



HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

HAUC(UK) – "one voice delivering excellence in road and street works" Newsletter, January 2011 (no.6)

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

Message from Joint HAUC(UK) Chairs Jerry McConkey and Mark Ostheimer

The DfT have recently published their **new Business Plan** <http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/business/plan2011-15/> to reflect the Government's priorities – deficit reduction, localism and deregulation. These include a commitment to introduce increased S74 charges and lane rental and devolving approval powers of permit schemes to local authorities.

With pressures on both local authority and utility budgets and resources, we have taken the decision to go to three meetings a year. However, with the Government expecting the industry to continue to drive up standards through a range of self-regulatory / voluntary measures, this does not mean a reduction in effort, rather that we use our limited time together more effectively and move things forward outside formal HAUC(UK) meetings.

We will be updating the HAUC(UK) Business Plan to reflect the new DfT Business Plan and the Devolved Administrations' priorities, with a much greater emphasis on self-regulation. As always we can only deliver real improvements with everyone's help and so your ongoing support and ideas for improving the safety and quality of works and reducing disruption are both invaluable and most welcomed.

HAUC(UK) NSG Working Group - Updates

DfT have agreed that Intelligent Addressing will now be the holders of the Organisational Codes which list the Data Capture Codes for each individual organisation.

Training & Accreditation - Update

Reminder
Registration of Units 2 and 10.

If any operative or supervisor holds only units 2 or 10 they must register these as from 6th April 2011. If this is not done they will not be acceptable for registration and candidates will have to re-submit themselves for re-training and certification.

Events

HAUC(UK) & RAUC(Scotland) event

A reminder there will be no HSC11 event this year but HAUC(UK) will be holding an event jointly with RAUC(Scotland) in Edinburgh on 2nd June 2011 as the only HAUC(UK) event in 2011. We are aware that Surveyor Magazine is holding a one day event in May, however, this is not a joint HAUC(UK) - Surveyor event.

Regional HAUC Conferences 2011

The dates are as follows

North Wales HAUC Roadshow – 9th June

Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse

3 HAUCS' Roadshow (covering North Western, North of England and Yorkshire HAUCs) – **30th June**

Wetherby Racecourse

West Midlands HAUC & HSOG Roadshow – 13th/14th September

Stafford County Showground

DfT Update

As part of the Government's deregulation agenda the Government have set up a Regulatory Review Committee which reviews all proposals for new legislation / regulation. In submitting proposals each Department has to commit to removing a piece of legislation / regulation of the same financial value / impact. Therefore DfT is revisiting all its previous proposals including the Safety and Inspections Codes of Practice, Section 74 and lane rental.

The DfT has also indicated it will not be undertaking the one-year review of permit scheme legislation committed to by the previous Government, and it is also devolving approval of permit schemes from the Secretary of State to local authorities.

However, the DfT remains keen for the work of the Good Practice Group to finalise and publish the DfT Good Practice Guide and for the Performance Working Group to deliver the Performance Scorecard. Self-regulation is the key to moving forward and anything that helps to promote this and the localism agenda is likely to be well received. The DfT is also aiming to review the process for TROs, and Section 50 licences during the course of 2011.

HAUC(UK) Advice Notes

The Coordination and Notices WG Consultation is ongoing in relation to Temporary Works - the closing date is 4th February 2011.

NJUG National Code of Conduct

The NJUG Code of Conduct was launched in June 2010 and JAG (UK) is committed to working with NJUG to turn this into a joint HAUC (UK) Code of Conduct. The National Code builds on the success of Boris Johnson's London Code of Conduct which has resulted in 996 days of disruption being saved in its first year alone. In light of the Government's deregulation objectives and the spending cuts that face the DfT, this Code presents a great opportunity for utilities and local authorities to demonstrate their ability to self-regulate and work together effectively.

The current National Code can be viewed here:

http://www.njug.org.uk/uploads/1006_NJUG_Code_of_Conduct_-_final_.pdf

Local authorities and utilities need to work together to deliver essential street and road works, this process backs the Government's non-regulatory stance. The main headings of the Code are Permitting, Advanced Planning, Use of Minimum Dig Techniques, Plating of Excavations to enable Traffic to Flow at Peak Times, Working Outside Peak Hours, Standard Information Signage, Inspections, First Time Permanent Reinstatements, and Good Practice Guide. For this to be successful it will require a flexible and co-operative approach by all.

Performance Measures

Work continues on the Performance Scorecard and the measures have been provisionally agreed. We are now working with the EToN Developers Group (EDG) to ensure that the proposed measures are workable. A meeting was held in December 2010 to discuss priorities with the EDG. The EDG is producing data evidence using data from approximately 20 authorities with a view to testing the scorecard and what the results will look like. The Performance Working Group will review the data and it is hoped the data collection process will commence in October 2011.

Personnel Notices

Robert Hudleston has retired from Surrey County Council. Robert was an active member of the HAUC Community for many years and was highways side chair of the Safety Working Party, the Training and Accreditation Working Group and was a member of the Communications Group. Robert will still assist the working groups for a short while. We wish him well.

Phil Cameron has taken over as highways side chair of the Safety Working Party.

HAUC(UK) Meeting Dates

Revised dates to those previously considered have been agreed by the joint chairs as follows:-

17th February 2011 - LGA Offices

18th May 2011 - RINA, 10 Upper Belgrave Street, London, SW1X 8BQ

28th September 2011 - LGA Offices

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 (17th February), please email the Joint Secretariat at manager@jaguk.org and info@njug.org.uk.

News Items

Yorkshire HAUC Recycling Initiative

Yorkshire HAUC has produced a DVD and documentation on recycling. This was presented to HAUC(UK) at its meeting on the 20th October 2010. Copies of the DVD and documentation can be obtained from Barry Spencer and/or Stephen Gibbons www.yhauc.org.uk.

Good Practice Working Party

The Group is requesting information on the good practice initiatives each region is working on and ask that each regional HAUC displays the information on their website and forwarded to the working group. Chairs of the group are Michael White and Barry Spencer.

HAUC(UK)

HAUC(UK) is looking to change the HAUC(UK) meeting format to make it more relevant and reflect the community's needs and providing a stronger link to Regional HAUCs

At each meeting there will be two presentations of 10-15 minutes each, either focussing on good practice or a topical or issue difficult to resolve. Regional/National or Working Group Joint Chairs are requested to indicate to the Joint Secretariat if they or a member of their team wish to provide a presentation when submitting their reports for the meeting.