

**LOCAL ROADS AUTHORITY AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE (LRAUC)**  
**East Lothian Council – Midlothian Council – Scottish Borders Council**  
**Minutes of Quarterly Meetings**

Date & Time	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2023 10:00		Location	Virtual Meeting (Teams)
Present			Apologies	
Eleni Gigourtaki	ELC (Chair)	<b>EG</b>	Owen Harte	Virgin Media
Sarah Ross	ELC	<b>SRo</b>	David Murdoch	Network Rail
Claire Clarke	ELC	<b>CC</b>		
David Ross	BEAR Scotland	<b>DR</b>		
Gavin Crowther	Lothian Buses	<b>GC</b>		
Ian Fleming	Scottish Power	<b>IF</b>		
Adrian Henzler	Openreach	<b>AHz</b>		
Alan Heatley	Midlothian	<b>AH</b>		
Craig McQueen	SW	<b>CMcQ</b>		
Carol-Ann Dodd	Midlothian	<b>CAD</b>		
Sharon Burns	Go Fibre	<b>SB</b>		
John Henderson	Scottish Borders	<b>JH</b>		
Andrew Matheson	Virgin Media	<b>AM</b>		
Callum Redpath	ELC	<b>CR</b>		
Keith Johnson	Scottish Borders	<b>KJ</b>		
Neil Murray	ELC	<b>NM</b>		
Sarah Abbott	Netomnia	<b>SA</b>		
Allan Ruthven	ELC	<b>AR</b>		
Allan Nicol	SGN	<b>AN</b>		
Craig Brown	SGN	<b>CB</b>		
Conor Price	ELC	<b>CP</b>		
Julie Greig	SGN	<b>JG</b>		
Lee Westwood	SGN	<b>LW</b>		
Fiona McInnes	Scottish Water	<b>FM</b>		

1	Welcome and Apologies	Action
	Attendees welcomed. Apologies were given on behalf of non-attendees.	
2	Matters Arising	Action
	Previous minutes and actions reviewed. EG to send out meeting minutes.	EG
3a	Planned Works	Action
	<p><b><u>Major Projects and Conflicts</u></b></p> <p><b>ELC CR</b> – All Major works are on the Register. The ones that will have biggest impact would be: Edinburgh Road, Newhailes and North High Street, Musselburgh on 4/9 – 8/9. Large scheme on Northbound A1. (Oldcraighall to QMU) for the renewal of bridge joints and resurfacing, most likely to be in November; A199 – Abbots view South/A1 Junction - Carriageway resurfacing; Market Street – Haddington - Carriageway resurfacing.</p> <p><b>Scottish Borders JH</b> – Everything is on the Register. Hawick flood scheme works continue. Considerable works on B6399 route for Pinesburn wind farm – abnormal loads moving at night time. Non works disruptions on various routes on the Register as abnormal loads will be coming through during the day in September.</p> <p><b>Midlothian AH</b> – Continuing with Capital Works Programme/Resurfacing Programme, all works on Register. Works at access to Midlothian Ski Centre on A702, ongoing for another few weeks. Next Month, Oldcraighall being closed for 12 weeks, notice on the Register and diversion route will be advertised.</p> <p><b>SGN CB</b> – All works on the Register. Potential big job in Eyemouth, but out to tender so will confirm soon. Works on the Vert Roundabout in East Lothian, will be in touch with more information.</p> <p><b>SP IF</b> – Everything on the Register.</p> <p><b>SW CMCQ</b> - Everything on the Register. Most capital works in the areas are within SW own sites.</p> <p><b>Openreach</b> – All business as usual works are on the Register. All fibre works are continuing. Not aware of any new areas.</p> <p><b>VM/Nexfibre</b> – All works on the Register.</p> <p><b>Borderlink</b> – All works on the Register.</p> <p><b>NM</b> – All works on the Register.</p> <p><b>Bear</b> – Overnight closures are all on the Register.</p>	

3b	Events/Spaces for People/Embargos/Occupations/Local Policies	
	<p><b>Midlothian</b> – Christmas Embargo in place, some parades – all on register. No change to Spaces for People.</p> <p><b>Borders</b> – No Christmas embargo. Spaces for People – nothing ongoing. Music Event just off A68 – Speed restrictions will be in place.</p> <p><b>ELC</b> – Christmas Embargo will be on Register this month. Events: Triathlon in Gullane, Cycle race in September for Poppy Scotland (will go on the Register) and various smaller parades with minor local restrictions.</p>	
3c	Indicators & Statistics	Action
	<p><b>Midlothian</b> – Sample inspections – all ok. Openreach and SPEN under 80% for sample Bs. High number of early starts for Nexfibre and SPEN. Extensions – high numbers for SPEN and Nexfibre. Overruns – Nexfibre and SPEN. Undue Delays – Nexfibre and SPEN. Overall not bad. Reinstatements due &gt; 6 months – concerns about some of those. Figure for Openreach that is potentially lower than what is out there.</p> <p><b>AHz</b> – to call Mid after to discuss the issues with Openreach recording temporary reinstatement as permanent.</p> <p><b>Borders</b> – No dashboard for SBC. No major concerns with performance.</p> <p><b>ELC</b> – Sample inspections have improved. Very high number of early starts for Nexfibre and Borderlink. High number of extensions for SPEN. High number of Undue Delays for Nexfibre and SPEN. Issue with abortive inspections with Nexfibre and Openreach.</p> <p><b>AHz and EG</b> to discuss reinstatements due.</p> <p>Dashboards to be sent out and utilities to respond as required.</p> <p><b>IF</b> – Morrisons have a new Reinstatement Manager called Andrew Wilson. Will organise meeting with each Council to discuss the issues.</p> <p><b>FM</b> – Comments on performance data. % of sample inspections in July for Scottish Water were above target. Sample inspections should be equally distributed through the year. 13 declined inspections if they could be looked at.</p> <p><b>CAD</b> – A number of declined inspections have been discussed and SW have agreed to change them. Sample inspections are generated by the system over the year.</p> <p><b>EG</b> – Explained that we try to spread them out. Also raised an issues with duplicate inspections going on via the Inspectors app when photos are not uploaded instantly due to poor signal. This might affect numbers.</p> <p><b>SR</b> – Asked utilities to tell us when there are duplicates before declining inspections.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>All Utilities</b></p>

<b>3d</b>	<b>Improvement notices</b>	
	<p><b>Midlothian</b> – None.  <b>Borders</b> – None.  <b>ELC</b> – None.</p>	
<b>3e</b>	<b>Coring</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>Draft final support was submitted for final approval in June.  Working group had a meeting and revised report to be resubmitted.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters arising from previous AREA RAUC and RAUC(S)</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p><b>ELC</b> – Nothing to raise.  <b>Midlothian</b> – Nothing to raise.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>Action</b>
5a	<b>FM</b> – Presentation at RAUC from SRL about new portable signals that are being developed. SW has trailed on some site. FM to forward slides to EG.	<b>FM</b>
5b	<b>EG</b> asked for updated emergency contact details for ELC area.	<b>All Utilities</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p><b>EG</b> – There has been an incident where works in close proximity to trees have damaged the tree roots. Reminder to Utilities of their responsibility to contact the Council’s Tree Officers to discuss working practices when working in close proximity to trees. Document from Tree Officer will be attached to the minutes regarding works around tree roots.</p> <p><b>EG</b> – Defects not being addressed. Utilities to contact inspectors to discuss.</p> <p><b>AH</b> – Issues with Morrisons working for BT and SP – turning up setting up works and then disappearing for days. AHZ to look into High St, Bonnyrigg works. IF confirming that for SP it is a resource issue. New Construction Manager joining the team and more information will follow.</p> <p><b>CAD</b> – Requesting extensions should be 24 hours in advance of the end date of the existing notice and 3 days in advance if works are under a Standard notice, Traffic Sensitive locations or Major Works notice. Utilities should adhere to the Code of Practice and not let notices go on Overrun.  Ensure everything is sent to the shared mailboxes and not individual staff members.  A few issues for Adrian but will pick them up offline.</p>	

	<p><b>JH</b> – All TM requests should come in to shared mailboxes and not to all staff members.</p> <p><b>KJ</b> – Is hot bitumen allowed as overbanding even if within tolerance? Tracks of hundreds of meters discovered for works undertaken by Openreach. Looking for views from other Undertakers and LAs.</p> <p><b>AH</b> – Overbanding is not done by default, but when it is used it is always with hot bitumen.</p> <p><b>JG</b> – Some Local Authorities in Scotland demand hot bitumen is used, others will fail for hot bitumen. SGN does not encourage it especially with tape. It is not standard for SGN.</p> <p><b>CM</b> – The information on material is in the SROR – the use of plain bitumen under NRSWA is illegal as an overbanding material. There have been deaths as a result of it being used. The material will have to have a skid resistance of min of 55 – which plain bitumen does not have. SW will fail any that they find on their works.</p> <p><b>JG</b> – SGN have created a hunt system for live works and responses with a one stop phone number. Admin staff to take details and arrange call back and provide information on actions etc.</p> <p><b>JG</b> – Query on works under lights on a 4 way junction, SGN raised a notice on the road they were working on but not the other 3 roads that had signage on them. It is a legal requirement in England but not in Scotland. It might be best practise, but it will fill the Register with unnecessary notices. Looking for views from other Undertakers and LAs as SGN and the LA where the works are undertaken cannot agree on actions required.</p> <p><b>CAD</b> – Additional notices are expected to be raised for traffic sensitive roads, if it is not done it causes co-ordination issues. Conflicts would not show for works over 500m. Suggested a definitive answer should be requested.</p> <p><b>JG</b> – Will discuss with regional staff regarding taking this forward to get a definitive answer on the matter.</p> <p><b>FM</b> – Agree that taking it forward is a good idea. If any decisions are made the Coordination Working Group is to be notified so that changes are applied as the CoP is updated at the moment.</p> <p><b>EG</b> – Works are not only the area excavated but the extended area that is occupied and that includes the traffic management. ELC do not request these for all works but would expect it for traffic sensitive junctions to help with coordination. Polygons cannot be extended to cover additional roads on the system as that does not apply the conflict on all roads. The system would also issue warnings regarding the extents.</p>	<b>JG/CAD</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time Of Next Meetings</b>	<b>Action</b>
	Proposed date of next meeting 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023.	