

PUBLIC REALM DIVISION

STREETSCENE SERVICE
Highways & Engineering Team

London Boroughs Street Lighting Benchmarking Group

Notes of meeting held 2nd October 2006, 10.30 to 16.00 at London Borough of Hackney,
Council Chambers, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London
E8 1EA

Present:

Hugh Walsh (HW)	Wandsworth
Dennis O'Regan (DO)	Islington
Chris Warner (CW)	Waltham Forest
Mick Trussler (MT)	Redbridge
Eddie Henry (EH)	Southwark
Andy Dodkins (AD)	Enfield
Alan Shields (AS)	Enfield
Terry Felstead (TF)	RB Kensington & Chelsea
Roy Walker (RW)	Hammersmith & Fulham
Jo Hollier (JH)	Bexley
Tim Edwards (TE)	Hillingdon
Bill Neate (BN)	Newham
Annette Bowdery (AB)	Islington
Dave Williams (DW)	Merton
John Bowdery (JB)	Harrow
Andrew Porter (AP)	Hounslow
Peter Withers (PW)	Croydon
Carl Woodward (CW)	Hackney
Steve Carroll (SC)	Hackney
Georgina Staines (GS)	Hackney
Ash Iqbal (AI)	Hackney

Apologies from:

Trevor Rawson	Hackney
Paul Dillon	Sutton
Wayne Stephenson	Westminster
Steve Lain	Haringey
Paul Stack	RBK Kingston
Alan Agent	Lewisham

Item Number		
1.0	<p><u>Introductions</u></p> <p>Introductions were made by the members in attendance.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Benchmarking</u></p>	
2.a	<p><i>BV215 Returns for 2005/6:</i> SC opened the discussions with feedback of the BV215a/b returns data for 2005/6, asking members for their experience in accumulating and presenting the data.</p> <p>Of those present only a few had been audited for BV215a/b. Final results, are to be published by the end of the year. SC said that LBH had been audited internally.</p> <p>Questions were raised by members as to the accuracy of the data supplied by other authorities due to the differing reporting systems employed, and therefore questioned the validity of the Audit Commission's reporting mechanism.</p> <p>LB Wandsworth, were invited to explain how they managed to achieve such a good BVPI 215a performance indicator for time taken for repair. Their policy of 24/7 scout and repair was deemed to be expensive by the other members. It was also pointed out that those who had been able to achieve the near 100 percent result would find it difficult to maintain or improve upon these figures.</p> <p>There was a discussion on whether LAs should be challenging the Audit Commission's results regarding the information required and how their own figures had been derived. All members of the Street Lighting Group were in agreement with this in principle.</p>	
2.b	<p><i>Data assembly and feedback:</i> SC asked members for their comments on the data assembly and Benchmarking spreadsheet that required completing. To date, only Hounslow had provided a completed spreadsheet detailing lighting stocks, costs and the like. CW also agreed to resend the spreadsheet to HW at LB Wandsworth which has since been actioned.</p> <p>Other concerns were that the information requested was often difficult to draw on from the various management systems employed by the authorities although no examples were given.</p> <p>Finally, it was decided that the period the Benchmarking spreadsheet should cover would be the previous financial year, to ensure that all members where showing data that corresponded to the same period to enable accurate comparisons to be made between authorities.</p>	CW

2.c	<p>Night scout survey (RB Kensington & Chelsea) – progress: TF asked members whether they had all received and returned the questionnaires sent out regarding night scouting procedures, as he had only received a handful back. TF also agreed to resend details out to all members, as well as enquiring about appendix B questions and whether the letter went out to the Lighting Board.</p>	TF
2.d	<p>AOB: There was no other business.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>LoLEG (LoTAG Lighting Engineers Group)</u></p>	
3.a	<p>Update from LoTAG Group 2 Meeting: There were no new issues arising under this heading</p>	
3.b	<p>Representation (and deputies) at other forums – update: There were no new issues arising under this heading. However, Chris Warner, Mick Trussler, and Tim Edwards had previously said they were prepared to stand as deputies.</p>	
3.c	<p>DNO Issues: Lighting Group members gave their experiences when dealing with EDF. Results were mixed with SC giving his own experience highlighting that there was still no Project Engineers as promised by EDF, and that changes were still taking place.</p> <p>Also expressed, was the difficulty with which members had when trying to obtain an appropriate EDF contacts for metered/ un-metered supplies. On this matter TF said that he had had a more positive experience when dealing with EDF giving the name of his contact Sharon Alexandra as RBKC’s Account Manager. Email: sharon.alexandra@edf.energy.com</p>	
3.d	<p>TfL funding for street lighting: TE opened with the non-funding of Street Lighting schemes from TfL. It was commented that this was a result of non-lighting officers within the organisation. It was suggested that an official from TfL should be invited to explain to Lighting Group members the policy that they (TfL) have adopted.</p>	
3.e	<p>AOB: TF highlighted that the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had produced a publication on Lighting Pollution, indicating that members might like to view this publication entitled, “<i>Statutory Nuisance from Insects and Artificial Light</i>”. Available from DEFRA publications or http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/cnea/statnuisance.pdf</p> <p>It was agreed that PFI would to be discussed at the next Lighting Group meeting.</p> <p>The group also discussed the next venue for the meetings to be held. This is most likely to be held at LBH offices.</p>	
3.f	<p>Date of next meeting: 16th January 2007.</p>	