

UK Lighting and Technology Board minutes of meeting held on 14 May 2020 – held via Microsoft Teams

David Denner (Chair)	Welsh Government
Bijan Bassiri	Transport Scotland
Gary Kemp	Department for Transport
Peter Harrison	ILP
Jonathan Hurley	Swansea Council, representing CSS Wales
Simon Langley	Highways England
Keith Tovee	Representing ADEPT
Gary Ross	Department for Infrastructure Northern Ireland
Dean Wendleborn	Westminster City Council, representing LoTAG
Graham Smith	HEA
Justin Ward	CIHT

1. Introduction

David Denner welcomed everyone to the meeting noting the good attendance. Apologies were noted from Glen from SCOTS.

2. Update from Board members – response to Covid-19

Keith Tovee representing ADEPT said that the focus is on local issues but that things are settling now with new working patterns with working from home. ADEPT is also collecting weekly data with each Council outlining what services have been suspended, road surfacing activities and so on and sharing this with DfT. Keith said that the last ADEPT Lighting Group meeting had been cancelled but a meeting was planned for June. Keith said some authorities are considering changes to lighting due to traffic reduction changes.

Jonathan Hurley said his authority had brought all of its workforce to come back to work as of Tuesday this week and presented how different tiers of work were being planned for commencing going forward. Gary Ross said that remote working was going well for office staff, regarding works after an initial three-week period of furloughing contractor staff they have now returned to working on the ground.

Action: Gary Ross to share the risk assessment process in Northern Ireland for column replacement work with Jonathan Hurley (subject to contractors' approval)

The Highway Sector Council guidance was highlighted – see here:

<http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/news/index.cfm/covid-19-local-highways-safe-operating-procedures>

Gary Kemp from DfT provided an update saying that the sector including the supply chain can continue to operate safely during Covid-19. Gary highlighted that the lower levels of traffic meant that there was an opportunity to undertake highways works. David Denner said that the letter from the Minister thanking the construction sector was appreciated.

Simon Langley from Highways England gave an update saying that from Monday they are looking at getting contractors back but this was dependent on contractors' risk assessments. Graham Smith said that in terms of the manufacturing – some had to stop immediately, but most are still undertaking some works although none are operating at 100%. They have amended shift patterns. Designers and consultants are working generally as normal but can not go out on site. The contractors have experienced the major changes with furloughing

staff in smaller organisations (particularly those reliant on housebuilding), however for larger contracting organisations and the government support to encourage continuation of works they have been busy with work; and they have taken advantage of lighter traffic volumes. Graham Smith highlighted G39-3 came out in March and TR22 training course was being considered now. Graham said if your HERS Card or any HESA Training Certificate is due to expire in March, April or May 2020, the original expiration date has now been automatically extended for a further three months. This includes expired EFAW certificates.

Graham flagged this document: <https://www.ena-eng.org/ENA-Docs/>

Peter Harrison said ILP had launched an updated website, that they are getting views internationally on how different countries are managing in the current situation, and how ILP share links between researchers and practitioners. ILP are due to start running webinars and looking at running training online. Saturday is the International Day of Light.

Peter added a number of other elements including the rail sector undertaking works due to reduced timetables of training and referenced the recent announcement on walking and cycling allocation of road space being increased to allow for social distancing, see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reallocating-road-space-in-response-to-covid-19-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities>

There was a discussion about CPD and Peter said that he sees that there is a greater opportunity for online training going forward given the experiences of the current events.

Dean Wendleborn said LoTAG had a virtual meeting recently he also highlighted the reallocation of road space that is being undertaken currently – noting areas in London where this is happening, Dean added this might affect the timing of lighting works being undertaken. Dean said that the Westminster LED programme had continued and work was not that different to prior to Covid-19. LoTAG awards will be run as a virtual event this year. Dean said the west end of London was due to reopen with social distancing measures being put in place.

Bijan Bassiri provided an update from Transport Scotland said that the organisation had completed full use of conference calls and a focus on emergency works in the immediate response to covid. The LED upgrade had slowed but Bijan said that this would hopefully return to normality.

Action: David Denner to check with Bijan Bassiri on SCOTS representation on the UK Lighting & Technology Board and if Glen is able to engage with the Board

David Denner said the Welsh Government have taken the view that they want the construction industry to continue and that this will help economically. David also noted that Ministers wanted to see an increase in active travel (and allocation of space for this) but that budget allocations for this had not yet been announced; David added that this would have an influence on the electrical sector. He mentioned that safe working practices were being put in place for people who have to work at sites.

3. State of Nation Lighting Report

David Denner said that Lindsay McGregor (who is leading the work) has run into a few problems with electricity companies not assisting with providing data – those electricity companies have said that Lindsay would need to write to individual authorities.

Action: Gary Kemp to explore if DfT can help with a supportive letter to write to electricity companies to provide the date regarding the State of Nation Lighting Report. Gary to investigate if this is possible (noting legal clearances required)

David Denner said that this information should be available and that the organisations involved are different government bodies including Salix. Gary Kemp asked about the UK wide perspective and it was noted that Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland were supporting measures to secure the data.

David Denner said that the climate emergency was still there and it was an important piece of work so securing the data to complete this work would be really helpful to get a position of LED lighting across the UK.

4. UK Lighting & Technology Board minutes

These were noted. Peter Harrison said that the issue of safety alerts was noted and that Graham Smith had picked this up. A lighting liaison group meeting was due to be taking place next week and that this would be discussed in more detail for improving co-ordination for safety alerts for ensuring the information gets out. David Denner said that Highways England provide a useful process for safety alerts.

Action: Dean Wendleborn to share update on the State of the City

5. UK Roads Liaison Group minutes

The Board noted the minutes. David Denner said that he had asked about research projects and support from DfT for this programme. He said that DfT were going to report back on this. David Denner said that he was keen to get an update on the research proposal on the Management of Electronic Traffic Equipment.

6. Code of Practice updates

David Denner said that ATOMS was discussed at UKRLG and that protocol of signing this off via UKRLG was not undertaken. David Denner noted that any future funding of research would require final sign-off by UKRLG.

Peter Harrison said that a supplementary document will be shortly released to support ATOMS along with an updated spreadsheet document (excellent, good, fair, poor) to help with authorities' management. The aim would be to incorporate this into asset management systems. Dean added that the lighting asset was important in technology terms and should be a core component of asset management systems.

7. Any other business

Dean noted Westminster City Council are shortly looking to gain approval for a third-party guidance document (e.g. for attaching elements to lighting columns). David Denner said that this could be potentially shared at some point as the Welsh Government was looking at something similar.

Date of next meeting – 29 September.