



JAG (UK) Annual Update June 2019



Giving local authorities a louder voice in presenting logical joined-up solutions to central and devolved governments and other parties.

The Joint Authorities Group (UK) [JAG(UK)] represents all 209 Street and Road Authorities in Street and Road Works matters relating to the New Roads and Street Works Act: 1991 and the relevant parts of the Traffic Management Act 2004. JAG(UK) is the mechanism through which Street and Road Authorities are represented on the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (UK) [HAUC(UK)] which in turn advises the Department for Transport and national Governments in Street and Road Works matters.

Our member organisations are primarily local authorities and similar bodies whose principal activities are governed by highways, street, road and traffic management legislation.

We work on behalf of our members to promote excellence in road network and traffic management right across the UK. Following is an overview of our key areas of work over the past 12 months.





→ Working with government

Street Manager Project – Alpha and Beta phases

The Street Manager project, sponsored by the Department for Transport (DfT) will transform the planning, management and communication of street and road works through open data and intelligent services to minimise disruption and improve journeys for the public.

JAG(UK) continues to support this Government initiative by providing Subject Matter Expert reports and sits on both the project board and the Governance Group. JAG(UK) continues to fully support the need to change data management processes. A single view of the street and a single version of the truth about the street are fundamental principles.

JAG(UK) works with “virtual groups” where theories and user views are tested, and these will become increasingly important as the project moves out of the current beta phase and on to public beta and go live. JAG(UK) is also working with the third-party supply chain to deliver options to authorities in terms of transition and ongoing system configuration in order to maintain an honesty on costs for users.

Electrical car charging points

JAG(UK) is working with the DfT and other agencies regarding the provision of charging points on the street network. The availability of a wide network of charge points is an important aspect of government policy in reducing carbon emissions and tackling air quality. JAG(UK) has met with suppliers and is keen to promote innovation to meet demand and provide sound advice to authorities on dealing with projects associated with E V charging. This includes issues regarding ownership of apparatus, liabilities and protection of the public asset.

Fibre Framework

JAG(UK) continues to work with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and the DfT to support the delivery of superfast broadband and local full fibre networks to the nation. Fibre to the premises (FTTP) is a key UK government aspiration and JAG(UK) is part of a group which has developed a fibre framework delivery document and is leading on driving innovation within the supply chain.

JAG(UK) is also working with the supply chain in terms of helping develop innovation, particularly regarding materials and process and is also supporting authorities in delivery of Fibre strategies.

↑ Support for authorities

JAG(UK) works with key stakeholders to develop consistent and appropriate implementation of regulations, balancing the legitimate needs of network users and works promoters.

We identify and promote good practice in all aspects of traffic and works coordination.

Areas of progress, support, guidance and advice in the last year include:

- A review of the Specification of the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways (SROH/ SROR)
- A review of the Code of Practice for Inspections
- A review of the Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Street Works and Works for Road Purposes
- Supporting Authorities in the delivery of Permit schemes and guidance
- Training and Accreditation review and delivering specific courses to help upskill Authorities knowledge base
- S38 and Private Streets
- DfT Permits and Lane Rental review
- Support to regional and individual members, officers and authority elected members
- Innovation- driving change within the industry
- JAG(UK) governance
- Support for NI, Scotland and Wales officers and Governments
- Performance Scorecards
- Supporting Major Infrastructure initiatives , such as Electrical Vehicle charging, district heating schemes, and HS2.

→ Working with utilities

JAG(UK) representatives at every level contribute to the work of HAUC(UK) and its working groups, representing the authority perspective.

- Working towards developing more efficient and effective collaboration with utility works promoters to reduce traffic disruption from operations
- Representation at all four national HAUC/RAUCs and the HAUC(UK) Board
- HAUC(UK) governance
- Established a series of performance meetings with utilities including BT and Virgin Media to better understand industry needs whilst seeking a common framework for performance improvement.
- Working with highway colleagues in dispute resolution processes.
- Regular meetings with Street Works UK to discuss issues and develop key initiatives
- Delivering a HAUC(UK) convention to showcase the industry, the issues and innovation





→ Working with partners

JAG(UK) is part of the GeoPlace family which gives a strategic link to the Local Government Association (LGA), strong links to the NSG community and links to other professional services which help deliver a more relevant and valued service to members relating to all aspects of the road and street network.

This year we will:

- Participate in nine NSG/JAG(UK) joint sessions with members
 - Have a strong presence at the HAUC(UK) and GeoPlace conferences
 - Work to develop stronger links with Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT), ADEPT, National Traffic Managers Forum as well as the LGA
1. Community – creating, supporting and promoting a community of experts that can help one another and create consistency across the UK
 2. Strategy – Understanding the complex environment and provide a voice into central government to help create and deliver solutions
 3. Services – Provide sustainable services to its members as and when they are needed including training, consultancy and bespoke support.

JAG(UK) is maintained by and large through officer support and financial contributions from its members. But is also supplementing income to cover costs by raising added revenue through service provision to authorities such as training and permit scheme development. To operate as a successful organisation, JAG(UK) will focus on three key types of work;





→ The next 12 months

JAG(UK) recognises the need for the industry to be more agile and inclusive to maintain public confidence and to deliver more effective network management and reduce cost burden on the public purse.

Below are our priorities for the next years focus. Many of these will be worked on simultaneously:

These are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Street Manager | 8 Devolution |
| 2 SROH | 9 Innovation |
| 3 Inspections | 10 Street Works UK |
| 4 Code of Practice reviews | 11 Permits and Lane Rental |
| 5 Future developments | 12 Training and accreditation |
| 6 HAUC(UK) | 13 Performance |
| 7 Communications | 14 Strategy |

→ JAG(UK) strategic leads

Each one of these priorities has a strategic lead officer whose role is to ensure the subject has a delivery target, a communications thread and meets JAG(UK) and HAUC(UK) output targets as appropriate and ensures all JAG(UK) members are fully informed.

1

Street Manager

David Capon, JAG(UK) Manager

The Street Manager project continues to be our number one priority and JAG(UK) believes there are several elements where changes would deliver efficiencies.

- Support DfT in the development, implementation, use and monitoring of Street Manager
- Supporting all authorities' migration to permit based processes would ensure the Street Manager proposals can deliver most effectively, providing greater clarity and consistency in both cost and benefits to the public. We will seek to encourage and support authorities towards permitting through guidance, advice and training
- A full review of existing data and processes and a review of current permit KPIs to include both authority and promoter information including development of performance monitoring in general.
- Address key anomalies within current legislation such as a lack of recognition of weekend and bank holidays within current working day definition.
- Help deliver alternative strategies to increase choice for authorities in integrating street manager within their existing and future structures
- Working with the supply chain to push innovation and help deliver cost effective solutions and increase efficiency within the industry.

2

Specification for Reinstatement of the Highway (SROH/SROR)

Colin Rivett,
Wiltshire County Council

The SROH/SROR working group is developing a more dynamic document and one which offers improvements to work processes and durations, and at the same time affording more protection in terms of the highway asset.

- Innovation to move to a more structured and transparent process perhaps mirroring the ISO 9001 section 8.3 on Design and Implementation
- Reinstatements around Ironwork continues to cause concern
- Long term damage continues to be a JAG(UK) desire as the highway asset continues to be under threat by the lack of quality and delivery by contractors and works promoters
- Supporting the current review and working with the successful consultant is a high priority for JAG(UK)
- Developing a 'living document' environment which allows for innovation and changes to be delivered within a more relevant and realistic time frame and ensuring the legal framework remains relevant.

3

Inspections Code

David Latham, Kent County Council

The lack of progress in dealing with numerous issues within the non-statutory Inspections Code is a source of concern for JAG(UK). Current processes are inefficient, do not represent value for money and continue to be a source of tension as utilities seemingly fail to address the shortcomings of the process, which creates lack of clarity of actual performance thus hampering any improvement. It's neither agile nor consistent and needs an overhaul. JAG(UK) believes addressing this issue remains key to the potential success of Street Manager.

- The development of quality plans is an area JAG(UK) will seek to explore where works promoters can be incentivised to drive compliant reinstatements and Signing Lighting and Guarding, linked to a more relevant guarantee period. JAG(UK) will work with the community to explore voluntary quality processes, trial them and monitor outcomes to assess impact
- More agile inspection regime linked to a revised charging regime would greatly enhance the industry and move away from a combative scenario to cooperation and collaboration. JAG(UK) will explore the case for better collaboration, seeking to identify current processes, where those processes need to be improved and measuring costs and benefits of a more incentivised system. The needs of our members will remain paramount in any process or system developments.

4

Coordination Code including Codes of Practice Review

David Latham,
Kent County Council

The current review process for any COP or statutory guidance requires a long timeframe and reviews need to be more responsive to industry needs and structured to allow for change. Whilst some specific codes are identified in this document, we will offer support to other revisions to this approach with a view to making all codes of practice 'living' documents thereby allowing changes to be made relatively simply to assist industry when the need arises. JAG(UK) will seek opportunities to review codes of practice in the support of Street Manager.

5

Future Developments

Phil Cameron,
Gloucestershire County Council

- Supporting or working with the Government on any new initiatives that are developed to reduce congestion and the disruption caused by street and road works
- Widening of scope to include other activities and temporary obstructions which impact on traffic flow and the availability of the highway network such as crane operations, private developments and associated hoarding, scaffolding and delivery areas
- The JAG(UK) Chair or representative will attend regional meetings to seek local views and ideas and to explore real issues. Developing process for both informal and formal solutions to key issues either singularly through JAG(UK), collectively in collaboration with Street Works UK or ultimately with Governments through legislative change.

6

HAUC(UK)

Jerry McConkey, Sefton Council

JAG(UK) continues to support the role of HAUC(UK) as the strategic body and we are fully aware that if HAUC(UK) is to remain relevant it must focus on issues, outputs and outcomes.

JAG(UK) is clear that HAUC(UK) needs to take a leading role and deliver governance and guidance to the working group process, give clarity to working group chairs on issues, scope and terms of reference and give more support to the working group process. There has historically been a disconnect between working groups and HAUC(UK) with Working Group Chairs left to reach what they believe to be the best outcome with little direction from HAUC(UK).

- Support the current proposals to change the Governance structure for HAUC(UK)
- Work with all four nations governments and officer representatives to ensure all their relevant priorities are met
- Support the notion of strategic leads and development of task and finish groups rather than the current standing committee structure. This will ensure relevance, ensure wider engagement and improve communications.



7

Communications

Sarah Widdows,
Cambridgeshire County Council

JAG(UK) will continue to communicate as widely as possible with the community, supporting them about existing codes of practice, guidance and advice.

Use of our website will be the primary tool for sharing of information, guiding colleagues through consultations, clarifying interpretation of legislation and regulation and proving an active forum for sharing of ideas, discussion of issues and peer support.

8

Devolution

Steve Daly, Conwy Council

JAG(UK) will continue to work closely with all devolved administrations (both regional and national) and provide support and guidance wherever needed.

In particular we will;

- Support colleagues in Scotland in terms of their Transport Bill review, support the RAUC Scotland process and work with the Roads Commissioner to help deliver Consistency, transparency and connectivity between Authority, works promoter and the public
- Support colleagues in Wales in terms of development of permit schemes, the delivery of the street works strategy and support the CSS JAG process as required

- Support colleagues in Northern Ireland in terms of regular visits and update sessions, support communications through the Highways an NIRAUC processes and provide information as and when required
- Support colleagues in England by forging closer working links with the LGA and GeoPlace and merge closer together the two communities of street works and NSG custodians to help improve data quality and the Street Manager process
- Work with devolved authorities in England to help ensure the networks are managed consistently and provide support to those new administrations.



9

Innovation

David Capon, JAG(UK) Manager

We are keen to develop an innovations forum and to set in motion a transparent and inclusive process. Innovation is not promoted or developed uniformly within the industry and there is a key role here for all stakeholders to change the profile with emphasis on a structure and platform to help innovation. A transparent HAUC(UK) and JAG(UK) process using websites for communication and an open governance and support structure could help deliver a more inclusive and reduced risk opportunity platform. This will allow innovators to engage with the industry and ensure techniques, materials and systems can evolve with the needs of that industry.

10

Street Works UK

Jerry McConkey, Sefton Council

JAG(UK) will continue to work with colleagues in Street Works UK to maximise the benefits of collaboration and consistency in advice, guidance and support for the industry. Regular liaison will continue to ensure transparency and commonality in interpretation and seek appropriate and acceptable solutions to any issues arising for the benefit of the service user.

11

Permits/Lane Rental

David Latham,
Kent County Council

JAG(UK) will continue to work with the DfT and HAUC England to help deliver the wider aspirations of the lane rental consultation outcomes and work with authorities to develop flexible, incentivised schemes to help change behaviour. JAG(UK) can also work with authorities who wish to move to a permit scheme. With nearly 100 schemes now in operation we are uniquely positioned to offer advice, help and practical guidance to help deliver cost effective schemes with low implementation costs. See more information at <https://www.geoplace.co.uk/streets/services-and-nsg-data/permit-schemes>.

12

Training and accreditation

Robert Hudleston, Network Rail

JAG(UK) will continue to lead the HAUC(UK) drive to upscale the current training processes and accreditation schemes within the UK. All governments have signed up to the change and we are working hard to deliver more cost effective and smarter training to meet the growing demand within the UK.

JAG(UK) has developed two training sessions to upskill our colleagues and give them the best possible information, advice and guidance in an industry that is flooded with legislation. The training is aimed at those who are involved with the 'day to day' aspects of NRSWA and associated Regulations and Codes of Practice in relation to openings in the highway. It will provide greater awareness of the requirements of NRSWA and the subsequent impact of the TMA, supporting your knowledge in sustaining and improving management of the highways network. For more information on the training see, <https://www.geoplace.co.uk/helpdesk/training/jag-uk-training>.

13

Performance

Phil Cameron,
Gloucestershire County Council

Together with GeoPlace we continue to support work on the Performance Scorecard, many authorities are now submitting data and receiving the feedback directly from GeoPlace. The North East, along with some other regions is using the scorecard as a performance aid. Whilst we are unlikely to alter any reports in the coming year we are still keen for authorities to submit data; all feedback is anonymous to the submitting authority.

If you haven't submitted yet please send your data to scorecards@geoplace.co.uk.

14

JAG(UK) Strategy

Jerry McConkey,
Sefton Council

The Chief Executive Officer will govern the strategy of JAG(UK), ensuring that the issues that are most relevant to our members are addressed in a strategic way to maximise the benefits. JAG(UK) will continue to support its members as much as possible and will represent their best interests and seek to influence outcomes on their behalf





Specific Tasks for 2019/2020

- 1 Continued support for DfT on the Street Manager Project – Alpha and Beta phases and other priorities
- 2 Support Wales in exploring the benefits of permit schemes and other priorities
- 3 Support Scotland in the Transport Bill rollout and other priorities and represent Scottish Authorities and meetings as appropriate
- 4 Support Northern Ireland
- 5 Provision of industry guidance for electrical charging points
- 6 Working with DCMS and DfT to agree protocols, standards and set up performance framework for the Fibre Framework
- 7 Develop training for members
- 8 Develop support for permit scheme roll out
- 9 Develop support for potential lane rental expansion
- 10 Develop stronger links with LGA
- 11 Reinvigorate our web site with new content
- 12 Improve member communications
- 13 Continue the Code reviews on SROH, Training and Accreditation, and Coordination
- 14 Help drive the HAUC(UK) business plan
- 15 Continue to push sustainable Innovation within the industry
- 16 Continue performance reviews with BT and Virgin Media
- 17 Undertake further joint NSG/ JAG(UK) joint sessions to ensure coordination between all areas of Street works and street management responsibilities in local government.
- 18 Help deliver a HAUC(UK) App which is aimed at delivering a free app for the industry featuring facilities that allowed (as a minimum) safety and reinstatement to be an intuitive non-verbal talk through hand-held guide.

The Joint Authorities Group (UK)

- Safeguards efficiency of streets and roads
- Develops consistent implementation of regulations
- Identifies and promotes good practice
- Supports practitioners with guidance and information
- Represents the authority view
- Maintains cooperation and balance with others

For more information, contact:

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