



NJUG launches National Code of Conduct for Street Works with the Mayor of London

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG), the UK trade association representing utilities and their contractors on street works issues, together with the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, and in conjunction with National Grid and Transport for London, **launched its National Code of Conduct for Street Works on 22nd June**. The event also included a workshop bringing together utilities, contractors and highway authorities to look at new plating methods and to plan different hypothetical jobs, using the principles and measures of the National Code to minimise the effect on the public.

The National Code builds on NJUG's Vision for Street Works and on the success of the London Code of Conduct (a voluntary agreement launched in April 2009 between the Mayor of London and the capital's largest utilities bringing in a number of measures to reduce the unfortunate disruption which is sometimes caused by essential utility street works).

NJUG Chief Executive Les Guest said, "I am delighted that Mayor Johnson was able to join us to endorse the launch of NJUG's National Code of Conduct. We will now be working with utility and contractor colleagues to roll the Code out across the UK to replicate the successes achieved in London. Major programmes of work continue to ensure safe and reliable utility services, and to support large construction projects such as the Olympics and Crossrail. This, coupled with substantial road repair and maintenance activities, means that the volume of works is not going to reduce for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the only way to reduce the regrettable disruption that sometimes arises is to work together better - and continue to improve co-operation, co-ordination, communication and compliance around works, including effective use of measures such as minimum-dig technology, which reduce the size and duration of the works."

National Grid's Head of London Phil Clarke who led the plating Workshop said: "Like its London equivalent, the National Code will be instrumental in encouraging the use of additional measures to further reduce disruption. Whilst utilities and their contractors have made great strides in planning and co-ordinating works better, including with local authorities, the use of measures such as plating, where practical and safe to do so, gives additional options to reduce disruption further. Working together, utilities, contractors and local authorities now have a tool-kit of practical voluntary and legislative mechanisms to minimise the impact of works on the public and surrounding businesses, whilst delivering the essential utility and public services on which we all rely."

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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.



Key features of the National Code of Conduct include:

- Assisting local authorities in the development of **permit schemes** to ensure they are workable and effective at tackling disruption;
- Sharing **long term plans** for major street works projects between local authorities and utilities to allow greater opportunities for coordinating works;
- Promoting the use of **minimum-dig technology** to reduce the duration of works;
- Encouraging the use of **plating** over road excavations where safe and practical to do so;
- Striving to **work outside of peak hours** wherever possible to reduce excessive traffic delays;
- Providing **work site information boards** at all sites with contact details and updates on progress;

About The National Joint Utilities 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 and waste water companies), National Grid, Openreach, and Virgin Media. Our Associate Members, all of whom are utility contractors, are Clancy Docwra, Skanska Utilities, Balfour Beatty, Morrison Utility Services, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise, Laing O'Rourke, AMEC and Stanmore Quality Surfacing. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-nine utility companies and thirteen utility contractors.

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 Paralympic Games, tram projects, or new urban regeneration and housing developments.

About the London Code of Conduct for Road Works

Launched in April 2009, the latest edition of the London Code, including its first progress report (February 2010), can be found at:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/reportastreetfault/934.aspx>

The NJUG National Code of Conduct for Street Works

NJUG promotes active participation at co-ordination meetings discussing advance planning, joint working and collaborative practices and in particular the following:

Permitting

NJUG offers to assist prospective permit authorities develop their proposed permit schemes to ensure that they will not only benefit the whole community but are also legally robust, workable and that the software systems are compatible and the necessary process changes are put in place and tested prior to going live.

Advance Planning

NJUG members will continue to share long term plans for asset upgrades and major replacement programmes with authorities and utilities, to promote greater opportunities for trench sharing, site sharing or



sequential working and where possible to accommodate authority work plans, as part of their commitment to encouraging enhanced co-ordination between all parties.

Use of Minimum-Dig Technology

NJUG will continue to promote the use of minimum-dig technology where practical and safe to use, in order to reduce the size, environmental impact and duration of works.

Plating

To ensure a rapid return of carriageways and footways to road users and pedestrians during traffic sensitive times NJUG will encourage its members to consider the option of plating over, or applying bridging techniques to, utility excavations at sites where it is safe and practical to do so and does not unduly extend the duration of the works or adversely affect the highway structure.

Working Outside Peak Hours

NJUG members will strive to work at the times of the day that minimise disruption to traffic and reduce excessive traffic delays. As part of the planning process including budgetary considerations and following discussions with environmental and highway departments along with affected stakeholders, we will consider the options of evening, weekend and 24 hour working at key locations where highlighted environmental concerns can be overcome and where disturbance to residents can be kept to a minimum and it is safe to do so for the workforce.

Standard Information Signage

NJUG members will continue to provide work site information boards at all sites containing contact details and provide additional unique information boards specific to long term (major works) projects displaying updates on progress and the estimated completion dates.

Inspections

Worksites will be inspected at all stages including within the reinstatement guarantee period and will be promptly rectified if any aspects of the site do not meet appropriate standards.

First time Re-Instatements

To ensure work sites are returned to public use at the earliest opportunity and help reduce any possible delays and disruption, NJUG promotes the use of first time permanent re-instatements where ever possible.

Good Practice Guide

NJUG, along with HAUC (UK), is committed to sharing good practice to help raise awareness and drive performance improvement. We will continue to share examples of good practice on our web site and at events around the country, and adopt the highest standards that emerge from this awareness. NJUG will regularly review its Code of Conduct to ensure that it continues to reflect good practice.