

APSE Roads & Lighting Services Advisory Group

28 August 2015

Tayside Contracts, Perth

1. Introduction & Welcome

Cllr Paul O'Kane welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Paul noted that Garry Lee would be standing in for Louise Melville at this meeting. Garry also thanked Tayside Contracts for their continued hospitality here in Perth towards the APSE Roads and Lighting advisory group.

2. Attendance & Apologies

See attached.

3. Minutes of 30 January 2015

The minutes of the meeting on 30 January was agreed to be a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising

No matters arising.

5. Surfacing budgets and allocation to categories

Speaker: Mike Fawkes, Principal Roads Service Officer, Dumfries & Galloway Council

Mike provided the Dumfries & Galloway perspective on this topic. 2 years ago, they had a maintenance review and started to see that their surfacing schemes were too restrictive. The Council have been looking at efficiency, and now have a policy which is focused on catching ambers before they become reds. The focus has moved to this and a £2.9m surfacing budget. At present it is uncertain how effective this will be until 2-3 years after implementation.

6. Asset modelling and its effects on budgets

Speaker: Bill Lennox, Roads Quality & Resources Manager, Aberdeenshire Council

Bill noted that roads maintenance were tasked with an immediate £2m budget reduction, and that changing the mix of surfacing and surface dressing has delivered the savings. The department made the decision to focus on A -> B -> C -> D roads condition (with the budget split by area then road type). Initially this was a hard sell with technical staff as they did not have a lot of faith in the deterioration model above.

During the questions section of 5 and 6, a new PI was suggested “What are you spending vs decrease/increase in the road network?” This was passed on to APSE Performance Networks.

7. Defect Categorisation and risk assessment

Speaker: Chris Burns, Technician Roads Maintenance, Glasgow City Council

Chris Burns introduced an upcoming network query to the group (released on 2/10/15 as network query RH0227 – Risk Matrix for Defect Categorisation) and led a discussion on the contents of the query. The group talked through several issues including how authorities were training their staff to categorise risks (with some suggesting that defects depend on context, and others noting that in a court of law having everyone working from the same parameters would be beneficial). There were also concerns about the level of responsibility of inspectors (with suggestions we should look to upskill our inspectors) and issues related to the difficulty of conveying the differences in risk assessment categories to the layman.

8. APSE/ SCOTS performance networks update

Speakers: Dot Reid, Area Roads Engineer, Falkirk Council

Dot noted that only 6 Councils haven't submitted their 14/15 data, and that if they did there would be 31/32 Councils data submitted. The next meeting was planned for 8 September and they would be developing the PI report. Ewan Norris would be talking about the SSRB work on unit benchmarking, the Improvement Service would be in attendance, Debbie from APSE and Dave from IQSS were also attending. Dot also said they hope to get the year-on-year report (with 3-4 years of data to look at) by the end of September. She also mentioned that attendees should look out for family group workshop dates.

9. Discussion of issues affecting service delivery

This session included discussions on ‘budget and staffing reductions’ and ‘what issues are others having regarding the degradation of roads constructed with a block paving wearing surface? What remedial methods are being utilised where problems exist?’ The agenda item on ‘litter picking on roads over 40 mph’ was agreed to be carried over to the next meeting.

10. APSE Update

Speaker: Garry Lee, Research and Coordination Officer, APSE

Garry delivered an update on the work of the Association, including our latest research. Garry also updated the group on the various forms of advocacy undertaken recently including APSE's work within the SWITCH forum, recent responses to Scottish Government consultations and participating in party political conferences. Garry completed the presentation by updating the group on APSEs services including APSE Solutions, APSE Training, APSE Energy, Performance Networks and the upcoming seminars.

11. A.O.C.B & Future Agenda Items

It was agreed that should attendees have any suggestions for future topics these would be emailed to Louise Melville in the APSE office.

12. Date & venue of next meeting

The date and venue of the next meeting will be on 13 November 2015 and will be hosted at Ruthvenfield Depot in Perth.

Attendee List

Brian Strachan	Aberdeen City Council
Richard Blain	Aberdeen City Council
Bill Lennox	Aberdeenshire Council
Hugh Maclean	City of Edinburgh Council
Sean Gilchrist	City of Edinburgh Council
Scott Walker	Clackmannanshire Council
Mike Fawkes	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Ewan MacNaughton	Dundee City Council
Cllr Paul O'Kane	East Renfrewshire Council
Brian Orde	East Renfrewshire Council
Shona Fraser	East Renfrewshire Council
Dorothy Reid	Falkirk Council
Bill Liddle	Fife Council
Neil Watson	Fife Council
Chris Burns	Glasgow City Council
Wesley Wright	Glasgow City Council
Elizabeth Maclver	Highland Council
John MacLennan	Highland Council
Joe Smith	North Ayrshire Council
Jean Brown	Renfrewshire Council
Jamie Wright	Stirling Council
Ewan MacNaughton	Tayside Contracts
Kenneth Brown	West Lothian Council
Kevin Hamilton	West Lothian Council
Graeme Malcolm	West Lothian Council

Apologies List

Douglas Hill	Angus Council
George Davidson	Ayrshire Roads Alliance

Raymond Smith	Falkirk Council
Derek Crowe	Fife Council
Margo Simpson	Renfrewshire Council
John Wallace	Renfrewshire Council
Richard Bridgen	Scotland Excel
Grant Montgomery	Scotland Excel
Dougie McKay	Tayside Contracts