board are to be updated and circulated for consideration at the next meeting.

Item 6 - Strategic Plan

The draft Lighting Board Terms of Reference (Paper LB71/05) and the Work Programme for 2006/07 (Paper UKLB 10/06) which flows from the Terms of Reference, have not been finalised and need to be reviewed again by the Board.

Item 7 – Research Update

Better Streets Project Update

An updated programme for the publication of the draft 'Manual for Streets' is required. Feedback was required from the Board regarding the drafting of the street lighting aspects of the document as the content was considered to be poorly written, including technical inaccuracies, and amendment was essential before final publication.

Dave Coatham commented, on behalf of the Board, to the producers of the "Manual for Streets" draft, but has not received any feedback on his comments. The Secretariat will follow up this matter with colleagues in Traffic Management Division of DfT.

Action - Secretariat

The Highways Agency have not seen the "Manual for Streets" document and have therefore not commented.

Action - Secretariat to obtain the document and forward it to HA for comments.

Term Maintenance Contract Documentation

The drafting of the Term Maintenance Model Contract Document was now nearing completion but had unfortunately not been available in time for the ILE Conference in October.

UKRLG Research Programme 06/07 (See Papers **UKLB 17/06 A and B**)

It was confirmed that the DfT Research Programme had now been announced but full details had yet to be circulated. Draft briefs for three general RLG projects were tabled relating to the Design and Maintenance Standards for Local Authority Roads, the Review of Transport Asset Management Plans and Guidance for Commuted Sums from Developers. All these would need an input from the Lighting Board.

It was also confirmed that funding would be available to research the Impact of Street Lighting on Night-time Road Casualties (LB 89C/05). Dave Johnson of TfL is to review the draft brief that had been tabled and the amount of funding available needs to be confirmed. Confirmation is also required as to whether funding is available for a Review of Street Lighting Classes (LB 89F/05). Clarification will enable the CSS research programme to be finalised.

Research Bids for 07/08 (See Paper **UKLB 18/06**)

A paper for research in 2007/08 was tabled but this did not specifically address possible street lighting projects. Possible priorities for street lighting research had been discussed at a recent CSS Street Lighting Group meeting and may include:

- maintenance factors/maintenance regimes
- 'invest to save' issues
- passive safety for local roads
- an overall lighting condition indicator
- reduced requirements for the lighting of signs

Projects relating to energy management will need to be given priority.

Item 8 – LTP Issues Update

Inventory analysis and maintenance backlog (See Paper **UKLB 20/06 Letter to Local Authorities**)

A letter outlining 'Important Requirements for Street Lighting Authorities' was issued to English authorities on the 20 July 2006 and most of the principles were also considered to be relevant elsewhere in the UK although funding arrangements may vary. There appears to have been a problem with the distribution of the letters to some authorities. Aspects covered in the letter included:

- 'Appendix A Inventory Requirements
- 'Appendix B Inventory Requirements
- The implementation of Risk Management Procedures
- The introduction of a Column Condition Indicator
- Indicative street lighting funding allocations through LTPs

Responses in LTP Annual Reports providing updated Appendix A inventory appear to have been disappointing. These are to be followed up so that the overall inventory details can be updated. It is hoped that this information can be provided in time to be incorporated into the latest version of the 'Protecting a Vital Asset' leaflet and also enable the backlog assessment to be updated.

LTP2 - Indicative Funding Distribution Proposal

A proposal for the distribution of the indicative allocations for street lighting is currently being developed based on the available inventory data and details are to be discussed with the Chairman. This year's allocation will be based on the number of columns over 40 years old but future allocations will be based on the column condition indicator.

APPLG Update

A meeting of the APPLG is due to be held on the 14 December 2006 and will probably be based on energy management and invest to save issues.

Item 9 – Asset Management and Valuation

Whole life costing Methodology

The issues associated with the assessment of whole life costs are currently being considered. Further guidance will need to be issued regarding appropriate service levels if consistent valuations are to be produced.

Item 10 – Risk Assessment and Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator Proposal (See Papers **LB 83/05 (draft) & UKLB 11/06**)

A paper regarding service levels and indicators was considered and it was determined that further research was required to develop a possible overall condition indicator as identified under Item 7(d). However, in the meantime the column condition indicator would be available.

Amendments to TR22

An updated version of TR22 would be launched at the Surveyor/ILE Conference on the 5 December.

Letter to Authorities from the board re: implementation (See Papers **UKLB 12/06 & 12a/06**)

Details of the proposed column condition indicator were given in the letter of the 20 July 2006 when it was clarified that the Board would require local

authorities to submit their condition indicator details for the first time in July 2007. A letter needs to be issued by the Board as soon as possible confirming these arrangements and their linkage to future indicative allocations.

Fault Rectification BVPI

Serious concerns have developed about the comparability of BV215 due to the results being distorted depending upon whether or not scouting has been undertaken by each authority. For this reason it was also felt that this indicator should not be used as a BVPI for CPA assessments in 05/06 and 06/07. DfT are to follow up these points urgently with the Audit Commission.

Action - DfT

Item 11 – Code of Practice Feedback and Future Review

In monitoring the possible need for a substantive review of the Street Lighting Code of Practice, issues in need of revision or inclusion will continue to be noted. At present it is not considered that the changes identified would justify a complete revision of the document.

Item 12 – Highway Agency Situation Report (See Paper UKLB 24/06)

A report was presented on current developments and initiatives being undertaken by the Highways Agency. It was still felt that it would be beneficial for there to be local authority liaison at an earlier stage during the development of revisions to their standards.

Presentations were given on two draft standards that had been prepared and were about to be issued for a 30 day consultation period:

- TD34/** Amalgamation of Existing Lighting Design Standards
- TA49/** New Appraisal Standard for the Provision of Lighting on Strategic Roads

The latter document assumes accident savings on links of only 10 percent with 30 percent only being used for junctions.

Item 13 – Low Energy Light Sources

The Lighting Board is anxious to encourage industry to use technical innovation in the development of low energy light sources.

The Highways Agency are considering a research project covering energy savings that could be obtained from lower lighting levels. This would be part of next year's HA research programme.

Item 14 - Sector Schemes (See Paper LB 93/05)

There has been no further progress on this issue since the 30 June UKLB meeting.

Item 15 - PFI update

The current position on street lighting PFI schemes is outlined on the DfT website.

Item 16 – Any Other Business

It is anticipated that the light pollution guidance being produced by the Scottish Executive may be available in December 2006.

RLTSF3/DfT

21 November 2006