



HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

HAUC(UK) – "one voice delivering excellence in road and street works" Newsletter, May 2011 (no.8)

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

Welcome to the eighth HAUC(UK) Newsletter, designed to provide a news update to members.

In the **silver anniversary year** of HAUC(UK), we were delighted to finally launch the HAUC(UK) Code of Conduct at the recent HAUC(UK) meeting, following input from members. As many of you will be aware, the joint HAUC(UK) Code of Conduct will apply to both utilities and local authorities, and has been adapted from, and builds on, the Mayor of London's Code of Conduct and NJUG's National Code of Conduct. We are also in advanced discussions with our Scottish colleagues about adapting it so that it could apply to apply to Scotland.

The HAUC(UK) Code of Conduct and details about how to sign-up can be found on the HAUC(UK) website:
<http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/category/3/pageid/110/>

The Code is another important milestone in the partnership between utilities and local authorities to work together to minimise disruption and improve standards of road and street works. It is also further evidence of industry's ability to self-regulate, which the DfT are very keen to see.

However the Code will only be effective if our members commit to its principles and we will therefore be writing to our members urging sign-up. We recognise that members cannot be expected to deliver on every element of the Code as it will not be appropriate or necessary in every circumstance, and that is not the purpose. Rather, signing up to the Code is a commitment to working together to implement the principles that are appropriate to help you reduce disruption and improve the quality of works.

We therefore hope to have your support and assistance in promoting the benefits of the Code to your colleagues and beyond.

DfT Update

A busy summer of consultations is expected with the DfT intending to consult on the devolvement of **permit approval powers** to local authorities and **lane rental proposals** before the summer recess. The latter is expected to focus on a small number of local pilots on the most congested parts of the road network. TfL is also intending to consult on their proposed lane rental scheme very soon after the DfT consultation is published.

Yet to be clarified is the DfT's position on **S74 overrun charges**, but they still hope to finalise the details by October with a target implementation date of April 2012. However the DfT have reported hopeful signs from their economists reviewing the **Safety CoP**, so watch this space....

On other matters, the Cabinet Office has launched the **'Red Tape Challenge'** – an initiative to engage and consult with the public on legislation. Road traffic legislation went up for consultation 20th May and organisations can also respond so this is your chance to have your say:

<http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/home/index/>

Finally, changes to the street works team have been confirmed. Matt Tyler, Alanna Barber and Beth Godden are staying put and we also welcome the newest member of the team Ann Morley. Sadly we say goodbye to Kevin and Vida who are moving to other posts as well as Richard Buckley who has decided to move to pastures new (albeit within the DfT). He has been replaced by Spencer Palmer. On behalf of HAUC(UK) we would like to thank Richard, Kevin and Vida for their efforts and contributions over the years and wish them all the best. We also look forward to continuing to work with the DfT street works team.

NSG Update

As of 1st April 2011, 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. However, there is no change to the NSG and the community will continue to be provided with a 'business as usual' service.

The DfT Data Capture Code List is now hosted by GeoPlace. This can be found on the NSG website here:
<http://www.thensg.org.uk/iansg/link.htm?nwid=20026>

The NSG Data Entry Conventions (NSG DEC) Working Group has been reconvened. Any issues with NSG data that may be down to data entry should be reported. The NSG DEC can be then be updated where required. Items for consideration of the working group should be sent through to Abbas Lokat (Abbas.Lokat@geoplace.co.uk).

The Olympic and Paralympic Route Network is available to download from the NSG website as uncoupled ASD. Data should be loaded on a monthly basis in the same way as TfL, and Network Rail ASD is loaded. The ASD data available incorporates the Core, Alternative, Training and Venue networks. The additional routes as a result of the embargo expansion and torch route (both now confirmed) will be available as will road events when confirmed.

'Black Book' Reinstatement Guide

The 'Black Book' reinstatement guide has been revised and is available in pdf format on the SWHAUC website:
http://www.swhauc.org.uk/files/1914_SWHAUC_reinstatement_guide_9-2-11.pdf

Olympics / Paralympics

Transport for London has recently issued "Clearway 2012 Rules of Engagement for Planned Works – May 2011" which sets out the principles for planned works within and around London in the run-up to and during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The key change is that the embargo on planned works has been expanded such that:

- **Embargo 1** - On the Core Olympic Road Network (ORN), Venue ORN and A501 (on Alternative ORN), where physical temporary traffic measures will be implemented, there will be an embargo from **1 March to 30 September 2012**.
- **Embargo 2** - On the remainder of the ORN where no temporary traffic measures will be implemented, the Training ORN and all key bus routes and all 'A' and 'B' routes there will be an embargo between **1 July to 9 September 2012**.

Therefore, works promoters should not plan to undertake any works during these periods. A wide-ranging communications programme continues, urging developers and others needing a new connection in 2012 to talk to their utility service provider asap. But when connections requests are received utilities are asked to seek to persuade customers to bring works forward or defer them.

Some flexibility might be possible in exceptional circumstances and works promoters are advised to contact the relevant authority if customers insist on a connection during the embargo times.

Qualification Reassessment Process

- Tests can only be taken at a registered reassessment centre.
- Candidates will be required to show proof of existing registration.
- Candidates will be required to show proof of identity.
- Tests will be multiple choice, open book and take 30 minutes for each Unit.
- 80% pass mark, ie 8 out of the 10 questions must be answered correctly.
- Candidates will know results before leaving the centre.
- Candidates who fail, cannot retake the test on the same day.
- Training/Retraining must be kept completely separate from assessment.

New Working Groups

HAUC(UK) is setting up a new working group to consider the issue of **theft of iron work and metal**. Additionally local authority and utility HAUC(UK) representatives will be working with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to **help produce a guidance for local authorities on the roll-out of broadband**.

Performance Scorecard

The Performance Working Group Co-Chairs presented the HAUC(UK) Performance Scorecard at the 18th May HAUC(UK) meeting and there will also be a presentation at the HAUC(UK)/RAUC(Scotland) event on 2nd June. Its purpose is to enable all works promoters to benchmark performance, identify strengths and weaknesses, monitor overall trends and provide robust evidence for policy making and intervention. The presentation slides can be viewed here:

<http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/uploads/Performance%20Scorecard%20Launch%20Presentation%20May%202011.pdf>

The Scorecard will be formally launched in October, with the first data collection starting in December.

SROH Training

An informative and successful SROH training session was held at North-East HAUC in March led by Tom Lambert and Richard Aston-Wright from Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions. They have extended an invitation to provide other regional HAUCs with similar training. Should any wish to accept the offer, please contact Tom (Tom.Lambert@bbusl.com).

London Permit Scheme report

The report on the first year of the London Permit Scheme has now been published. The report can be viewed on the OneRoadNetworks website: <http://www.oneroadnetwork.org/>

Personnel Notices

HAUC(UK) would like to wish Steve Hennah, who has decided to take early retirement, all the best for the future and would like to thank him for his valued contribution over the years. He has been replaced as Welsh HAUC Chair by Patsy Ward and as HAUC(UK) Inspections Working Group Chair by Mark Ostheimer.

HAUC (UK) Meeting Dates

28th September 2011 LGA Offices
1st February 2012 Venue tbc
30th May 2012 Venue tbc
17th October 2012 Venue tbc

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.