

Aberdeenshire Council

Local RAUC Meeting

Draft Minutes of Meeting Held on 17 May 2017 in the Gordon House, Inverurie

Present:	Philip Leiper (Chair)	PL	Aberdeenshire Council
	Wendy McLaren	WMcL	Aberdeenshire Council
	David Vesco	DV	Aberdeenshire Council
	Fiona McLaren	FMcL	Aberdeenshire Council
	Anne Buchan	AB	Aberdeenshire Council
	Graham Smith	GS	Aberdeenshire Council
	Ralph Newlands	RN	Bear Scotland
	Duncan MacLennan	DMacL	Openreach
	Darren Pointer	DP	Scottish Water
	Irvine Ellis	IE	SSE

Apologies:	Alan Howie	SGN
	Clare Callaghan	Scottish Water

ITEM		ACTION
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting Accepted as accurate	
3	Matters Arising SW Manhole cover on Souterford Road, Inverurie PL passed details to CC but no action has been taken. DP to investigate. BT (or contractors) blaming council for delays There has only been 1 instance in the last 6 months which BT dealt with well. Recording of Potential Works PL asked Aberdeenshire reps if they have been entering potential works on SRWR. Not all have. PL reiterated need to record them to forewarn utilities. Access to Scottish Water GIS GS stated that some council staff were still reporting they did not have user accounts. These had been requested but it is unclear if they have been created or if users were informed. PL to raise with CC.	<div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 100px;">DP</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 100px;">Aberdeenshire Areas</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 100px;">PL</div>

4	<p>Minutes of NoSRAUC Meetings</p> <p>Only the minutes from 1st Feb were available. PL highlighted the following items:</p> <p>Quality Plans – Working Group is looking at option to remove emphasis on inspections and place it on the digging organisation.</p> <p>Relationships between Site Operatives and Members of the Public – better communication on what is happening is required.</p> <p>Scottish Transport Bill – a new bill is being prepared.</p> <p>SRWC Indicators Aberdeenshire – works extensions have increased slightly. Openreach – Number of outstanding reinstatements had increased but DMacL reported that the number had since decreased. No VAULT submission had been made. DMacL reported that Openreach were now trying to secure funding for the project. SSE – Number of early starts was too high.</p> <p>Superfast Broadband – PL raised an issue with a cabinet in Tarves. The original cabinet had been replaced with a bigger one resulting in reduction in visibility at junction. Planning had been notified about the new fibre cabinet at the rear but Roads Authority had not. David Armitage is carrying out independent review on behalf of council. DMacL stated that this was unlikely to happen now.</p> <p>S113 Validity Loophole – SRWR adheres to code of practice. Discussion ongoing as to possible solution.</p> <p>List of Contacts for Network Rail – GS to send list.</p>	GS
5	<p>Manhole Covers</p> <p>PL reported that a number of manhole covers installed at Chapleton had been of poor quality and presented photos of several. These were manufactured by Clark Drains and had failed prematurely. The photos suggested that these covers were not new when installed. PL emphasised that the edge of frames should be supported before traffic is allowed over them.</p> <p>PL reported on a court case involving a motor cyclist who skidded on a SSE cover. The texture of the cover had gone and it was now shiny. Aberdeenshire Council settled out of court. It was found that there was no record of the problem being</p>	Aberdeenshire

	<p>reported. In future, inspectors will need to record shiny covers as defective apparatus on the SRWR.</p> <p>PL reported on a missing fire hydrant cover in Prince Street, Peterhead. It had been reported through Confirm and SW had been informed 6 months ago but no action had been taken. It had not been recorded in the SRWR. AB stated that Formartine had reported a faulty fire hydrant to SW but the contact centre had not taken responsibility. PL asked Aberdeenshire reps to make sure that inspectors always record defects on the SRWR. DP confirmed that SW are responsible for fixing or replacing covers. No temporary covers are available for fire hydrants.</p> <p>PL reported on an issue in Garioch SW manhole covers were to be replaced by Aberdeenshire Council while surface dressing. The new covers had not been requested early enough. PL encouraged Areas to give SW plenty of time to supply replacement covers before works begin.</p>	<p>Areas</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Areas</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Areas</p>
6	<p>Major Works – Roads Authority</p> <p>Aberdeenshire reps confirmed that this year's maintenance programme is now on the SRWR. PL reiterated that the programme now consisted almost entirely of surface dressing. Although this would not restrict utilities from gaining access to roads, the council would still want to avoid newly dressed roads being dug up if possible.</p>	
7	<p>Major Works – Utilities</p> <p>Bear RN reported that Bear currently resurfacing and white lining sections of A96T between Kintore and Blackhall Roundabout. Have not received permission to work on roundabout yet.</p> <p>Utilities did not have any issues with trunk roads.</p> <p>Openreach DMacL reported on the superfast broadband project.</p> <p>Scottish and Southern Energy IE informed the group that there were no major works in the pipeline.</p> <p>Scottish Water DP provided list of works taking place over the next 3 months. SW are looking 2 years ahead and will be putting potential works on the SRWR. As they are firmed up, they will be changed to proposed.</p>	

	<p>DP raised an issue regarding reinstatement categories. Kirk Street, Peterhead is showing as a Class 4 road on the SRWR. It should be a Class 2. PL and GS to investigate roads in that area and correct any errors.</p>	PL/GS
8	<p>Scottish Road Works Register</p> <p>GS informed the group that submissions had been received for the new SRWR contract. The new service provider was likely to be announced in June with a start date of 1 April 2018.</p>	
9	<p>Performance Management</p> <p>PL commented on the internal SRWR performance review for Aberdeenshire. The main issues are:</p> <p>Sample Inspections – 88% were carried out last year, an increase on the previous year but we should be doing 100%. PL requested that inspectors carry out all sample inspections this year. PL reviewed the sample inspections report and was pleased to see pass rates improving.</p> <p>Early Starts – 50% of works required an early start. Although early starts can be justified, they should not be used to get round bad planning.</p> <p>Variation in Works Registered – there is a wide variation in number of works registered across the 6 Areas.</p> <p>Noticing Failures – The overall number was low but almost all the failures related to start notices or works clear/closed notices We should be able to get these right.</p>	Aberdeenshire Areas
10	<p>Legislation</p> <p>PL informed the meeting that there would be changes to the HAUC(S) certification process in September but no details were available yet.</p>	
11	<p>AOCB</p> <p>RN reported that Bear had received complaints regarding BT going in and setting up followed by a delay in doing the work during which time, nothing appeared to be happening. RN suggested that better communication with the public would help.</p> <p>PL highlighted a problem regarding the burst water mains in Westhill. At the time, it was difficult to find a suitable contact at</p>	

	<p>SW. However, what was a major repair was completed in 1½ weeks which was commendable.</p> <p>AB highlighted 2 incidents where temporary traffic lights failed and the police asked for a 2 hour response. It had taken SW 3 hours to respond. PL requested additional contact information from DP. If similar incidents happened in the future, DP asked people to email him with the LA Ref.</p> <p>DMacL informed the group that A Plant are now managing the urgent works process for service delivery using the promoter prefix BT034. The process was working well. It was reported that A Plant were not contacting the council regarding TM on some occasions.</p> <p>DP advised council inspectors to keep a look-out for vehicles on site without chevrons on the back or workers without long sleeve vests or jackets. There had been a case in Moray. PL advised that inspectors should fail an inspection under signing & guarding.</p> <p>SW are following up a manhole problem in Westburn Avenue, Inverurie with the developer.</p> <p>DP requested contact details for Area staff. AB to issue list of engineers and inspectors.</p> <p>WMcL Reported that inspectors were not able to log more than 2 defects a day to SW because they would not accept more. DP thought that it must be SW100 (Scottish Water Noticing) who were imposing this restriction. His area does not have any restriction. DP will investigate.</p> <p>WMcL reported that there had been an oil leak into Milton Burn, Kemnay and hence the River Don. The council was investigating the source. As the problem was being dealt with, no action was required.</p> <p>FMcL reported an issue with SW emergency works on the B9077 South Deeside Road. LA Ref 2243918. Traffic lights had failed during rush hour. Seivwrights were doing a permanent reinstatement but had not recorded the work on the SRWR. They also did not have a traffic light permit. FMcL had given the details to Clare Callaghan and had been promised a response but heard nothing. She asked for an update but got no response. DP to raise issue with CC.</p> <p>PL stated that there had been other issues with Seivwrights. DP reported that SW had had problems as well. PL to collate issues and call in Seivwrights to remind them of their duties.</p>	<p>DP</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Areas</p> <p>AB</p> <p>DP</p> <p>DP</p> <p>PL</p>
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	<p>FMcL found it confusing that BT notices were coming from two sources with A Plant handling urgent works and London dealing with planned works. DMacL advised that A Plant would eventually take over all noticing.</p> <p>GS informed the group that there had been an access problem outside a polling place during the EU Referendum in 2016, due to a road closure. As a result, for the Local Elections in May, a non-works disruption was recorded on the SRWR for each road with a polling place, warning organisations of the need to avoid working near a polling place on election day. Anyone trying to register works would have seen a conflict. The same thing has been repeated for the General Election on 8th June.</p> <p>PL advised the group that a new organisation called everflow, had started operating in Aberdeenshire. They provide water, sewer, gas and electricity connections. The project team building a new boatshed in Buchanhaven, Peterhead contracted everflow to provide water and sewer services. Everflow only do the connections so are using a local contractor to do the excavation and reinstatement. The contractor has contacted the council as they are unhappy with everflow. PL asked if any of the utilities had come across everflow but they had not.</p>	
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Dates of Next Meetings:

15 Nov 2017 – 9.30 for 10.00, Council Chamber, Gordon House, Inverurie

Contact Details

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