



**SOUTH EAST AREA ROADS AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the QUARTERLY MEETING held on 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020**

**This meeting was convened via MS Teams – 41 joined the meeting remotely:**

| <b>Fiona McInnes(Chair)</b> | <b>FMcI</b> | <b>Scottish Water</b>     |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Alan Heatley                | AH          | Midlothian Council        |
| Brian Wilson                | BW          | Scottish Borders Council  |
| Carol-Ann Dodd              | CAD         | Midlothian Council        |
| David Hearty                | DHe         | MBNL-EE/3                 |
| Adrian Henzler              | AHe         | Openreach                 |
| John Henderson              | JH          | Scottish Borders Council  |
| Hugh Randall                | HR          | Telefonica                |
| Craig McQueen               | CMcQ        | Scottish Water            |
| Ruth Scott                  | RS          | SSE                       |
| Katrina Hardy               | KH          | INEOS                     |
| Lindsay Henderson           | LH          | OSRWC                     |
| Kevin Douglas               | KD          | SGN                       |
| Brian Cooper                | BC          | Secretarial Support       |
| Clare Callaghan             | CC          | Scottish Water            |
| Jim Forbes                  | JF          | Cityfibre                 |
| Chris Murray                | CM          | Sky                       |
| Joao Carmo                  | JC          | SPEN                      |
| Owen Harte                  | OH          | Virgin Media              |
| Stephen McGill              | SM          | Fulcrum                   |
| Jane Dunlop                 | JD          | OSRWC                     |
| Jason Halliday              | JHa         | West Lothian Council      |
| Michael Casey               | MC          | Royal Mail                |
| Stuart Harding              | SH          | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Thomas Flaherty             | TF          | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Elaine Stewart              | ES          | SPEN                      |
| Karyn Davidson              | KDa         | Vodafone                  |
| Caroline Auld               | CA          | Network Rail              |
| Kat Quane                   | KQ          | Transport Scotland        |
| Paul Morrison               | PM          | Energy Assets             |
| Eddie McGuinness            | EMcG        | Energetics-uk             |
| Nic McCormick               | NMcC        | Lothian Broadband         |
| Gerry Cullen                | GC          | Traffic Scotland          |
| Robert Young                | RY          | Digital Scotland          |
| Eleni Gigourtaki            | EG          | East Lothian Council      |
| Barry Hall                  | BH          | gtc-uk                    |
| David Ross                  | DR          | Amey                      |
| John Balmer                 | JB          | Hfcomms                   |
| Alistair Wales              | AW          | Verizon                   |
| Jason Halliday              | JHa         | West Lothian Council      |
| Lee Bromhall                | LB          | Royal Mail                |

Apologies: John Balmer, Carole McDonald, David McInarlin, Robert McFarlane

## **1. Welcome, attendance and apologies**

Chair Fiona McInnes welcomed everyone who had joined the meeting - Attendance and apologies as recorded above.

## **2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2020**

The draft Minute circulated by the Secretary prior to the meeting was agreed as a true record. There were no outstanding actions.

## **3. RAUCS Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2020 – Update/Matters Arising**

FMcI provided background information in relation to the following matters:

- On behalf of RAUCS and the Community, JF had thanked Angus Carmichael for his input over the past five years as Commissioner and wished him well in his retirement
- Elaine Stewart as Safety Contact had explained the main causes of cable strikes were Do It Yourself activities (increased numbers this year during lockdown), Road Works, and Agriculture. She emphasised that SPEN believes that by improving Situational Awareness and using the SLAM: STOP, LOOK, ASSESS, MANAGE technique, accidents can be prevented
- Press Release for the National Coring Programme confirmed 88% pass rate (improvement of 6% on previous programme) for the whole of Scotland - main failures: layer depth - Final Report is on the Commissioner's website
- More RA Reps needed for the Quality Plans WG
- The HAUC UK Conference will be held on 21st May, 2021
- The HAUC App is designed to be used north and south of the border with relevant legislation, etc.: Phase 2 will deal with the SROH/SROR requirements
- The Commissioner had noted that some RAs have already exceeded their agreed Sample Inspections for the year – Inspections on Private Roads cannot be recharged to the SUs
- The Commissioner reminded all organisations that red performance on the Dashboard needs comments to be sent to his office
- May be looking at April 2021 for the delayed TSA

## **4. National Coring Update**

Meeting to review Advice Note 3 likely to be early in 2021. Suggestions and comments welcomed by the WG. What will be the potential impact of Reinstatement Quality Plans on coring? The local coring addendum is still to be completed. Scottish Water has an internal coring programme underway.

## **5. SRWC Report and Performance**

New Commissioner Kevin Hamilton started on 09/11/2020. The 2019/20 Annual Reviews have been issued – little effect due to the pandemic – all organisations have responded.

The SRWR Data Working Group has been established.

Advised that any time-critical updates on Covid19 will be issued in the same way through the SRWC contact lists.

The Q2 Dashboard had been circulated in advance of the meeting – more organisations are failing on more measures, probably due to re-programming works due to the pandemic. RAs works decreased while SUs increased. Reminder to contact Graham Milne with any issues/feedback.

All six organisations issued with penalties arising from the national coring programme results had paid – note that the £94K received is passed to the Scottish Government. KQ confirmed that the UK Treasury then receives this money via the Consolidated Fund.

There are 5 RAs and 7 SUs on Improvement Plans – all had submitted updates, some may be removed by December 2020, next update due mid-January 2021

## **6. Improvement Notices**

City of Edinburgh Council – some SUs have requested removal of the Improvement Notice. This will be discussed by the Roads Liaison Group and an update provided at the February 2021 SERAUC meeting.

AH advised that following a meeting with Virgin Media on 2/11/20, the Improvement Notice will remain until previous issues have been resolved in Midlothian.

## **7. Local RAUCS reports/Programmes of major works/Proposed Changes to Road Designations/Local Coring/Events**

Under this Item the Chair asked each of the organisations represented to provide a short update report on their current situation, incorporating the Item headings as above, where applicable:

Transport Scotland: KQ hoped to present a paper to RAUCS on the commencement schedule for the Transport Scotland Act, 2019. She referred to the latest Covid-19 guidance and advised that no specific guidance is required for different tiers, and emphasised the need for site-specific risk assessments to reflect requirements for the area in which the works are taking place.

Roads Authorities:

All RAs referred to Christmas Embargoes on the Register. Works ongoing on the Register as well, including continuing Spaces for People on-site works at numerous locations.

RAs raised issues with the performance of Virgin Media in all areas.

West Lothian had convened an “Extraordinary” Local Co-ordination Meeting also involving Transport/Traffic Scotland in relation to the major development proposals at Winchburgh.

RY provided the following update report for the South East of Scotland area for the Minute:

South East Scotland - The DSBB Programme is now complete.

The Reaching for 100% (R100) deployment is in three Contracts. Councils in South East Scotland are within the Central and South Contract Areas. BT/Openreach have been awarded the Central

and South Contracts with survey work now under way and some limited works started. Note that the contract is with BT plc and any associated works are the responsibility of BT and their contractors from planning to delivery. The majority of deployment is likely to be Fibre to the Premise technology, but perhaps with some limited Fibre to the Cabinet installs in the Central Contract Area.

The Scottish Government will be looking to share advance information with roads authorities, and communicate plans for the deployment of the works.

Statutory Undertakers:

SUs confirmed where works are being undertaken are on the Register and acknowledged the RA embargoes. Works on-site are risk assessed and Covid-compliant.

SPEN has own embargo over the Christmas period.

Scottish Water advised of an extensive programme of works from 2021 due to increased budget from then until 2027.

Virgin Media confirmed works in all RA areas except SBC.

## **8. Management and Operation of the SRWR (including any matters/items of note relating to the Gazetteer, the SAT and the Community Apparatus VAULT) –**

JD advised the new system is well bedded in now – contact the support desk or e mail Iain Ross if anyone has any issues. She reminded everyone that a number of training courses are currently available on the Register – advanced courses will be available in the next few weeks.

The Fees and Amounts Consultation ends on 18<sup>th</sup> December – proposal is for a small increase of £4000 to bring overall budget for 2021/22 to £915,000.

SAT currently reviewing change requests.

KQ added she would like to know of any anecdotal evidence about what is happening out on site: Covid-related or 5G incidents for example

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

JF referred to the area maps as circulated, advising this was at a very early stage – definitely not happening January 2021. Is there any appetite for change? - thoughts and comments or suggestions welcome via Jim or Martin Polland or George Borthwick or Fiona McInnes.

SH led the thanks to outgoing Chair, Fiona McInnes, for the way she had chaired the meetings over the past two years and this was overwhelmingly supported by all.

## **10. Date of next meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2021(West Lothian Council as Chair)**

**(Note dates of SERAUC Meetings in 2021: 09/02/21, 11/05/21; 10/08/21; 9/ 11/21)**

BC – November, 2020;

