

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils – LOCAL RAUC MEETING, 9th May 2023

TEAMS MEETING

Attendees: -

Kevin Abercrombie, ACC (KA)

Julie Greig, SGN (JG)

Fiona McInnes, SW (FMcl)

Irvine Ellis, SSE (IE)

Owen Kendall, CityFibre (OK)

Darren Pointer, SW (DP)

Karyn Davidson, Vodaphone (KD)

Colin Heggie, AMEY (CH)

Michael Gray, AMEY (MG)

Adrian Henzler, Openreach (AH).

Neil Christie, Converged (NC)

Andy McKay, Converged (AM)

David Murdoch, Network Rail (DM)

Apologies:

Brian Strachan, Aberdeenshire Council (BS)

Agenda

Introductions and Welcomes.

NC and **AM** from **Converged** introduced themselves to the meeting.

Minutes of Meeting, 17th January 2023.

KA – ACC's programme of resurfacing works has been provided and at first glance it doesn't appear that there are any routes highlighted that pose any serious issues (in terms of disruption to the adjacent network) and all are recorded on Aurora.

Ongoing Programme of works: South College Street redevelopment. Works are proceeding and are due to be complete by the end of June 2023.

King George VI bridge: This re-waterproofing/ resurfacing project was held off in 2022 due to the bridge being part of the Queen's agreed funeral cortege route. This could not be re-programmed

until after events unfolded, and as such were agreed to commence in late Spring 23. Unforeseen issues are continuing to push back the completion date, which is now moving into July 2023. Due to the serious congestion associated with these works, major restrictions have been implemented on a number of the nearby diversion routes until these works are complete.

City Centre Redevelopment – The proposed redevelopment of Union Street is scheduled to commence in early 2024. The centre section (between Market Street and Bridge Street) will be the first phase, and this will require major utility diversion/ upgrade works to future proof the new layout for the next 10 years. As and when dates are confirmed, these will be forwarded by the Project team. This will include the redevelopment of the Indoor Market Site (between Union Street and Hadden Street) which is due to commence in Q4 of 2023. **KA** to discuss further with **DP** to determine the potential works associated with the Merchant Quarter works.

Events: **KA** highlighted the upcoming events programme (Armed Forces Day, 1st July, Celebrate Aberdeen 26th August). The main event is the World Pipe Band Championships at the Duthie Park on the 24th of June 23, but as this falls within the existing KGV1 bridge works, the restrictions are already in place.

Utility Works Programme:

Vodafone: KD – 14Km fibre access core growth route from Aberdeen to Dyce is ongoing and no issues have been encountered to date. **KA** highlighted an ongoing issue with a defective lid on Market Street at Union Square, which is hoped will be tied in with CityFibre's upcoming works in May (Vodafone have a notice raised for November 23).

CityFibre: OK confirmed works are still ongoing at Culter/ Kingswells and they are hoping to get into Market Street soon, as an agreement with the Harbour Board has been reached. As above, **KA** highlighted the need to have the dates confirmed to allow Vodafone time to gear up to address the lid/frame issue at Union Square.

SGN: JG Started by thanking ACC for their assistance with works which required to be rescheduled. **JG** then confirmed that new 0131 numbers had been set up to ensure that any enquiries could be dealt with at all times. No specific project within the city was mentioned.

SW: FMcl confirmed that all works were on the system. **FMcl** also thanked ACC for their assistance with the works on Hareness Road. **DP** confirmed he'd get in touch directly to discuss the Merchant Quarter works as and when he had an update.

SSE: IE confirmed that there were no major project in the pipeline. **KA** mentioned the upcoming removal of HV overhead cables within the Bridge of Don area, which **IE** confirmed were being dealt with by the Transmission Team

BT: AH confirmed that there were no major works, and unfortunately couldn't provide the programme which Duncan McLennan used to at this time.

Network Rail: DM confirmed that the main works were within Aberdeenshire, and he'd speak to them directly as no-one was present on the call.

Utility Issues raised:

SGN: JG highlighted that there were a number of inspections/ FPN's on the system that required attention due to issues with the inspection app and (potentially) wrong noticing of defects. **KA** confirmed he'd investigate and get back to Julie.

SW: FMCI also mentioned issues relating to historic defects on Aurora, which she was in the process of updating. **FMCI** also asked if the existing payment method could be revised to ensure all were being made. **KA** to investigate and confirm. **FMCI** also highlighted issues with traffic light switch offs in Aberdeenshire, but as no-one was on the call, she would bring this up separately. **KA** asked if the NRSWA Compliance email address was still active, which **FMCI** confirmed. **KA** also highlighted issues with the way sink holes were being addressed, and the need for a more joint way of investigating as currently there were numerous individual site visits, which merely extended the duration of the defects. **KA** to raise with Gibby Marr directly until further notice.

AMEY: MG confirmed that their programme was accelerating, but at this time there was not much that impacted on Aberdeen City. He thanked ACC for their assistance with the RTC at the Bridge of Muchall's last week and the way they reacted so swiftly. **MG** also mentioned that a review of the existing SIDDORS was ongoing and requested a joint meeting in the near future. **KA** confirmed this would be fine.

AOCB – no one had any further items for discussion; therefore, the meeting was brought to a close.

Date of next meeting: 12th September 2023 – Hosted by Aberdeenshire Council.