NJUG

NJUG agrees with Government and Member CEOs to drive change forward

19th October - NJUG members attended a high-level street works summit in Birmingham, organised by the Department for Transport (DfT) and attended by Chief Executives of UK utility firms and street works contractors.

The day was chaired by Scottish Road Works Commissioner John Gooday, and included an introduction from the Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP, Minister for Transport with responsibility for utility and highway works. Presentations were delivered by NJUG, the Automobile Association, and the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK. There was also a talk from Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions, a leading NJUG Associate Member, on innovation.

The event followed the DfT's announcement approving a London permit scheme for utility works. NJUG CEO, Les Guest said, "NJUG remains committed to working with Transport for London (TfL), London Boroughs and the DfT on the London Permit Scheme, and is eager to turn the proposal into a successful and workable reality. However we do continue to believe that to maximise the benefits, the focus of the scheme should be on major works on busy streets. NJUG members are committed to minimising the occupation of sites, but it must be ensured that standards of safety are maintained, and that agreed times for works are reasonable."

Mr Guest also made a presentation on the day on the efforts industry has made to date to improve the efficiency of street works which included, wide scale use of minimum dig techniques, advanced planning of works, and using systems such as Transport for London's *London Works* website, as an aid to better plan and co-ordinate those works that NJUG strongly believes will deliver the greatest benefits in terms of reduced disruption. Indeed NJUG feels that the general public and road users will only feel benefits through better co-operation, communication and co-ordination of works.

Les added, "Utilities demonstrated their commitment to improving the efficiency of street works today by sending their senior staff and agreeing on the next steps to be taken. I was delighted to be able to present to attendees on the efforts industry has made to date."

Les added, "As the trade association representing utilities and their contractors on street works issues, NJUG is committed to driving forward these outcomes to further improve the standard of utility works. I hope that Local Authorities will mirror this by improving the standard of their own works, to ensure that there is an improvement by all who work in the street, and road users can experience even more benefits."

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Notes to Editors

For further information about the National Joint Utilities Group please go to www.njug.org.uk. To arrange an interview please contact the NJUG press office at pressoffice@njug.org.uk or telephone 020 7340 8737.

About The National Joint Utility Group (NJUG)

NJUG is the only UK industry association representing utilities and their contractors on street works issues.

Our full members include the Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas companies), Water UK (representing water companies), National Grid, Openreach, and Virgin Media. Our Associate Members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska Utiltiies, Balfour Beatty, Morrison Utility Services, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise, Laing O'Rourke and AMEC. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-seven utility companies.

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NJUG is the utility arm of the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee representing street works in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales known as HAUC (UK). Please see http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/ for further information.

NJUG's focus is on promoting best practice, safety, quality and co-ordination of works as well as representing utilities in discussions with Government and other stakeholders on street work issues.

Utilities undertake street works for four primary reasons – safety, security of supply, to connect or upgrade customers' supplies, or to divert apparatus to facilitate major transport or urban regeneration projects. Examples include Crossrail, the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, tram projects, or new urban and housing developments.