

Introduction by HAUC(UK) Joint Chairs Jerry McConkey and Mark Ostheimer

Welcome to the fifth HAUC(UK) Newsletter. HAUC(UK) held its **third meeting of 2010** on 21st July, where Committee members discussed the exciting developments of the year so far. One key subject covered early on was the new Coalition Government, its overarching objectives, and specifically its intentions towards street and road works.

Along with the CEO of NJUG and Chairman of JAG(UK) we met with the new **Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport Norman Baker MP**, the only Liberal Democrat Minister at the Department for Transport, to discuss the work HAUC(UK) have been undertaking to deliver both the previous Government's Street Works Action Plan, as well as our own Business Plan objectives. Mr Baker was very supportive of the HAUC(UK) Business Plan, and is undertaking a review of the previous administration's intentions regarding street works, including continuing considerations on lane rental and increases to overstay charges.

The Minister's key interest at the current time, as with all Government Departments, is the deficit reduction and therefore the promotion of self-regulation and the reduction of central Government regulation – both in terms of reducing costs and administrative burdens on business and prioritising work done by the Department. **Therefore, the DfT's current programme of work is under review.** As a result the Minister was pleased to learn of the new NJUG National Code of Conduct for street works (see page two of this newsletter for further information), and was interested in the Performance Scorecard being developed by the Performance Working Group. It was agreed that HAUC(UK) would feed back to the Minister where further regulatory savings could be made in the road and street works sector whilst stressing those areas which HAUC(UK) felt were ongoing time and effort was necessary – for example the Records Code of Practice. To deliver this action, representatives from the Policy Steering Group, Communications Group, Good Practice Group and Performance Group are considering options which can be offered to the Minister. **If you have any thoughts you would like included please contact the Joint Secretariat by Tuesday 10 August.**

Although the **HAUC(UK) Business Plan** may alter once the new Minister's intentions with regard to road and street works are finalised, work on the current Plan continues. The latest version of the Plan, including an update on progress to date, can be downloaded from the HAUC(UK) website at: <http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/category/11/pageid/50/>

The yellow HAUC(UK) **Operatives Leaflets** continue to grow in popularity, with a number of Regional HAUC Chairs agreeing at the HAUC(UK) meeting to order large numbers for distribution in their areas. To gather details on how to order leaflets, please email the Joint Secretariat at manager@jaguk.org and info@njug.org.uk.

HAUC(UK) NSG Working Group established

At the July meeting of HAUC(UK), a substantial update was provided on the newly established NSG Working Group by Ian David (Bridgend County Council). The Group has agreed its Terms of Reference, and produced a timetable of prioritised tasks to achieve its established objectives.

In addition, in conjunction with the IDeA, an online Community of Practice has been set up, through which any interested manager, operative, or stakeholder can view the progress of the Group's work, and also table queries to the members for discussion and response. The Community can be accessed at: <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/comm/landing-home.do?id=5076454>

Finally, a six month trial is now underway giving those contractors which are Associate Members of NJUG direct access to the NSG. Any queries in regard to the Group's work can be sent to Ian direct at ian.david@bridgend.gov.uk.

Training

It was agreed at the July meeting that HAUC(UK) must take a stronger role in helping **deliver consistent training across the UK** wherever possible on new policy developments, regulatory changes, or revised Codes of Practice.

To this end, it was agreed that all Working Groups must consider this as part of their programme of activity. This could for instance result in the production of a training package by the Group, or liaison between the Group with a Regional HAUC that may be interested in developing a package.

A recent example discussed was the revised SROH, on which the Joint Chairs of the Working Group produced a comprehensive PowerPoint detailing the changes to the Code of Practice. Taking this further, West Midlands HAUC and South West HAUC are now liaising over the production of a simple training package to take interested personnel through the changes. Once finalised, this will be made available through HAUC(UK) for any interested parties.

If any regional HAUCs are interested in leading on forthcoming regulatory changes in this way, such as Safety or Inspections, please contact the Joint Secretariat at manager@jaguk.org and info@njug.org.uk.

Events

So far this year a number of HAUC events have been held, all of which were a great success. They have included the North Wales, SEHAUC and 3 HAUCs' road shows, as well as HSC10. At the July meeting of HAUC(UK), the Committee were keen to emphasise **how crucial both the regional and national events are** at highlighting the evolving nature of road and street works both from a policy and practical perspective.

There are a variety of events still to be held in 2010 including:

West Midlands HAUC road show

14 - 15 September
Stafford, http://www.aldercross.com/wmhauc_hsog.html
HAUC(UK) will be hosting a stand at this event.

Utility Asset Management: Making Our Networks More Effective

29 September, Imago, Holywell Park, Loughborough
http://www.sbgj.org.uk/events/util_asset_mgmt2010

No Dig Live 2010

5-7 October, nr Coventry, <http://www.nodiglive.co.uk/>
NJUG's CEO Les Guest, and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, will be speaking.

Highways Magazine Excellence Awards 2010

20th October, Millennium Hotel, London Mayfair W1K 2HP
<http://www.hmea.co.uk/index.php>

NLPG/NSG Exemplar Awards 2010

20th October, Sheffield, www.thensg.org.uk

Local Transport Under the New Government

2 November, Westminster, London
<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=13702>
Dave Turnbull, former Utilities-side Chair of HAUC(UK), will be speaking on a panel on the subject of traffic management.

Welsh HAUC / Surveyor Breakfast Briefing

10th November, Royal Welsh Show Grounds

Veolia Water Event in the place of Anglian HAUC roadshow
11th November – venue and date to be confirmed

2010 Utility Industry Achievement Awards

6th December, London, <http://www.utilityweekawards.co.uk/>

Finally, **HSC11** is due to be held in Glasgow next May, and the Organising Committee are currently drafting the conference agenda – the theme is *Resourceful Thinking* – if you have any **thoughts on the format or topics** you would like covered, please contact Anita, Gary and Alex on the Organising Committee: Anita.Solanki@severntrent.co.uk / g.stringer@hgluk.com / Alex.Rae@scottishwater.co.uk. The committee are also seeking opinions on the frequency at which of HAUC Surveyor Conferences should be held.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) updates

The HSE has concluded its **investigation into the foamed concrete** explosion which occurred in August 2009, injuring two personnel. The judgement can be found via the below link, which confirms that the HSE will not be banning IBA from being used:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/liveissues/foamedconcrete.htm?ebul=hsegen/12-jul-2010&cr=17>

In addition, the HSE has issued a safety notice *Risks associated with working on or near lamp columns with non-standard roots during excavation works*. This follows a fatality caused by a falling column in February 2010:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/lampcolumns.htm?ebul=safbul/15-jul-10&cr=1>

HAUC(UK) Advice Notes

HAUC(UK) are currently finalising a new **Diversions Works** Advice Note. The consultation has now closed and the

Working Group is reviewing the responses. It is hoped that the document will be ready for publication shortly.

Similarly, a draft Advice Note on **s58** of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 is also being finalised for publication following consultation with the HAUC(UK) community.

NJUG National Code of Conduct

NJUG launched a **National Code of Conduct for Street Works** on 22nd June at City Hall, London, building on the success the Mayor of London has achieved with his London-specific Code over the last twelve months. Further information on the Code can be found at: <http://www.njug.org.uk/category/1/pageid/86/>

NJUG will now be working closely with JAG(UK) to discuss how the scheme can be measured effectively by local authorities to assess the performance of utilities.

Additional Updates

The final **SEHAUC training session focusing on Noticing administration and improving coordination** will be taking place this autumn. The session will cover subjects such as who should be doing what, when and why, as well as tackling issues around compliance with the Code of Practice. The target audience are staff involved in processing Notices and planning works on the highway. The event is open to anyone although places are limited. The specific date will be set in the coming month, but **to register your interest or acquire a copy of the training package itself**, contact Ian Ackerman at ian.ackerman@hants.gov.uk.

A request was made by the NSG Working Group at the July meeting of HAUC(UK) for **utilities to keep their Operational District Files updated, and loaded onto the NSG website on a monthly basis**.

Personnel Notices

HAUC(UK) is delighted to announce that **Mark Ostheimer** has been re-elected for a further two years to the position of Utilities-side Chair of HAUC(UK), as part of his role as Operations Director for the National Joint Utilities Group. **Anita Solanki** has been appointed Chair of the HSC11 Organising Committee for next year's annual road and street works conference.

Tom Coales, Utilities-side Secretariat of HAUC(UK) and Public Affairs Manager of the National Joint Utilities Group is moving on from August to a new challenge with the Local Government Association. HAUC(UK) would like to thank Tom for his hard work over the last three and a half years, and welcome **Salma Islam**, who will be taking up these responsibilities going forward. Salma's direct email address is salma@njug.org.uk.

Contact HAUC(UK)

To contact HAUC(UK), publicise a related event or personnel change, or to table an item for the agenda of next meeting (20th October), please email the Joint Secretariat at manager@jaguk.org and info@njug.org.uk.