



**SOUTH EAST AREA ROADS AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the QUARTERLY MEETING held on 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021**

**This meeting was convened via MS Teams – 35 joined the meeting remotely.**

<b>Jason Halliday(Chair)</b>	<b>JHa</b>	<b>West Lothian Council</b>
Gerry Cullen	GC	Traffic Scotland
Alan Heatley	AH	Midlothian Council
Iain Ross	IR	OSRWC
Carol-Ann Dodd	CAD	Midlothian Council
Chris Murray	CM	Sky
Adrian Henzler	AHe	Openreach
John Henderson	JH	Scottish Borders Council
Julie Greig	JG	SGN
Clare Callaghan	CC	Scottish Water
Ruth Scott	RS	Neos Networks
Alistair Wales	AW	Verizon
Lindsay Henderson	LH	OSRWC
Brian Wilson	BW	Scottish Borders Council
Jim Forbes	JF	Cityfibre
Andrew Matheson	AM	Virgin Media
Stefeni Cownley	SC	ESPUG
Michael Casey	MC	Royal Mail
Stuart Harding	SH	City of Edinburgh Council
Fiona McInnes	FMcI	Scottish Water
Craig McQueen	CMcQ	Scottish Water
Caroline Auld	CA	Network Rail
Kat Quane	KQ	Transport Scotland
Eleni Gigourtaki	EG	East Lothian Council
Stephen Kitt	SK	BEARScotland
Martin Polland	MP	Transport Scotland
Joao Carmo	JC	SPEN
David Hearty	DH	MBNL-EE/3
Martin Hall	MH	Telefonica
Craig Wilson	CW	lastmile-uk
Carole McDonald	CM	Cityfibre
Nichola Millar	NM	SGN
Gordon Brown	GB	West Lothian Council
Barry Hall	BH	gtc-uk

In attendance:

Brian Cooper	BC	Secretarial Support
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Apologies: John Balmer, Lindsay Roberts, Katrina Hardy

## **1. Welcome, attendance and apologies**

Jason Halliday as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting - Attendance and apologies as recorded above.

## **2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021**

The draft Minute circulated by the Secretary prior to the meeting was agreed as a true record.

Action Tracking: (i) Update following meeting of RAs on 27<sup>th</sup> August to discuss RAUCS Constitution/AreaRAUC Proposed Changes – SH confirmed the meeting had taken place and RAs are content for proposals to be implemented on the proviso this will be reviewed in 2024.

(ii) Item 5b: VAULT Data – IR advised that BT had signed-up to provide their Data with no further progress as yet, but referred to the impending Legislation regarding this matter.

## **3. National Coring Update**

CMcQ advised that following a meeting of the WG the previous week the latest Draft AN3 was ready to be circulated for information and approval at the RAUCS meeting on 1/12/21.

SUs were asked to confirm their Contacts/Details for the Coring Programme to Lindsay Henderson at the OSRWC.

IR is arranging a Lead Authorities meeting during w/c 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Next WG meeting in preparation for 2022 is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Ongoing discussion regarding the eligibility of narrow trenching.

## **4. RAUCS Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2021 – Update/Matters Arising**

The Chair provided background information in relation to the following matters:

- New RAUCS Roads Co-Chair is Philip McKay, Aberdeenshire Council and Vice Chair of SCOTS
- Importance of the COP26 between 31<sup>st</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November was raised with a reminder of the traffic closures and restrictions
- The HAUC UK App is definitely worth looking at
- Delivery of EV charging infrastructure in Scotland being rolled out by Local Authorities will have an impact on RAs and Power SUs
- Agreed to the RAUCS Constitution/AreaRAUC changes as proposed on the proviso a further review is held in 2024
- Noted the Coring Programme would be based on the current five AreaRAUCs

- The QPWG will submit a Quality Plans final draft for approval at the December RAUCS meeting
- Red Book compliance for RAs from 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 with enforcement from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January, 2022
- Agreed that the Secretaries could revert to sending e mails with recipients' addresses shown, rather than Bcc, provided works e mail addresses are used

## **5. SRWC Report and Performance and Management - OSRWC**

### 5a – Performance:

LH referred to the SRWC 2021/22 Quarter 2 Dashboard in the One-drive shared folder.

Following further engagement a small number of organisations are continuing to engage with the SRWC.

Four organisations are currently on Improvement Plans with two possible removals following sufficient improvement.

### 5b – SRWC Report:

In conjunction with Transport Scotland a short online Webinar on the TSA2019 for senior contacts had been held on 28<sup>th</sup> October – it had been well-received and a further event is to be organised early in 2022.

The Commissioner has submitted a research proposal to the Scottish Road Research Board for a project to look at the service life of reinstatements. Taking into account the future impact of various legislative changes the research aims to develop criteria for inspecting reinstatements at 6 years. RAUCS member input into the project is expected.

SROR Review: discussions with consultants still ongoing with the aim of having the technical editor in place by the end of November.

### 5c – SRWR Report:

IR advised that the Prescribed Fees and Amounts for 2022/23 as circulated were “ball-park” figures, as a rough guide at this stage.

He confirmed Symology had upgraded the SRWR to use their Aurora v2, with any early issues fixed promptly – enhancements helped the look and feel of the system, making it more user-friendly and usable, with improvements to the mapping and some new functionality around reporting. Further details can be found on the Aurora Community Portal news page.

As reported previously RAUCS Secretaries George Borthwick and Brian Cooper now have access to Office 365. IR referred to the Papers for this meeting being available via a Link to a OneDrive shared folder – Please give Iain feedback on this method of sharing papers. George and Brian have new e mail addresses as well [George.borthwick@raucs.scot](mailto:George.borthwick@raucs.scot) and [brian.cooper@raucs.scot](mailto:brian.cooper@raucs.scot)

IR reminded everyone to keep George apprised of changes to local coordination and WG membership, and to provide copies of Minutes/Papers for the website.

Indigo Pipelines(gas), Indigo Power(electricity), Borderlink Broadband(telecoms) and Netomnia(telecoms), have been given access to the SRWR.

IR concluded with a warning that Android Devices and Apps will not work any longer.

## **6. Improvement Notices**

There are currently no Improvement Notices in place in the South East Area

## **7. Health and Safety**

Safety Bulletins continue to be circulated for noting and action where necessary – members are encouraged to suggest matters for discussion under this item for future meetings.

## **8. Environmental Issues**

JF took the lead on this item – given COP26 is currently underway in Glasgow, RAUCS wants to stimulate appropriate debate at Area level on what else can be done – good start by continuing to hold meetings online, saving travel/transport emissions and time. More use of warm mix materials and EVs are good examples as well. KQ commented that roadworks are difficult to de-carbonise but Ministers supportive of increasing use of EVs.

CC pointed out that there is evidence to support a significant reduction in Scottish Water’s carbon footprint by using 30/14 material in footway reinstatements – all Undertakers are interested in using this material but RA agreement is required. JG added that SGN can evidence there is no change in compaction or flexibility in use. CMcQ reminded everyone that this needs to be recorded in the SRWR for coring reference. FMcI asked if SW could start using 30/14 in footways reinstatements too?

SH asked for more clarity as to what RAs are actually being asked to approve.

In conclusion JH agreed that if more details and information can be fed back to him from the SUs, he would arrange a RALG meeting to discuss this matter.

**ACTION: All Undertakers  
and JH.**

## **9. Local RAUCS reports/Programmes of Major Works/Proposed Changes to Road Designations/Local Coring/Events**

Under this Item the Chair asked each of the organisations represented to provide a short update report on their current situation, incorporating the Item headings as above, where applicable:

Transport Scotland:

KQ referred to the update Policy provided in advance of the meeting via the Link. Guidance on home-working, which could still be with us as the current Covid transmission still considered too high by the SG, and she suggested Winter will be challenging.

She reminded the meeting that RAs must comply with the Red Book from 25/11/21 – the HSE is aware of this and possible enforcement from January 2022. Also that the requirement for RAs to have trained operatives will be from Summer 2022, and added a reminder that Section 61 will no longer apply in two weeks time.

Another RQP Webinar is planned for January 2022, and Kat asked for comments on the revised Diversionary Works Code.

The method used to calculate the Prescribed Fees/amounts is unlikely to be changed for two more years, but if anyone has any ideas for possible future changes please e mail Kat asap.

Voluntary implementation of certain aspects of the VAULT could be implemented in 2022, but the process involved in mandatory aspects is more likely 2023, given the time needed for the relevant process.

Roads Authorities:

- RA works entered on the SRWR - Consultations on remain/remove of Spaces for People measures in some areas - some roads affected by TTROs/ traffic management/signing for Vaccination Centres, Christmas embargoes scheduled - no local coring in any RA area currently - No changes to road designations - Local Coordination Meetings either held or planned (Edinburgh holding meetings fortnightly) - in East Lothian major works planned at the QMU will affect the A1 dual carriageway in the new year; Winchburgh Developments -major works scope widened, and will include road closures and major works affecting the Motorway slip road – BEAR: ongoing works on the Register
- Edinburgh mindful of Festive hospitality and events/ activities starting and issued a reminder of the planned Christmas Embargo to follow COP26 restrictions - Trams to Newhaven major project continues
- Plea to SUs to attend/send representatives to local coordination meetings
- Gerry Cullen, Traffic Scotland, would be added to the organisations listed under this Agenda item

Statutory Undertakers:

- SUs confirmed all works on Register - Cityfibre having ongoing discussions with CEC regarding works and performance - SGN, S/W, Openreach ongoing Coring - SGN would appreciate photos of defective ironwork – Virgin Media major works planned for ELC, MLC and WLC areas in 2022

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

a) The Chair advised this would be the penultimate meeting of the SERAUC, with the Constitution/boundary changes/proposals coming into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 JF asked everyone to review the proposed Agendas circulated and give him an feedback. JF also suggested that a discussion is necessary involving the the new RAs in the new areas, and said that SGN would succeed to the Chair of the new ERAUC.

b)The dates of the ERAUC Meetings in 2022 are Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

c) The Secretary referred to the List of Plant Protection Systems circulated and asked the SUs to check the information and respond to him with any changes

## **10. Date of next meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022(by MS Teams)**

BC – December, 2021;

