

early 2012, with a view to implementation from April 2012.



HAUC(UK) – "one voice delivering excellence in road and street works" *Newsletter, March 2011 (no.7)*

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

HAUC(UK) has updated its Business Plan to reflect the new DfT Business Plan and the Devolved Administrations' priorities. The Plan has been delivered to all HAUC(UK) members including Regional and National Chairs and we hope they will now become an integral part of regional meetings. 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. The main points are:

- **Safety Code of Practice (CoP)** - deferred to revisit proposals with a view to reducing the impact on industry - suggested publication date of October 2011 ready for April 2012 implementation.
- **Inspections CoP** - also being revisited to consider a more proportionate approach. System changes to EToN are likely, which may defer implementation to April 2013.
- **Records CoP** - has been given a lower priority by DfT with currently no commitment to revise the Records CoP despite a draft version already produced. Industry continues to press for revision and in the meantime the National Underground Assets Group is holding a voluntary trial of exchange of records within the M25 commencing April 2011. NJUG CEO Les Guest gave a presentation on NUAG which can be viewed here (<http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/uploads/HAUC%20UK%20170211%20-%20NUAG%20presentation.pdf>)
- **Increase in S74 Charges** – JAG(UK) and NJUG responses to a further restricted consultation submitted prior to a meeting with DfT on 10th February. Government is currently considering responses prior to planned implementation October 2011.
- **Lane Rental** – Consultation expected Spring 2011; Regulations expected to be laid December 2011; Planned implementation April 2012.

Devolve Approval Powers of Permit Schemes to Local Authorities – Consultation expected mid 2011; Revised Regulations expected to be laid

HAUC (UK) NSG Working Group - Updates

A joint venture between Ordnance Survey and Local Government has resulted in the acquisition of Intelligent Addressing and the formation of a new company called GeoPlace. This venture has been given clearance by the OFT (subject to appeal). The NSG will continue to provide a 'business as usual' service to the community. However, over the next 6 weeks a number of cosmetic changes to the current NSG website may be seen.

The current DfT Data Capture Code List will be hosted by GeoPlace from 1st April. **Assistance from JAG UK and NJUG will be required to clean this list.** Data will be provided to these groups and the intention is to have the codes cleaned and available from the NSG website from 1st April.

Please see document entitled SWA_CODE.xls. This has been placed on the HAUC/NSG Working group CoP. Returns should be emailed to swa_code@thensg.org.uk

Level 1 NSG (NSG data with no geometry) data will no longer be available from 1st April 2011.

ODD files to be provided to the hub in exchange for NSG data in place for May 2011.

Functionality regarding the issue of no change data submissions is anticipated for 1st May 2011. Downloaders of NSG data will be able to see if authority files change from month to month.

Utilities will be able to customise their NSG profiles on the NSG website so that they only see data that they have an interest in – in place for 1st April 2011. Future functionality will include a 'one button' download – date for rollout tbc

ASD Polygons has had its profile raised in light of recent requirements highlighted by members of the lane rental group. The NSG community is keen to progress this element with the intention that this work forms the foundation for other types of ASD polygons. There is already an established polygon working group and their remit is to be extended to look at ASD polygons. This will be progressed by the NSG HAUC Working group and the Lane Rental requirements can be fed in via this group.

Training & Accreditation - Update

SQA are working with groups on the re-assessment packages and this will comply with the SROH version three. They are Drawing up a bank of questions with a view to delivering an electronic test process

Events

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

SEHAUC Event – 6th July

Sandown Racecourse

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

Stafford County Showground

DfT Update

As part of the Comprehensive Spending Review and deficit reduction plans the DfT will be losing 25% of its staff in the coming months. Therefore the focus on raising standards and reducing disruption through self-regulation will become even more important.

HAUC(UK) Advice Notes

Consultations are ongoing in terms of the Good Practice Group Communications Protocol and also the Work Area Footprint in relation to the Notices and Coordination COP.

Good Practice

The Good Practice Group have developed a Communications Protocol. At the recent HAUC(UK) meeting Representatives asked for a further four week consultation which means responses should be with the joint chairs Michael White and Barry Spencer by 18 March 2011.

Communications Group

The Communications Group continues with its aims, we are looking at new merchandise that will celebrate 25 years of HAUC(UK). Our focus at all regional events this year will be to continue to promote good practice. The joint stand at events was a great success in 2010 and we want to build on this in 2011. We want to encourage all attendees at events to come and meet us, ask questions or seek help! We are there for you!"

Personnel Notices

Stephen Gibbons YHAUC and Barnsley MBC - Retiring
Keith Todd YHAUC and Doncaster MBC - Retiring
Alex Rae Scottish and Southern Water- Retiring
Rob Scott has taken over from Robert Hudleston as Highways side Training and Accreditation Chair.

We wish them all well and are very grateful for their support.

We are very sorry to have to let you know that Mike Braband, formerly of EDF Energy and who many of you will know from

his sterling work on the 'On Any Workday' and 'Safe for All' Safety Video's which were shown at the HSC and some of the regional conferences, passed away. Mike was a passionate and committed individual whose focus was on making safety a priority for all of us

HAUC (UK) Meeting Dates

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, please email the Joint Secretariat at manager@jaguk.org and info@njug.org.uk.

News Items

Performance Group - The Performance Scorecard continues to flourish. The Group is working with the DfT to devise a launch plan. There are still a few items that require clarification but the wait will soon be over.

Diversionsary Works - The Group has just issued a new, comprehensive HAUC(UK) Advice Note covering many aspects of the current Code of Practice. The Diversionsary Works Working Group is now focussing on concerns about high-specification town centre redevelopment works which are creating difficulties for utility companies. Use of expensive imported surfacing materials on a thick concrete base in town centre redevelopments is resulting in difficult access and high extra costs for undertakers. Diversionsary Works are often not practicable as service connections to shops and offices need to be maintained. Over-sophisticated works specifications and limited availability of replacement materials seem likely to lead to rapid degradation of some of these showcase areas. The Working Group now has a remit from HAUC(UK) to review all work previously done on this and to develop a formal advice note.

Permits - The first Permits Forum was held on 31st January with the Chairs of the group named as Peter Loft and Helena Kakouratos. The Group is to be the advice centre for those thinking of schemes or those with schemes.