



National Joint Utilities Group

NJUG CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY NUMBER 76: BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL, BRISTOL WATER PLC, WESSEX WATER, WALES AND WEST UTILITIES AND WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION – BRISTOL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STREET WORKS AND ROAD WORKS

WINNER OF THE NJUG MINIMISE DISRUPTION AWARD 2014

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) is the UK industry association representing utilities solely on street works issues. The 43 utility companies and 16 utility contractors we represent are major contributors to economic growth and work to deliver gas, electricity, water and telecommunications to both individual consumers and UK plc. NJUG members need to continue to drive forward further improvements. We have therefore developed the NJUG Vision for Street Works, which revolves around seven main principles:

- Safety
- High Quality
- Minimise Disruption
- Keep the Public Fully Informed
- Sustainable Methods and Materials
- Avoid Damage to Underground Assets
- Innovation

This case study is an example of the street works sector delivering on these principles and turning the vision into reality.

Overview

The jointly developed Bristol Code of Conduct for Street Works and Road Works builds on the HAUC(UK) Code of Conduct; represents an advancement of what is required in statute; and demonstrates a willingness to reduce the impact of road works and street works without the introduction of more statutory powers such as permit schemes. **As of November 2014, the Code of Conduct is estimated to have saved 120 days of highway occupation in the 11 months since its introduction.**

Case Study

Bristol City Council joined forces with four local utility companies to reduce disruption during essential road and street works to keep Bristol moving. As an alternative to permit schemes used in other parts of the country, which impose additional administrative burdens and costs, utilities and highway authorities in Bristol take a collaborative approach to reduce inconvenience to road users. Under the voluntary Code of Conduct, which came into force in January 2014 and is a 'living document', Bristol City Council and utility companies are:

- Sharing their major works plans well ahead so the Council can co-ordinate essential street works at the same time as their own highway works;
- Working at the same or similar locations as much as possible to avoid lengthy and consecutive street and road works taking place;
- Striving to undertake works at times that minimise disruption and disturbances e.g. out-of-hours or during holiday periods when traffic might be lower;
- Putting up notices at least two weeks before major works start, and notifying local businesses;

NJUG

National Joint Utilities Group

- Keeping the use of temporary traffic lights to a minimum during works.



Results so far: Various measurements are used to measure the success of the Code – the results so far are outlined below:

- 12% decrease in early starts – showing improved scheduling/planning;
- 24% decrease in extensions - allowing better overall co-ordination of works;
- 57% reduction in FPNs - showing greater accuracy of Notices, again allowing better co-ordination of works;
- 50% reduction in s74s Charges – meaning works are being completed within their agreed times;
- 120 days of highway occupation saved for Bristol already through joint and smarter working– reducing the overall time works occupy the street, and so minimising the unfortunate disruption arising from these essential works;
- Joint Audits show signing lighting & guarding compliance at average of 89%. Additional tool box talks and training has been provided to lowest performers;
- Increase in the number of works promoters issuing forward planning notices, giving a greater chance for the authority to co-ordinate works;
- 3 works stopped / postponed on Limited Works Corridors (LWCs) owing to clashes with other positive traffic management;

Endorsing the Code of Conduct, Bristol Mayor George Ferguson said: *“The utilities and Bristol City Council are working hard to deliver safe, reliable and secure gas, water, electricity, communications services, and highways whilst continually improving standards and minimising the disruption which can arise from these essential works”.*