

7 NEW ROADS AND STREET WORKS ACT (NRSWA) CODES OF PRACTICE - HIGHWAYS AUTHORITIES AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE (HAUC UK) WORKING PARTY (AN193-2003)

Statutory undertakers (gas, water, electricity etc) have a right to open public roads to install, operate and maintain their plant, subject to satisfactorily notifying the local roads authority who then have a duty to inspect and co-ordinate all works on the public road network.

The statutory undertakers and local roads authorities roles are regulated by the New Roads and Street Works Act (1991) (NRSWA) and practical guidance is achieved by the use of various Codes of Practice on topics such as inspection, reinstatement, co-ordination, safety etc. Since 1999, transport has become a devolved issue and unfortunately the review and introduction of NRSWA Codes of Practice varied between England/Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, with different versions being in operation in different countries. Members will appreciate how sensitive the subject of road openings are with the ensuing disruption to traffic and frontagers.

To address this and to bring forward solutions, the NRSWA management structure has been re-organised to ensure that in future all countries are represented not only at senior management meetings but all future working parties reviewing codes of practice.

The Committee is asked to note that Alan Lewis, Network Management Team Leader, has been invited to join the United Kingdom Working Party which will require attendance at periodic meetings (estimated 3/4 times per year) in London. This is a particular honour for both Alan and the City Council recognising professional expertise at a national level.