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HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2005 AT THE OFFICES OF NJUG, RUSSELL SQUARE LONDON, WC1B 4HP

PRESENT

Peter Goode
Graham Eaton
Harry Pendleton - Chair
Rosaleen Hubbard
Stephen Chandler
Marc Owen
Lester Sonden
David Baker
Mark Ostheimer
Keith O'Brien
Steve Barriff
Neale Walshe
Mike Talbot
David Padfield
Les Guest
Steve Hennah
Dave Turnbull
Malcolm Taylor

Nottingham City Council
NSWHG
Atkins Global
NJUG Secretariat
Welsh Assembly
Pembrokeshire Council
Water UK
TfL
ntl
Thus
Corporation of London
Telewest
DfT
DfT
National Grid
Welsh Water
BT
Northern Ireland Electricity

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Tunstall Highways side Chair
Peter Whitehouse
Barrie Davies
Kevin Fuller
Alan Rainford
Louise Green
Andrew Leydon
Richard Wakelen
Bill Barker
Martin Hobbs
Fiona Sakwa

Durham CC
Sandwell MBC
Welsh HAUC
Highways Chair- Specifications Group
NJUG Chair – Specifications Group
Road Services Northern Ireland
Scottish RAUC
EDF Energy
Scottish RAUC
Highways Agency
DfT

2. Notes of the Meeting on 20th April 2005

05.52

The minutes were approved as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising**

05.53 05.38

HSE and High Speed Roads

It is anticipated that the HSE will attend the next Roads Liaison Group meeting in December to discuss traffic management issues, particularly those arising from high speed roads but now also thought to be applied to lower categories. NJUG are concerned that as this is a Highways only attended meeting, there needs to be a means for them to liaise so that we are all working from the same understanding.

05.54 05.40

Traffic Management Act

The Joint Chairs attended a meeting with DfT and ministers. As a result, a timetable for TMA implementation has been published on the DfT website. A link is to be placed on the HAUC(UK) website.

Action: Secretariat

05.55 05.39

CSS Reinstatement Compliance Testing

CSS report has been completed and it will be published shortly after resolution of copyright issues. It was agreed that the report be referred to the Specifications and Inspections working groups to consider and report back to HAUC(UK) identifying any implications for their areas of interest.

Action: Secretariat

4. **Traffic Management Act**

05.56

Mike Talbot gave a report. The network management duty intervention criteria will be published for consultation by the end of the year. The meeting was informed that a number of traffic manager forums are being established around the country and the DfT has been supporting these as a mechanism for the exchange of good practice.

DfT have identified a number of issues which they have to address but they still anticipate meeting the published timetable. These include briefing requirements for the software developers, finalising monitoring arrangements and a review of the RIAs.

DfT has asked HAUC(UK) to provide representatives to join a working group looking at KPIs.

TFL and Highways Agency have also provided resources to help with DfT work (specifically permits).

The first meeting of reconvened Permits Group will be held before Christmas. Mike Talbot will chair the first meeting. As this work may have an effect on all working groups, the agreed implementation timetable may be affected.

5. Working Group Reports.

05.57 **Co-ordination** There is a meeting of the notices working group planned for 12th December.

05.58 **Reinstatement Specification** - A written report from the group was considered, which recommended a further sunset period for the approval of materials. The DfT will ask its lawyers whether the suggestion is possible. HAUC(UK) expect the advice from the DfT by the end of November.

Action: DfT

05.59 **Diversions Works** – The principal action from the last HAUC (UK) meeting was for the working group to prepare a joint document detailing the issues to go to the DfT for consideration. The Highways side has prepared a document setting out the highways side s issues. This document is to be passed to the utility side Joint Chair of the working group for review and additional comments.

The DfT has been asked to consider whether the regulations need to and can be amended and if so what would the timescale be.

Mike Talbot stated that following consideration of the above paper, if it is considered necessary, the regulations could be amended as part of the 2nd wave of TMA regulations, (i.e. 2007).

David Turnbull said that if it was going to be up to two years before any changes to regulations might be made would it not be possible to implement now based on the current regulation whilst the regulations are reviewed and potentially changed? It was agreed that HAUC(UK) would wait until it receives a view from the DfT.

**Action: David Baker
Peter Crouch**

05.60 **Training & Accreditation Working Group** – There has not been a meeting since the last HAUC(UK) meeting. There is a delay because of the need to get draft regulations, RIA's, etc from the DfT.

05.61 **Records** – It was reported that a great deal of work is taking place outside the HAUC(UK) arena into record keeping and damage avoidance. There may be a need to review timescales shown in the DfT programme to reflect the progress being made. It was also emphasised that there may be a need to radically review the code in the light of the developments being made in this field.

Mike Talbot said that the timetable would be looked at.

05.62 **Inspections** – There have been a couple of meetings where good progress has been made.

05.63 **2006 HAUC (UK) Conference Organising Committee** - Work on organising the 2006 conference is progressing well.

There is an issue about the protocol of Ministerial Speakers to take account of the location of the event.

05.64 **Working Groups: Document Approval Process** – A draft procedure has been circulated. A few suggestions were put forward and Graham Eaton will incorporate changes and re-circulate. Any other comments should be forwarded to the secretariat.

Action: Secretariat

6.
05.65 **Temporary Traffic Signals.**
Mike Talbot has met with DfT lawyers. He will draft a note on his understanding of their opinion, get it confirmed by the DfT lawyers and then circulate to the Joint Chairs by the end of November.

Action: DfT

7.
05.66 **Reports:**
Northern Ireland – A report on NIRAUC was submitted by Roads Services. It was noted that future reports should be a report from NIRAUC.

Action: NIRAUC

05.67 **Scotland**
A written report had been submitted by RAUC(S).

05.68 **Wales**
Mark Owen presented the joint report. There was a discussion about the various BT issues referred to in the report. The utilities considered that these were not relevant for a HAUC(UK) report although the highways side observed that the report was in respect of those issues being considered by the region and were therefore included in the report.
The Welsh HAUC website has been relaunched.

8.
05.69 **Improvement Notice Process**
A draft process has been prepared. The purpose of the process is to ensure that HAUC(UK) is aware of what is happening but the process will be operated at regional level

with reports to HAUC(UK).

Action: Secretariat

**9.
05.70**

Safety

HAUC is aware that British / European standards applicable to High Visibility clothing have changed but the NRSWA Safety code makes reference to the superseded standards. DfT legal have advised that superseding standards are applicable. It was agreed that this information needs to be put into the public domain. A formal letter from DfT will be organised.

Action: DfT

**10.
05.71**

AOB

Thanks were given to NJUG for hosting and chairing the meeting.

The meeting was advised that this would probably be Mike Talbot's last HAUC meeting.

The Chairman recorded HAUC(UK)s thanks to Mike for his help over the many years he has been involved.

**11.
05.72**

Dates of Meetings for 2006:

Wednesday 25th January

Wednesday 26th April

Wednesday 5th July

Wednesday 11th October

**12.
05.73**

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 25th January 2006 (Venue TBA)