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HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th JANUARY 2006 AT THE OFFICES OF NJUG, RUSSELL SQUARE LONDON, WC1B 4HP

PRESENT

Harry Pendleton - Chair
Chris Tunstall - Joint Chair
Graham Eaton
Richard Wakelen
Stephen Chandler
David Bowe
Lester Sonden
David Baker
Mark Ostheimer
Alan Rainford
Keith O'Brien
Steve Barriff
Davey Crockett
Ben Still
Fiona Sakwa
Les Guest
Steve Hennah
Peter Goode
Louise Green
Peter Whitehouse
Paul Thomas
Rosaleen Hubbard

Atkins (representing Cable and Wireless)
Durham CC
NSWHG
EDF Energy (representing ENA)
Welsh Assembly
CSS
Water UK
TfL
ntl
Ntl- Utilities Chair of SROH Working Group
Thus
Corporation of London
Network Rail
DfT
DfT
National Grid
Welsh Water
Nottinghamshire County Council
Roads Service Northern Ireland
Sandwell MBC
Welsh HAUC - Highways side
NJUG Secretariat

1. Apologies for Absence

Dave Turnbull
Martin Hobbs
Malcolm Taylor
Kevin Fuller
Andrew Leydon
Jack Shaw
Andy Bellwood
Marc Owen
Bill Barker

BT
Highways Agency
Northern Ireland Electricity
Highways Chair- SROH Working Group
RAUC (Scotland) - Utilities side
Roads Service Northern Ireland
Network Rail
Welsh HAUC - Highways side
RAUC (Scotland) – Highways side

2. **Notes of the Meeting on 2nd November 2005**

06.01 The minutes were approved as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising**

06.02 05.38 HSE and High Speed Roads

Safety issues for works undertaken on high-speed roads are being dealt with under the auspices of the Roads Liaison Group of the Traffic Management Board. They have produced Guidance Notes; they are considering whether there is a need for guidance on roads under 50 mph. Chris Tunstall will invite the Roads Liaison Group – I think it is the TM Board. to involve NJUG in future discussions. Utilities representatives reported that they are receiving advice from various sources that Sector 12D accreditation is required by their staff and contractors. Chris Tunstall reported that Sector 12D Guidance has come as a result of recommendations by a working group. It was stated that Sector 12D requirements are not included in the Safety at Street and Road Works Code of Practice; however, the Guidance Notes are considered as being good practice. It was agreed that the Guidance for signing and guarding on high speed and other roads is fragmented and needs pulling together. It was deemed appropriate to ask the Training and Accreditation working group to keep a watching brief and report back to HAUC (UK).

Action: Secretariat

06.03 05.40 **Traffic Management Act**

This will be dealt with under Item 4

CSS Reinstatement Compliance Testing Report

The report has been referred to the Reinstatement and Inspections Groups, they will each report back to the April HAUC (UK) meeting.

Action: Secretariat

Type Approval of Materials

The report from the SROH Working Group, which recommended an additional sunset period for the approval of materials, has been considered by DfT. For legal reasons the DfT would have difficulty simply writing a letter to extend the period of the sunset clause. The Working Group think this is an ideal time for a letter to extend the period of the sunset clause. The revised proposal from the joint chair is that V3 of the Yellow book is 2 years away and if we have a fairly speedy resolution we could give them a two-year extension to fit in with the publication of the next version of the Yellow Book.

**Action: Secretariat
Action: DFT**

The working group feel that with the review of the SROH being 2 years away, an extension to the sunset period would provide a fairly rapid resolution. The Secretariat is to liaise with the joint chairs of the working group to provide a letter to DfT requesting formally that an additional sunset period is provided.

Action Secretariat

4.

Traffic Management Act

6.05

Ben Still introduced himself as the replacement for Mike Talbot at DfT. Traffic Management is a new area for him but he is looking forward to working with HAUC (UK). The Minister has asked DfT officials to look at the timetable for implementation to confirm that dates are still achievable.

Fiona Sakwa reported that the draft Network Management Guidance on Intervention is presently with DfT lawyers following which it will be returned to the working group and then published for consultation over a three-month period.

The Street works report on the TMA consultation went on to the DfT website in November. The re-convened Notices and S74 working groups have held their first meetings to discuss first tranche issues. The next Notices meeting will be held on the 27th January with the next S74 meeting at the end of February.

Fiona Sakwa reported that DfT had circulated the relevant chapter on FPNs to the Working Group for comment by 9th Feb. DfT will be working with lawyers to update the regulations to match the policy – these will be sent out to the Working Group for their comments.

It was reported that DfT and the Highways Agency have provided the DfT with additional resources to assist with the preparation of permit regulations.

Utilities have a couple of concerns from a systems perspective. Changes will be needed to EToN and also to utilities own systems. Presently there is a gap between finalising the permits regime and implementation. If bring forward the implementation date for permits there may well be systems issues. There is a need to think about those practicalities.

The TMA KPIs Working Group held their first meeting in January. The KPI regime will be developed in parallel to the regulations on streetworks.

Although the KPI Working Group is not a HAUC (UK) Working Group it should be added to the HAUC (UK) agenda to check progress at each quarterly meeting.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would send the HAUC (UK) business plan to Ben Still for information.

There was a discussion about priorities for working groups. Training and Accreditation is a major issue because of delays in implementation of proposed changes but HAUC (UK) priorities have taken second place to the TMA.

The Secretariat is to arrange a meeting between the HAUC (UK) joint chairs and Ben Still to discuss TMA/HAUC (UK) priorities.

Action: Secretariat

5

Working Group Reports

06.07

Co-ordination

The work on Co-ordination is tied in with Notices. There was a meeting in December and the next meeting is 26th January. The working group will be reviewing the redraft of the Code.

06.08

Reinstatement Specification –

This was dealt with in Matters Arising above. It was noted that Welsh Highways Authorities on the HAUC (UK) working group have proposed an extension to the guarantee period. Alan Rainford said that the group appeared very late on in the

working group discussions, as a result HAUC(UK) agreed that the matter be dealt with when the Code is subject to a full review.

Alan Rainford said that the draft reinstatement handbook went to DfT in 2003 and still has not been published. Fiona Sakwa said that publication was imminent.

Action: DfT

06.09 **Diversionsary Works –**

This item was dealt with under matters arising

06.10 **Training & Accreditation Working Group –**

There has not been a meeting since the last HAUC (UK) meeting. There is a meeting planned in March. All agreed that it was vital for this group to make progress on issues that had been outstanding for many months.

06.11 **Records –**

This is in the 2nd tranche of TMA implementation and will be dealt with at that stage.

06.12

Inspections –

There have been a couple of meetings of the working group and good progress has been made. A programme of meetings for 2006 has been agreed. There will be a recommendation to the Inspection Fees Group that the formula needs to be expanded. The Inspection Fees sub group is on standby.

06.13

2006 HAUC (UK) Conference Organising Committee –

Work on organising the 2006 conference is progressing well, and the programme has been finalised.

There has been some progress in the renegotiation of the profit share. HAUC (UK) share has historically been limited to 10% of the overall profit. The Committee has negotiated an agreement with Surveyor to guarantee an 85/15% share of profit. In addition there is a performance related element, which could bring the profit share up to a maximum of 20%.

This year the industry awards will be announced at the end of the first day of the conference. The awards are for:

- a) The most significant contribution to the industry by highways.
- b) The most significant contribution to the industry by utility.
- c) Achievement to the industry through Innovation
Nominations must be in by the end of January.

The organising committee have compiled a specification of requirements for venues for future HAUC (UK) conferences. All Regional HAUC's will be requested to nominate suitable venues, provided that they meet the specification requirements.

Action: Secretariat

06.14

Working Groups: Document Approval Process –

This has now been approved and will be placed on the website. All working Groups need to ensure they implement the process.

Action: Secretariat

**6.
06.15**

Temporary Traffic Signals.

A letter containing clarification on the legal position of the Traffic Signals Application Form has been received from DfT (David Padfield).

However, further clarification is sought in two areas:

- a) Para 5 refers to permission being required for works at a junction, does this include all junctions or only junctions containing traffic lights.
- b) There is no reference in the letter to the TSGRD 2002 Regulations. Did the DfT take this into account when considering the legal position?

Secretariat will draft a letter to the DfT from the HAUC (UK) joint chairs seeking the necessary clarifications.

Action: Secretariat
Action: DfT

It was agreed that when HAUC (UK) receives the clarification a copy will be put on the website and also sent to the Regions

Action Secretariat

06.17

Scotland

A written report was submitted by RAUC (S).

The Transport (Scotland) Act timescales have been announced:

Tranche 1

Coordination Regulations are to be published 3rd July. There is no date yet for implementation.

Tranche 2

Oct all aspect of TMA

Tranche 3

Training and Resurfacing

Regulations are expected 13th November. There is a possibility that T (S) A Regulations may be in place before TMA Regulations in England and Wales.

The name of the Scottish Road Works Commissioner should be announced in the near future.

06.18

Wales

A verbal report was presented.

Welsh HAUC is looking to develop a national coring programme. A sub group is making good progress, although funding may be an issue.

Coordination processes are being reviewed; an initial draft of best practice has been released for comment.

It was reported that a review of the constitution and terms of references for all groups in Welsh HAUC has been undertaken.

Barry Davis has stood down as Highways side chair of Welsh HAUC as a result of additional work commitments. A replacement is being sought.

**8.
06.19**

Improvement Notice Process

A draft process has been prepared. A couple of minor amendments were suggested. The process will be amended and then added to the HAUC (UK) website and issued to all Regional HAUC's.

Action: Secretariat

**9.
06.20**

Safety – High Visibility Clothing

The safety code on the DFT web site now contains advice that superseding standards are applicable. The link will be sent to the Secretariat so that the advice can be added to the HAUC UK website.

***Action: DfT
Action: Secretariat***

10.

HAUC (UK) Policy on Product Endorsement

It was agreed that no action would be taken to endorse products on the HAUC (UK) web site.

11. 06.22

AOB

Exchange of records

Frank O'Dwyer, Harry Pendleton and Les Guest are involved in NUAG, a group set up to provide processes for the recording and sharing of asset records. The group have requested that HAUC (UK) provide membership for three working groups being set up to specify requirements, four representatives from each side of HAUC (UK) being required. It was suggested that with the ongoing work on the TMA, it might be difficult to provide the requested membership. Chris Tunstall is seeking membership from the CSS via the Engineering Committee. After a discussion it was agreed that HAUC (UK) should be involved in this initiative to ensure that there is a link to NUAG (particularly the Records Working Group).

NUAG are to be invited to present their proposals to HAUC (UK). The devolved countries are also to be invited to attend the presentation. It was noted that there is a process (MOSAIC) for exchanging records currently in operation in Northern Ireland.

Action: Secretariat

06.23

Project Vista

This project, co-funded by DTI, will be managed by UKWIR with representatives from utilities, highway authorities and contractors. The project will look at data visualisation for mapping and a method of displaying the information against a known mapping background, over a period of 2/3 years.

Harry Pendleton announced that this would be his last meeting as utilities side joint chair. Dave Turnbull will take over as joint chair at the April meeting

Chris Tunstall wished Harry well for his retirement and thanked him, on behalf of all members of HAUC (UK) for his great efforts over the years.

**12.
06.24**

Dates of Meetings for 2006:

Wednesday 26th April
Wednesday 5th July
Wednesday 11th October

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 26th April 2006 (Venue Russell Square).