



SOUTH EAST AREA ROADS AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the QUARTERLY MEETING held on 11th FEBRUARY, 2020

THE DOME ROOM, NEW REGISTER HOUSE, EDINBURGH

Present:

Fiona McInnes(Chair)	FMcI	Scottish Water
Alan Heatley	AH	Midlothian Council
Brian Wilson	BW	Scottish Borders Council
Carol-Ann Dodd	CAD	Midlothian Council
David Hearty	DH	MBNL-EE/3
David Ross	DR	AMEY
Tom Flaherty	TF	City of Edinburgh Council
John Henderson	JH	Scottish Borders Council
Alistair Wales	AW	Verizon
Andrew Matheson	AM	Virgin Media
Craig McQueen	CMcQ	Scottish Water
Ruth Scott	RS	SSE
Hannah Tiffin	HT	East Lothian Council
Katrina Hardy	KH	INEOS
Lisa Haston	LH	SPEN
Iain Ross	IR	OSRWC
Kevin Douglas	KD	SGN
Brian Cooper	BC	Secretarial Support
Clare Callaghan	CC	Scottish Water
Adrian Henzler	AHe	Openreach
Jim Forbes	JF	Cityfibre
Chris Murray	CM	Sky
J Caomo	JC	SPEN
Douglas Haughey	DH	CenturyLink
Stephen McGill	SM	Fulcrum
Andrew Crosgray	AC	GTC
Caroline Auld	CA	Network Rail
Jason Halliday	JHa	West Lothian Council
Dexter David	DD	Hyperoptic

Apologies: Gordon Brown, Andrew Alexander, Mike Hymers, Nicola Millar, Robert Young, John Balmer, Susan Pickard, Karyn Davidson, Nic McCormick, Clark Findlay, Elaine Stewart, Stuart Harding

1. Welcome, attendance and apologies

Chair Fiona McInnes welcomed everyone to the meeting - Introductions were made around the table. Attendance and apologies as recorded above.

2. Minute of previous meeting held on 13th August, 2019

(a) Accuracy – draft Minute circulated by the Secretary agreed as a true record, with the content of Item 6a, the report as provided by Kat Quane(KQ), included.

(b) It was noted that the Action from Item 3(f) had been discharged by the City of Edinburgh Council on 27th November, 2019.

.3. Matters arising from Local RAUC Meetings

(a)City of Edinburgh Council - TF referred to the continuing exceptional volume of works in the City – this was causing problems with coordination. He advised that the meeting to discuss Traffic Management had been arranged for 2nd March 2020.

(b)East Lothian Council – Nothing to report

c)Midlothian Council – Nothing to report

d)Scottish Borders Council - Nothing to report

e) West Lothian Council – Local Coordination Meeting not yet taken place.

The Chair reminded RAs that feedback from the local meetings is vital – SERAUC needs to know what is being discussed at local level, this is where problems should be being raised and discussed which may be relevant to the SRWR operation and the user community.

(f) Improvement Notices – the updated South East area spreadsheet had been circulated prior to the meeting. TF had updated the relevant CEC information for Virgin Media and Openreach. AH pointed out that the Spreadsheet should include Midlothian’s update he had sent to the Secretary. BC would ensure the fully updated spreadsheet would be e mailed to the RAUCS Secretary in time for the March RAUCS meeting. JF added he was grateful to the CEC for their help with Cityfibre’s ongoing major work programme and expressed his continuing aim to improve their performance.

4. RAUCS Meeting on 4th December, 2019 – Update/Matters Arising

FMcI provided background information in relation to the following matters:

- Plant provision in new developments: David Armitage had produced draft guidelines that RAs could use for prospectively maintainable road layouts
- KQ is preparing a guide to the new Transport(Scotland) Act, 2019 - available in the Spring of 2020

- The preparation of Quality Plans – required from ALL organisations, including Roads Authorities, under the new Act, needs to progress
- The review of the SROR is on hold pending publication of the SROH. Noted that the Extended Guarantee will be progressed in the revision as it is a Ministerial requirement
- The contribution and input from the South East was noted. A Working Group has been set up to review Advice Note 8. Jason Halliday is involved in the WG
- Training for Aurora will be provided free online from 10th February to 8th June
- Discussion on meeting timetables for RAUCS and Area Meetings – reduction from four to three meetings a year with Local Coordination Meetings every six weeks?
- The Prescribed Fees and Amounts has risen by £60K for 2020/21

5. National and Local Coring Update

a) National: JHa provided a verbal update on behalf of West Lothian Council, as Lead Authority - South East area only slightly behind schedule compared to other Areas but he has circulated a recovery plan to the RAs in any case.

CMcQ, on behalf of the National Coring WG, explained that a discrepancy had been found in a number of cores late on, possibly caused by RAs not returning the completed Appendix “A” to the SUs for agreement, for example. Some misunderstanding re sample sizes and lack of cross-referencing identified as well. He emphasised that the SUs need to check and re-check what the RAs send them. He confirmed no requests for the Disputes Panel yet and suggested it was unlikely that the final report would be ready in time for the March RAUCS Meeting.

JF confirmed all Cityfibre Agreed Cores are in the System

b) Local:

(i) Roads Authorities Programmes – TF advised results of latest local coring in the CEC area would be available at the end of February.

(ii) Statutory Undertakers Programmes – Scottish Water up to date and as at end of January 2020 showing 95% pass rate. SGN and VM programmes ongoing. AHe confirmed a contractor for Openreach internal coring would be appointed shortly.

6. SRWC Report and Performance Indicators

a) SRWC Report: IR confirmed that three Undertakers had been issued with penalties as at January 2020: Fulcrum, GTC and Energetics.

He advised that the Commissioner had invited Senior Managers to a Seminar to be held in April 2020.

The Commissioner is seeking feedback/comments on the recent BT Openreach Narrow trenching demonstration in Edinburgh – particularly regarding the use of Type 1 and/or foam concrete. TF asked what is the difference between Narrow and Micro trenching? He questioned the compaction practices and highlighted dust problems in city streets.

AHe considered it a successful trial and advised Openreach will be using Type 1 as insufficient volume/quantity for foam concrete.

The SRWR Steering Group is considering reviewing the drop-down menu for the works technique to include methods such as narrow trenching.

It was suggested that different techniques used can cause problems during excavation. AHe advised that use in practice south of the border had not raised any real concerns. CM said SKY had used this method extensively in York. CMcQ suggested small batches of foam concrete can be achieved using an additive and smaller aggregate.

b) Performance Indicators: IR referred to the previously circulated Commissioner's quarterly statistics report, known as the Dashboard. JH again raised the issue about the colours used causing a problem for some people. FMcI would raise this issue again at RAUCS. IR advised that five Roads Authorities had been removed from the Commissioner's Improvement Plans – five other RAs remain along with six SUs.

FMcI drew attention to the Code of Practice for Inspections that had been circulated in advance. She advised that feedback is required by 17/02/20 as the WG meets again on the 21st February so approval can be sought at the March RAUCS Meeting, with a potential "go-live" on the 4th April 2020.

7. Safety

a) Safety Concerns/Issues – FMcI referred to the previously circulated Safety Alerts and recommended these are shared with staff/team/colleagues as widely as possible. The Secretary will continue to circulate these Alerts as well as any other Safety issues/situations raised via the User Community.

KD referred to a recent situation on an ongoing SGN road works site where persons unknown had removed HERAS fencing which caused, combined with prevailing high winds, a serious incident.

b) Traffic Management Issues – CMcQ warned everyone to check the wording of TTROs carefully for inclusion/exclusion of cyclists and pedestrians in particular, and types of vehicular access generally.

FMcI referred to deep trench excavations >1.2metres requiring shoring for safety reasons inevitably extending the time for the works to be open on site, under TTM.

IR referred to the TAG (Traffic Advisory Group) having met – their report will be submitted to RAUCS in due course.

8. Information on Strategic Programmes of works

(a) Roads Authorities Major Works and Events –

Major Works: all RA works are on the SRWR as required.

Events: JH highlighted a major event – the Jim Clark Rally – which will be held on 30/31st of May – mainly in the Berwickshire area of SBC.

(b) Statutory Undertakers Major Works – all confirmed all works entered on the SRWR as required.

(c) Superfast Broadband Update – Robert Young provided the following update report for the South East of Scotland area for the Minute:

DSBB Programme is still on planned Programme Targets, and is due for completion at the end of year 2019/20.

Deployment is now almost exclusively Fibre to the Premise (FTTP), with around 80 installations remaining.

There is a further deployment planned, termed Reaching for 100% (R100), to address the remaining premises that will be without access to Superfast Broadband. There will be three Contracts – North, Central and South. Councils in South East Scotland are within the Central and South Contract Areas. Edinburgh City Centre is excluded as not eligible for State Aid Funding.

BT/Openreach have been awarded the Central and South Contracts. These Contracts are currently being mobilised. The R100 Programme team intend to meet with all Roads Authorities in Scotland to discuss the deployment of the works.

9. Proposed Changes to Road Designations

No changes to Road Designations.

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

IR advised :

- Any reference to Aurora is no longer acceptable – use New SRWR
- Introductory Training is at various stages, including training for Inspectors, warning that no training means no access to the Register. Training lasts 3 to 6 hours.
- Two months to “go-live” – roll out during the first weekend in April 2020.
- Mobile Apps need to be upgraded too
- The Fees and Amounts matrix had been circulated recently to help with budgeting. Organisations would be provided with their estimate on 1st March followed by the Invoice on 1st April

- Gazetteer – now via the Improvement Service, using Version 4 of the SDTF (Scottish Data Transfer Forum)
- SAT had continued with the testing of the new SRWR – next meeting 3rd March – final decision to go-live will be taken on 23rd March – IR thanked the SAT and for the help of Network Rail, on behalf of the Commissioner
- Openreach close to finalising their asset information in the Community Apparatus VAULT after trials and demonstrations by Symology and the OSRWC
- Several new SUs had been added to the Register, including Axione
- Energetics now named Lastmile Gas and Lastmile Electricity

11. Any Other Competent Business

The Chair reminded everyone that the HAUC UK Convention had been arranged for 14th May, 2020, in Manchester – flyer had been circulated again. (Post-meeting note: the Convention has been rescheduled for 17th September, 2020 in Manchester)

She also drew attention to the slightly later date for the next SERAUC meeting in May (see Item 12 below), and advised that the handover of the SERAUC Chair to West Lothian Council in November 2020 may mean meetings are held at a different venue – more information at the next meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting : Tuesday 19th May, 2020 (Cancelled due to Covid-19 Restrictions)

Dates for future SERAUC Meetings in 2020 are:

11th August and 10th November, 2020

BC – Initial Draft: 29th February, 2020;

First Amended version 3rd April, 2020;