

## Framework for Fibre Delivery; a role for JAG(UK) and GeoPlace

### Fibre to the premise

By 2020, the volume of global internet traffic is expected to be 95 times that of 2005. In the UK, fixed internet traffic is set to double every two years, whilst mobile data traffic is set to increase at a rate of up to 42% per year. Faster broadband speeds could add £17 billion to UK output by 2024.

The future of high-speed and high-quality connectivity lies in deeper, more extensive fibre networks rather than the existing copper network. Fibre-to-the-premise (FTTP) can deliver upwards of 1 gigabit per second download and upload speeds, and very high levels of service quality. Full fibre networks are also easier to maintain, and have lower operational costs than alternative large scale, high speed networks. Only 4% of the UK has FTTP. This means that full fibre networks will need to be deployed at a scale not seen before if the UK is to realise its digital ambitions and potential.

5G, the next generation of mobile communications technology, will need large amounts of fibre connections for its backhaul. For local authorities to realise any of their 5G ambitions, it is imperative that they have a sufficient fibre network to underpin emerging wireless technology.

### Delivering FTTP

Government doesn't propose any changes to legislation to fulfil this agenda. Delivery is via a toolkit of best practice case studies for local authorities, operators and contractors to maximise the success of fibre deployment in a consistent and transparent manner across the country. The toolkit aims to help improve the capability of local authority and industry to plan, deploy and deliver world class digital infrastructure at pace.

Where a collaborative and flexible approach has been used, together with consistent policies, and early proactive engagement is evident, there has been a rapid and successful deployment.

### Streetworks and local authorities

Key to the successful deployment is the need to balance the delivery speed against the need to maintain the highway asset and manage disruption. The current notice/permit scheme split together with the lack of early engagement is a barrier to delivery.

Local authorities with their responsibility for managing the street works process are vital in enabling FTTP

Government is working with a number of bodies to develop best practice case studies for local authorities, operators and contractors to help improve the capability of local authority and industry to plan, deploy and deliver world class digital infrastructure at pace:

- Local/highway authority highways, traffic and permitting managers.
- Streetworks teams from both Operators and contractors.
- The Joint Authorities Group (JAG UK), HAUC and Streetworks UK.
- Broadband Delivery UK.
- Department for Transport, and;
- DCMS Barrier Busting Task Force.

## JAG(UK)

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. It works on behalf of its members to promote excellence in road network and traffic management right across the UK.

Its role in driving innovation within the delivery chain and developing consistent and appropriate implementation of regulations is key to FTTP. JAG(UK) areas of activity include:

- A review of the Specification of the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways (SROH)
- A review of the Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Street Works and Works for Road Purposes
- Permit guidance
- Training and Accreditation review
- Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTROs) Advice Note
- Single Cabinet Advice Note
- S38 and Private Streets
- DfT Permits and Lane Rental review
- Support to regional and individual members, officers and authority elected members
- Support for NI, Scotland and Wales officers and Governments
- Performance Scorecards

JAG(UK) is working with Governments to turn policy into reality and these areas of activity are important in ensuring consistency in street works management across the UK.

## GeoPlace

GeoPlace plays a central role in coordinating the management of street related issues such as congestion, capacity planning, street works, incidents and maintenance. It is

responsible for the running the national hub for the National Street Gazetteer (NSG) which enables highways authorities and statutory undertakers to coordinate street works in order to ease traffic congestion and disruption to road users.

All 174 local highway authorities across England and Wales upload their LSGs, together with Additional Street Data (ASD) to the NSG hub. This enables third party organisations such as public utility providers to meet their statutory highway requirements to provide the appropriate street works notifications.

The NSG, containing definitive information for streets in England and Wales carries data that a utility needs to know about in respect to the streets which are earmarked for works, providing a unique reference number and ASD. The ASD provides additional information about a Street, designed to aid the street works process such as:

- type 61 Interest Records
- type 62 Construction Records
- type 64 Height, Weight and Width Restrictions
- type 63 Special Designation Records.

Additionally, GeoPlace is responsible for:

- Administering changes to road classifications
- Hosting the Streets Works Signposting Service
- Creating the TMA Performance Indicator
- Controlling the Street Works Act code allocation.

GeoPlace's relationship with highways authorities is guided by the Data Cooperation Agreement (DCA) which provides a legally binding agreement between GeoPlace and all district, county and Unitary councils in England and Wales to support the creation and maintenance of GeoPlace databases (particularly related to address and street information for England and Wales and address information for Scotland through separate agreements).

## Street Manager

Street Manager is a project within the DfT which 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) sits on the project steering board and has long supported the need to change the processes around data management. JAG(UK) also has two subject matter experts embedded in the delivery team. NSG data and the USRN are essential in providing a 'single view of the street' which is required to deliver DfT's vision for day-to-day management and planning of street and road works, and modern requirements for data consistency, transparency and connectivity.

## Permits

Permit schemes provide highway authorities with the means to better manage and coordinate activities on their road network, to minimise inconvenience and prevent disruption to road users. NSG data is essential to this process as it defines and underpins which streets require Permits and which do not, data must be accurate therefore much work must go and has gone into refreshing NSG data to ensure it is current for Permit schemes.

It is extremely important to consult and develop workable and efficient Permit schemes, and ensure strong collaboration between local authorities and statutory undertakers.

Joint guidance has been released by JAG (UK) and GeoPlace, for Authority Street Custodians to understand the requirements in preparing their authorities' Local Street Gazetteers for implementation of a permit scheme.

## Single view of the truth

Jointly, JAG(UK) and GeoPlace have produced guidance to help highway authorities to understand the requirements in preparing their authority's Local Street Gazetteer for implementation of a permit scheme. The two organisations have also collaborated on producing guidance on the definition, role and value of Traffic Sensitive Streets; a designation that allows highly trafficked highways to be identified as requiring Works Promoters to give greater advanced warning of proposed works or activities.

Due to their relationship with local authorities, the data collected and managed and the guidance issues, JAG(UK) and GeoPlace provide a single view of the truth for the road network. Together they promote best practice within local authorities, and provide the data required for works operators to plan and coordinate works effectively.