



UK LIGHTING AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD

UK Lighting and Technology Board Minutes of Meeting Held on 23rd June 2022

Held on Microsoft Teams

The Board is chaired by David Denner (Welsh Government) and has the following members:

- Bijan Bassiri, representing Transport Scotland
- Simon Langley, representing Highways England
- Peter Harrison, representing the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP)
- Dean Wendelborn (Westminster Council) representing the London Lighting Engineers Group, (LoLEG) and London's Highways Asset Management Forum (LoTAG)
- Keith Tovee, (Essex Highways) representing ADEPT
- Gary Ross, representing the Department for Infrastructure Northern Ireland
- Jonathan Hurley (Swansea City Council) representing CSS Wales
- Gafoor Din, (Warwickshire County Council) representing ADEPT Traffic Systems Group
- Matt Fisher, representing Young Lighting Professionals (YLP Chairman)
- Matthew Eglinton / Gary Kemp, representing the Department for Transport

In attendance:

David Denner (Chair)
Gafoor Din
Keith Tovee
Jonathon Hurley
Gary Ross
Simon Langley
Gareth Prichard
Dean Wendelborn
Bijan Bassiri
Isobel Wilson (CIHT)

1) **Welcome Introduction and apologies**

Meeting held online due to rail strikes making it difficult for members to travel to Britannia Walk.

Apologies from: Scott Denyer, Matthew Eglinton, Gary Kemp and Peter Harrison.

2) **Minutes of the last UKLTB Meeting (24th February 2022)**

No issues with the previous minutes, but it was noted that they have not been published on the UKRLG website yet.

Actions:

Isobel to publish minutes on website

(Carried forward) David Denner to share more information on Welsh Government

dynamic dimming work

3) **Minutes of the last UKRLG Meeting (22nd April 2022)**

These were shared with the board with no comments or questions. Takeaway message was that business is getting back to normal post COVID-19 and it will hopefully continue this way.

4) **COVID-19 – Lighting sector response – All Discussion**

Gafoor noted that COVID-19 cases are still present, and there has been a small increase in cases recently, but these are minimal compared to last year. However, the virus is still having an impact on delivery services. Restrictions to the highways to accommodate social distancing have now been removed. In term of returning to the office most people have now adopted a hybrid working scheme with people working in the office 2 or 3 days a week, with a small number of people coming in full time if their job requires this (cctv monitoring etc).

David Denner noted that the Welsh Government has required 30% of it's staff to work from home permanently.

Overall, it was the opinion of the board that COVID-19 is no longer a big problem and so specific discussion points regarding the virus can be taken off the agenda going forward.

5) **Updates from UKLB Member Organisations**

• **ADEPT - update from Keith Tovee and Gafoor Din**

Keith spoke about the two concerns facing ADEPT lighting group right now:

- Supply chain issues – namely global material shortages and the volatility of pricing. Essex has one of the largest LED roll-outs but this has ground to a halt due to CMS Telecell shortages.
- Energy market – gone from paying 17.5p to 25/32p and in some cases being estimated at 49p for energy. This is going to have a big effect on energy and maintenance budgets.

Gafoor also gave an update mentioning that:

- supply chain problems and the cost of energy have affected Local Authorities (LAs). He also noted the staff resourcing LAs are under such as electricians and finding people to do design work/ put work out to tender.
- now that technical approval from DfT no longer exists it is now under their responsibility to get technical approval on equipment to be used on highways to ensure that the equipment manufacturers install is fit for purpose.
- A Transport Technology forum has now been established by DfT that is a collaboration between local government and industry to ensure that the highways sector is fit for purpose when new technologies, such as connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs), are ready to be rolled out.

• **CSS Wales - update from Jonathon Hurley**

CSS Wales met last week, the main points they discussed were:

- A meeting has been set up in August to resolve issues with the regional electricity board Western Power. The main issues they want to resolve are Western Power setting up isolation points on wood poles and handing

them over with a two-wire line. They also have issues identifying underground cables and claiming they belong to LAs not Western Power.

- A few queries arose regarding signs on lighting columns, Jonathon told them to look at the Westminster website or to put their queries to him and he can pass them onto Dean Wendelborn.
 - They also talked about dark skies and the colour temperature in the Brecon Beacons. There has been requests to lower the lighting levels and decrease the colour temperature from 3000-2800 to 2500-2200.
- **DfT**
Matthew Eglinton and Gary Kemp send apologies, so no update from them.
 - **Department for Infrastructure, NI – update from Gary Ross**
 - NI have no government again which creates an uncertainty around allocation of funds. They have an interim minister for 6 months.
 - Energy prices are still a massive problem, they are currently in a deficit of £12 million. They have put a contract out for the next 3 years – will be interesting to see what this brings.
 - There are not too many supply chain issues (delivery LEDs is fine but steel is an issue).
 - Department of Finance has issued a procurement guidance note that allows contractors to claim repayments for unreasonable rises in costs over the last couple of years. Hence, they are now dealing with repayment claims from contractors over steel and copper.
 - They have adopted hybrid working with people returning to the office.
 - **National Highways – update from Simon Langley**
 - Facing issues around lack of equipment – part of the M6 is closed ahead of the Commonwealth Games due to a lack of columns installed on this section.
 - Energy costs have gone up – now averaging £22.56 million per year for energy.
 - In the process of amending DMRB and MCHW
 - Started LED roadmap and have started rolling out in Area 10 Manchester (roughly £30 million worth of work). But this depends on if equipment and materials can be obtained.
 - Not been informed on hybrid working – seems most people are still homeworking.
 - **Highway Electrical Association – update from Gareth Prichard**
 - HEA's 'Managing the Supply Chain Together' document has been shared with the board
 - New HEA CEO (Mike Levack) starts on the 4th July
 - HEA have seen the same issues as mentioned by others – supply chain issues, labor shortages, fuel, and energy increases.
 - Have produced a short guidance note that's published on their website on UKCA/UKNI marking – collates government information and makes it easier for people to access.

- Been involved with the DCIA – two BSI publicly available standards being worked on – PAS190 and PAS191. Looking at standards for new multifunction columns and retrofitting to existing columns.
- Gareth mentioned one thing that is striking is the work being done on connectivity and AI, in regard to street lighting departments and traffic departments working in silos, eventually coming to a head. He specifically mentioned a situation which came out of the traffic signals group open meeting – an AI monitoring project was being developed by the traffic department to use bespoke hardware/software linked to traffic signal controllers, whilst the same thing is being looked at by the street lighting department. Gareth wondered if UKLTB could help to connect these departments together?
- NH Sector Scheme Six has been re-drafted and to be published on the Lantra Schedule of Suppliers website soon. (Removes the requirement for any products, which fall under the construction products regulation, to be registered to Sector Scheme Six).
 - [UCAS CertCheck](#) site went live on 16th June
 - The requirement to post certificates is on the UCAS accredited certification bodies

- **ILP**

Peter Harrison retires from the ILP on 24th June and so has sent apologies to miss this meeting, but sent an update to David via email which read:

- PLS this week, over 300 delegates with others available to join remotely. A few issues with those joining online that could have been better but overall a great experience, in spite of the rail strikes!
- GN13/22 Surge Protection for Exterior Lighting is ready to be launched, watch out for ILP newsletters
- PLG05 Brightness of exterior advertisements is nearing completion and addresses issues of how to deal with media screens of all sizes.
- A GN for overhead lines is nearing completion
- Our LDC's and YLP are preparing a series of in-person events

“It been great, but all things come to an end one day. Please pass on my best wishes to UKLTB for their friendship and support.”

The UKLTB would like to express their deep gratitude to Peter for all the time and effort he has given to this board. He will be missed!

- Dean gave an update as he was at the last ILP technical meeting:
 - GN08 update on the Bats papers due soon (presented on recently by Joe Ferguson from the Bats Trust)
 - Dean asked about Circular Economy – manufacturers find it difficult to find accurate carbon data. He asked if the ILP can give guidance to baseline carbon data nationally.

- **LoTAG – update from Dean Wendelborn**

- Last met in May – has someone from DCIA present. They are going to get a digital version of where the light columns are. This will remove issues

around network supplies and understand how different authorities approach this subject.

- Finally got GN22 information confirmed
 - Issues with EV and columns:
 - DNO in London still have issues approving ENA G12.
 - In Westminster where they wanted to put in 440 chargepoints last year they have only managed to install 300 due to hitting basements.
 - LAs need more funding to maintain and improve roads or there will be nowhere for EVs to drive.
 - Looking at alternative energy supplies (solar/wind)
 - Acknowledged energy price increases and delays with the supply chain. They are trying to look at alternatives to steel and concrete (need the market to change). They have seen a 50% increase in electrical energy costs and a 80% increase in gas energy costs.
 - State of the City Report – now at a £1.16 billion backlog in London to get everything at steady state – funding needs to come through TfL but this is unlikely to happen. Alternative is to sell more via advertising.
 - [National Underground Asset Register](#) has been developed.
 - A lot of PFI areas in London are finishing in 5-10 years.
 - Looking at new forms of structural testing, a more automated process using technology – not reliant on people visiting sites which reduces carbon.
 - Looking at a biodiversity report that considers nocturnal flora and fauna.
 - Didn't seem to be much illegal bunting during the Queen's Jubilee.
 - London's street lighting consumption is now 45% less than it was in 2010.
- **SCOTS**
Scott Denyer sends apologies (is on holiday) so no update.
 - **Transport Scotland – update from Bijan Bassiri**
 - Budgets are an issue – their energy is averaging £4 million a year and they have been asked to justify this.
 - Have seen supply chain issues with LEDs/columns – can take between 8-11 weeks for these projects.
 - Transport Scotland have been working with National Highways in respect to modifications to the DMRB – specifically around renewables.
 - **Welsh Government – update from David Denner**
 - Welsh Government have been working with the 22 Welsh authorities on the NUAR project.
 - Under budget pressures
 - Not many new projects – just maintenance and business as usual.
- 6) **SoN Report – Version 2**
- It was agreed at the previous meeting that we want to get a new snapshot of the UK and Lindsey has volunteered to do this.
- Ideally procurement for this project would go through an English LA because DfT could then give them the grant to fund this piece of work. Lindsey is set up as a sub-contractor through ATKINS. Dean said that Westminster have ATKINS on their books.

Actions:

Dean and David to discuss this and see if Dean can get the grant money for this project.

7) HEA – Statement on Supply Chain Management – April 2022

Everyone has been sent a copy to read.

8) Research Projects for 2023-24

It was noted that Live Labs have a [virtual webinar](#) on the 6th July

There is also an [Innovation Festival](#) hosted by Icrig over the 6th-7th July that 3 officers per LA can attend over – still spaces available.

Three research projects were discussed that the board want to take forward to DfT, which were:

- 1) State of the Nation (SoN) report – version 2
- 2) Lighting Condition Data Collection – this would cover research around GN22, column condition indicators, light condition indicators.
 - Various issues were discussed, such as the ability of parish councils to provide information and now this would be remedied. However, it was concluded that these finer details should be discussed at a later stage once funding for the project had been secured.
- 3) Get 'Well Managed Highways – Part D' updated – funding would be required to get a consultant to look at updating this.
 - 'Management of Electronic Traffic Equipment' is very old and needs updating. This should be updated and included within the 'Well Managed Highways – Part D' document.

It was brought up by Dean if funding should be given towards staff and training, as this was the number one priority when research projects were first discussed a year ago. David acknowledged this but said they would park this as the UKRLG are currently doing work on the skills shortage in the engineering sector, who are better placed to do this as they are at a higher level.

About a lack of skills in the engineering sector, Gareth raised the point that more apprenticeships are needed, as this is an obvious area to target school aged people, to build engineers of the future. This need for apprenticeships was echoed by Bijan.

9) Update on UKRLG

David shared the 'Summary of Comments' from the recent UKRLG meeting.

A discussion was held on the future of the UKLTB, specifically about how technology is becoming a more important factor for discussions and actions. It was acknowledged that the current board members have more experience in lighting than technology. It was therefore questioned whether it would be appropriate to have a separate technology board, or, to bring on new board members with more experience in technology? The consensus leaned towards the second option of keeping the UKLTB as it is, but to look for more board members, such as someone from TTF.

Actions:

Everyone to read this document and email David their thoughts for the future of UKLTB.

10) AOB

Simon briefed the board on a safety issue where a pad-mounted transformer had been vandalized and used to hold illegal drugs. This presents a serious health risk to maintenance workers and there is a responsibility for companies to keep their crew and contractors safe – hence why Simon is mentioning this issue.

Dean brought up a discussion at the summit about security threats, something needs to be added to what the board and UKRLG do in terms of what is put on the ground in terms of security. He also commented that at recent discussions on air and traffic sensors at Canada house the DfT and GLA want an increase in sensors but realise they can't continue drilling holes into columns. A solution has been proposed to replace the NEMA socket with the sensor. This won't work for all light columns and the quality of data won't be as good, but it they see it more as a micro-site to compliment macro-sites.

Keith has been talking to one of the leading manufacturers of EV chargers who mentioned that they are recommending that columns are installed at the front of paths rather than the back. Keith explained to them why they are normally installed through the back of the path. It's an interesting point that they want to change the way columns are installed to suit their purpose. David mentioned interesting discussions with ADEPT and Mark Kemp who chairs the Network Management Board – they are having discussions on what goes out on the network (where to columns and chargers go etc.)

Actions:

Everyone to let David know their recommendations for vice chair, and any other people they think should join the board.

Isobel to delete previous Teams calendar invite made by Vass and circulate new one.

Date of next meeting – 3rd November 2022

Venue – CIHT Offices, London and Online