

Environment

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

STREETSCENE SERVICE

Highways & Engineering Group

London Boroughs Street Lighting Benchmarking Group

Notes of meeting held on Friday 9th December 2005, Hackney Town Hall.

1) Present

Alan Shields	Enfield
Roy Walker	Hammersmith & Fulham
John Bowdery	Harrow
Tim Edwards	Hillingdon
Andrew Porter	Hounslow
Annette Bowdery	Islington
John Burke	Corporation of London
Peter Withers	Croydon
Fred Frost	Richmond
Steve Carroll	Hackney
Georgina Staines	Hackney
Trevor Rawson	Hackney

Apologies

Steven Lain	Haringey
Terry Felstead	Kensington & Chelsea
Clive Chapman	TfL
Eddie Henry	Southwark
Ron Thorogood	Newham
Steve Jones	Barking & Dagenham
Paul Dillon	Sutton
Krishnan Radhakrishnan	Hounslow

2) BVPI 215

Terry has sent through amended guidance from ODPM on this new indicator. This is as follows :-

The indicator does not specify an inspection regime. It is up to the authority whether they think it is sufficient to rely on faults being reported to them by residents / road users, or whether they need to conduct regular surveys. For further guidance refer to the street lighting Code of Practice "Well Lit Highways".

This raises the question, whether an authority can choose to just rely on reports from the public and ignore the many faults recorded by a night scout operation.

Trevor has sought advice and guidance from the Audit Commission repeatedly since the end of October but to date nothing has been received. Hackney's view is that the AC will take no regard of where the faults reports originate from, if the data is collected (i.e. scouting is undertaken) then it should be included within the calculations.

The group agreed that consistency of data collection is important albeit difficult in light of various factors, including size of Boroughs, ease of travel, types of roads (e.g. dual carriageways), reliance on resident complaints, and inclusion of Housing data. It was also agreed that faults that are repaired within the same day as reported can be counted as 0 days to repair. Faults that are repaired the next day are to be counted as 1 day to repair.

For the time being, all faults are to continue to be counted and there are no major changes in the collection of BVPI 215 data.

3) Data and Methodology

The Group discussed the data to be collected, initially based on that collated by the Camden Benchmarking Club :-

Population – *not required*

Road length – *required for both lit and unlit roads but excluding TfL roads. Further discussion required on whether footpaths should be included.*

No. of lighting units, lit signs and bollards – *Appendix A will provide most of this information.*

Type of Contract, performance based or Schedule of Rates – *required*

Expiry date - *required*

In-house or external contractor - *required*

Sub-contractors used - *required*

Response times for repair and replacement of street light, regulatory signs, bollards, and non-regulatory signs - *required, to include contractual and actual*

Emergency call out within and outside of office hours - *required*

Scouting, done by client or contractor, and frequency - *required*

Column materials and ages – *covered by Appendix A*

Percentage of road length complying with, or better than BS 5489 - *required*

Electrical testing, type, method and frequency - *required*

Budgets for lighting units, signs and bollards – *totals only required for revenue, capital and PFI if applicable but detail would be of use*

Energy, type of agreement, if tendered or negotiated, kW total, average unit charge – *type of agreement, date let and period or renewal date, total annual bill, rate (pence per kilowatt hour), any other charges (standing, site or meter administration), green energy usage and percentage, if CCL exempt.*

Staffing, proportions and costs - *to include organisational chart and responsibilities, and numbers if possible*

Lamp sources – *covered by Appendix A*

Painting, % done annually – *not required*

Lamp replacement policy – *BTE, BCC or combination and cleaning or clean and change intervals*

Burning hours used for SOX and SON lamps – *not required*

Maintenance costs for lighting, sign, item of lit furniture – *not required*

Client costs for item of lit furniture – *not required*

Percentage of street lights conforming to BS 5489, over 30 years and not working – *included elsewhere*

Working days to repair street light – *included elsewhere*

Night scout frequency – *included elsewhere*

Emergency call out period in hours – *included elsewhere*

Other data required :-

Appendix A, as returned to DfT

BVPI 215 returns, to include targets if set

Percentage working or not working – *for discussion whether the old BVPI definition is to be used or a different method.*

EDF service charges

4) Night Scout survey (RB Kensington & Chelsea)

Terry has only received responses from about half of London boroughs. Group were reminded to complete the questionnaire. Terry will then provide a summary sheet.

5) Performance survey (LB Hackney)

The performance survey results were discussed and it became obvious that not all Boroughs operated in a manner that makes collecting the information easy.

Some Borough's contracts are self monitoring by the contractor and there are several different forms of data collection. It was agreed that the BVPI 215a & b figures should be common to all Boroughs in the way they were calculated. It was felt that these figures would be the best way to show performance.

A short discussion on the Methodology followed; to assist all were calculating the same.

6) EDF issues

EDF price rises for service works are being revised- quantity discounts/ negotiable discounts may or may not be offered. Different prices apply for Inner and Outer Boroughs. The increase will be phased in over two years- the increase will first occur in 2006, then again in 2007. EDF are to negotiate local agreements again.

Tim Edwards / Andrew Porter to provide details of Scottish / Southern service costs, Trevor will then circulate to the Group with EDF charges.

John Burke reminded the group that boroughs wishing to participate in the SLA with EDF have only three months left to do so.

7) AOB

a) LoTAG – at the request of the Chair of LoTAG Group 2 (Dana Skelley), Tim, Terry and Trevor have previously discussed the setting up of a London-wide lighting engineers group. This would be in addition to the existing ILE London & South-Eastern Technical Liaison Group, and is assumed would report to LoTAG Group 2.

This meeting agreed that this would be worthwhile and that the remit of this benchmarking group would be widened to encompass the new initiative. The next meeting of this group, see below, will be a whole day event, the morning will focus on benchmarking issues and the afternoon on London-wide lighting matters.

b) Aerials on columns – Hounslow are looking for guidance on this. Herts County are prepared to accept these via a swap-out agreement. But London boroughs seem not so keen, Harrow and Hackney do not currently endorse these. Corporation of London are under pressure to adopt wi-fi in columns. This could be used for CCTV and CoL have been offered two dedicated broad-band channels for their use at no cost.

c) Hounslow's contract – consultant (Derek Rogers) has prepared technical specification and Hounslow are looking for benchmarking support on contractors' performance from six or eight volunteer authorities. The data will be shared and will remain confidential. Hammersmith & Fulham and Hackney have already agreed to participate. If any other boroughs are willing to assist, can they please contact Andrew Porter by e-mail Andrew.porter@hounslow.gov.uk?

8) Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 4th April 2006, 10.30 to 16.00, Hackney Town Hall, room 102.

K:\DSF\SHARED\COMMON\WPFILES\MEETINGS\London Street Lighting Benchmarking Group\Meeting 02.doc