

CONFIDENTIAL		ENGINEERING BOARD STREET LIGHTING GROUP		ADEPT Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport	
26 th Jun 2026		NOTES OF MEETING			

In attendance (online):

Keith Tovee	(KT)	East of England	Chair
Sue Kinsella	(SK)	South East	Deputy Chair
Guy Harding	(GH)	ILP	Secretariat
Ken Pitt	(KP)	South Wales. (Part Time)	
Dean Wendelborn	(DW)	London	
Rob Baines	(RB)	Midlands	
James Root	(JR)	TFL	
Ian Moore	(IM)	Yorkshire	
Neal Weatherston	(NW)	HEA	
Gary Surgenor	(GS)	Northern Ireland	
Craig Morris	(CM)	Yorkshire (Taking over from IM)	
Stephen Dennis	(SD)	National Highways	
Scott Brown	(SB)	Scotland	
Richard Newing	(RN)	Leicestershire	Guest Speaker
Karl Rourke	(KR)	East Riding	Guest Speaker

Item		Action
1	<u>Apologies</u> Gareth Pritchard (HEA) Johnathon Hurley (Wales) Darren Hubbard (North East)	
2	<u>Notes and any O/S actions from previous meeting</u> Nothing outstanding.	
3	<u>Health and Safety Issues</u> KT – Reverse polarity in column cut outs from incoming supply. To be raised with the HEA. Possible due to unskilled staff use on LED rollouts. A safety alert had now been issued and shared. KT – Conway Contractors lifting incident of a column from a flatbed which struck a hydraulic hose. KT - Doncaster. Passive safety sign post failed. No testing had been done. CM commented that asset register was not complete. Visual inspections now done. SD - Commented that they have no real test and conditions may have been exceptional in this case. DW - Commented that magnetic particle testing on cast columns is not reliable due to thickness changes. KT said that cast iron columns in Essex cannot be removed	

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	due to political reasons but would share his experiences and results with DW following the trial of magnetic particle testing. RB - Asked if the test used by DW would work on split root DW Windsor columns? DW- Responded that it would only go to the flange plate. RB - Shared a photo of a 15 yr old, folded steel column which had failed at ground level due to dog urine induced corrosion, others to be tested. SK - Shared picture of a failed corroded root column that had an Amber score from testing which is now being investigated. SD - Said that testing is not an absolute, only indicative and the whole issue needs to be taken seriously with adequate funding. JR - Said that Amber score columns were being categorised in more detail. Three testing companies have been evaluated giving varied results. KT - Responded that testing had revealed issues on eight year old cast iron columns but investigation revealed the calculations used by the test house was wrong and called other results into question. Results should not always be taken at face value. JR -Commented that test houses always veer towards the worst case leading to columns being removed and physically measured. KT and DW - Commented that test houses “Data dumped” way too much info in the report on each column that is not filtered, making them difficult to interpret. CM Has had testing over the years where his stock condition is now improving which cannot be correct.	
4	<u>Live labs 2 – East Riding of Yorkshire Council Update</u> KR – Project now finished and results published. In summary 450 column switched off and now being removed. Savings of £1.2M over 10 years and £1.6m over 40 years. Road speeds down by 10% and near misses by 12%. No change in Driver behaviour. Night-time collisions down by a third. 120 Tonnes of Carbon saved. Triage process developed. Now started a three - year programme of removing a further 6% of lighting stock. (2500 Columns) One site kicked back which was too complex and involved property frontages. Developing a process to streamline the Risk Assessments into groups of assets. Process now moves to promoting the benefits to others. Early adopters include Aberdeen, Lancashire and Oxfordshire ready to go live. Details sent to Telford to save re-cabling costs on a dual carriageway. A site in Solihull also being considered along with ones in Cheshire West, Plymouth. Lincolnshire and Milton Keynes. Process is now de-risked for others including appropriate insurance, risk management and legal review. Inter-authority trading being used for materials and designs where East Riding Council carries the risks on procurement. No upper financial limit on this. Trail sites are being promoted to all interested parties including a timeline on all comms.	

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	Finally, safety Indexes have improved over winter particularly in rush hour. Recommendations are being included in Well Managed Highways and asking the question why does it need to be lit? KT - Asked if this is being linked to British Standards and KR responded that RB was leading this on pedestrian only lighting. Also, beacons being relocated on refuge crossings to save knockdown replacements. KR - Recommended all looking at the Worcestershire Lighting Design Guidance Chapter 9 which restricts lighting in certain areas and puts the onus on the developer to prove why lighting is needed. DW – Provided an update on Westminster. All cameras now working including the ambient light sensors and Ped crossing cameras. Will be monitored in all conditions. Outputs linked to lux levels on site. Once patterns established then this will be linked to the CMS.	
5	<u>Leicestershire 30% Dimming trial.</u> RN – Provided an update. Over the original 18 month trial £539,000 was saved, 1.4m kWh and 319 Tonnes of carbon. Slight increase in crime but this was in surrounding areas as well. RTA's reduced but severity was up slightly. No police complaints. Cabinet approved now received to make it permanent. Awaiting figures for the last six months. No problems encountered. KT - Asked about the dimming regime. RN Confirmed that at 8pm between 80 to 85% of the 71,000 lighting points dim to 30% including major roads and conflict areas. Speed bumps lighting is not included as are steps. Town centres not included. All areas monitored. 99% of stock is LED with CMS. Since September an additional 200,000 kWh with some SON to LED's conversions helping with this. CM - Asked about fault triggering with the 30% as he has experienced some at this level of dimming. RN said that CMS tolerances have been increased. KT said he was experiencing similar reported power issues with the same CMS system but on site all was OK. SD - Asked about high-speed roads and RN said that these were included in the 30% dimming. RB - Asked about cross county border sites and RN confirmed no reports or complaints received, probably due to a good public comms policy. KT Thanked RN for his input to meetings over the last few years.	
6	<u>Local Government Reform</u> KT – It has already affected Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk and the next batch due in July including Kent, Gloucestershire and Derbyshire.	

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	SK asked how it was going for KT in Essex. KT said it was progressing with shadow Councils being elected in May next year. Reality will hit Autumn 2028. The Highway Authority will be split into five so where is the resource coming from? No decisions or detailed conversations have occurred. Item to remain on the agenda.	
7	<u>Regional Updates</u> <u>South East (SK)</u> SK – Last meeting in April with only core attendees. EV with feeder pillars adjacent to columns discussed. Flags discussed as Southampton have found a contractor to take them down without issues. Contact details are: Dominic Brown Event Power Engineering Ltd www.EventPowerEngineering.co.uk 07734 790697 Mobile 01202 798697 Power Hire 01202 798999 Christmas Lighting Cast iron columns were also discussed. KP Said that he has DW Windsor tested some cast iron columns and he will find more details. SK – Southampton and Hampshire are having issues getting a deed of variation to PFI contract to use LED's, but this has been resolved. SK Asked if others had been approached by Connexin to install water meters on columns? KP has many but RB has refused them. CM said that when he had them Connexin supplied a Wayleave type of document including details of charging if the column needed removal. SK has amended a Small Cells agreement and used that. Mark Johnson from Southampton attended an Urbis Schreder demo on Distribution Network Technology (DN) <u>Yorkshire (IM and CM)</u> IM – No full region meetings. IM chairs the West Yorks Highway Infrastructure Asset Management group (HIAM) which requires the streetlighting lead to attend a meeting once a year. Northern Power grid have issued new rates after four years with a typical increase of 115%. Leeds and Wakefield PFIs ending soon, and national meetings on this are being attended to learn about hand-back terms. Independent	

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	inspection regime will be needed and Yorkshire Purchasing (YPO) have a framework for this. Agreement on small cells still not signed after DW forewarnings. A notice has now been served by BT but this will be fought. Effectively the lighting column and luminaire will now become a carrier pole for a cell. The flags situation nationally is being monitored and only dangerous ones being removed. Policy may change with Reform coming into power. A service agreement with Kerbo has been reached to allow cross pavement gulley installation as Chargers on columns are not allowed. DW – Asked if a dedicated parking space was provided with the gulley. IM said that this was not the case and when cables cannot be left in place when not in use. Kerbo are paid to clean and maintain them. They are also locked out of use when the property is sold. CM – Chairs a Northern lighting Authority group but attendance is sporadic. On EV CM and RB held a meeting with the HEA and the regional variance in DNO's allowing O-PEN devices, gulleys etc which will present challenges. NW Commented that the HEA now has more detail on which DNO's will accept the devices and looking to publish a list of those who accept them to stimulate debate. Midlands (RB) RB – Last meeting 12.5.2026 prior to an ILP event but attendance was low. Discussed PLG08 Adaptive Lighting and dimming to lighting classes. GH Commented that an update will start later this year. Flags: A Derbyshire Exec Director received a letter threatening legal action on breach of planning regs for not removing flags. Some Parish Councils submitting substandard structural tests on columns to attach hanging baskets. These reports detail the loss of section and quote the remaining thickness with no context of the original thickness. The MHA has formed a working group on skills and experience with links to STEM and the HEA. Looking to invite Caltec to the next meeting to discuss DDN cabling from Livelabs2. Discussion on Average unit maintenance costs linking into PFI termination. Discussions on commuted sums and PFI expiry. Looking to generate a price index for components to aid budget forecasting. EV ongoing with cross pavement gulleys imminent in Derbyshire plus on column charging units in conjunction with Nottinghamshire. Touch potential discussions to resume to gain clarity. Some requests for column covers have been received where private chargers are located too close to columns but these are non compliant. Northern Ireland (GS)	
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	GS – Last meeting was 25.6.2026 Budget discussed but nothing confirmed. No additional funds for retrofit of LED's. Staffing. Competition closed today for applicants and numbers look good to fill the vacancies. Nine 5G pilot sites approved. Livelabs2, Resurfacing works needed before studs can be put in. Flags issue is still ongoing, as they are not removed and a memorandum of understanding is being developed with the Police. TFL (JR) JR – Currently looking at electrical testing and analysing reasons for non-testing including finding columns and tidying up the inventory. Investigating amber and red coded structural tests. LED rollout continuing as is the search for new CMS system. DW – Commented that David lodge is looking to review the TR22 guidance and feedback on amber columns would be useful. GH Confirmed that TR22 would be looked at after PLG07 Highmasts. South West (KP) KP – Struggling with meeting organisation as incoming chair has not arranged a meeting. EV charging and gullies will not need planning permission. KP asked IM for details and documents. IM agreed to share his relevant S278 documents. Attachments on columns still an issue. Structural testing ongoing and Class 3 (from TR22) ones are being replaced as are columns over 20 years old. London (DW) DW – Last LoLEG meeting was in May on Teams only. Future meeting will be hybrid and on different weekdays. Presentation from Urbis Schreder on DDM cable. Interesting but uptake in London may be low due to the amount of utility works. Plus, a presentation from WSP on Biodiversity recovery strategy. Lighting points in London mapped and impact on protected species shown. Westminster may have 30-50% of lighting points with issues, and the Lighting masterplan may change. Lower mounting heights and tuneable white may be an option. Non destructive testing options being explored including column sensors. Small cells working group telecoms code does not account for lighting needing replacement and columns ageing. Lack of communication with lighting professionals blamed. East of England (KT) KT – CMS system still causing issues, a new version coming out but early reports that it still has issues.	IM
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	Energy savings still being requested and Bedfordshire considering the Leicestershire approach. Flag removal requests still being received that cause political issues. BT letter that was issued a few years ago about 4G has now been redistributed with apparently the same wording and 4G substituted for 5G. Herts now considering using magnetic particle inspection on cast iron columns. Column inspection test house only informed Essex of 1500 non-tested columns at year end that causes budget issues. Generally, fees for non tested columns are not paid. DW Commented that 5G is actually only an enhanced 4G as Chinese equipment cannot be used. Radiation levels can be an issue with personnel working very close to transmitters.	
8	<u>National Updates</u> HEA NW – At the last technical session, the Specification for Highway works was discussed along with column root coatings as National Highways are not accepting thermoplastic coatings. The unmetered connections customer group has been reconvened and O-PEN devices discussed. 19th November is the Annual Conference. ILP GH - The Lighting Live Annual Conference in Birmingham was well attended which included an update on ILG Guidance notes. A new version of PLG02 Conflict Areas has been launched. PLG07 Highmasts is being updated by the Lighting Column Technical Forum. Exterior Lighting Diploma Mod A 14.9.2026 Fully Booked and ILP are running a waitlist. Mod B 12.10.2026 Fully Booked. Mod C 16.11.2026 Some availability Another Module A in Ireland is planned for next year and maybe one in Scotland National Highways SD – Plans for the next few years have been published with a focus on renewal schemes and structures. Backlog on lighting renewals. Guidance issued on the MCHW through the ILP. TS TN TA TG 501 are in the pipeline but stuck in internal process. Flange plate column on a bridge deck safety alert published last year. Internal	

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	corrosion is the issue with hundreds of columns being removed. Also, safety issues with chambers which is being investigated. Research on “The Light we need” ongoing and the UK is leading on this. TA501 is updated to clarify the case for lighting. The impact on safety is being reviewed including evidence from Livelabs2. Lighting of conflict areas and the five second rule are under review. Final year of the LED rollout. CMS is now being considered with a national approach. Earthing of sleeved columns is being discussed as most assets are not publicly accessible. KT Asked about sourcing lamps for older stock and SD said that they still have stocks. UMSUG and CMS Meeting Group SK – Has not heard anything about the Meeting group. KT attended the last UMSUG meeting and developers moving energy billing to local authorities. Transfers of ownership are happening without local authority knowledge. CM Commented that there is an issue with the National Terms of Connection if no agreement is in place. BSI Representation RB – Has missed the last couple of meetings but comments still being worked on. RB is running a group looking at pedestrian lighting as a result of Livelabs2. Well Managed Highway Infrastructure SK – The document was put out for consultation and closed on the 07.06.2026. First meeting this week to start going through the comments. OFGEM Review end to end review of regulatory framework SK – Very little feedback from the second consultation. Five workshops held so far but SK has not attended due to diary clashes. CM Commented that the minutes are confusing with much discussion on terms and conditions. The later meetings may be more relevant to lighting. Proposed TSRDG Review and feedback was given around Livelabs2 work on sign de-illumination and use of road studs and line marking.	
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9	<u>Membership and Representation</u> https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/membership Regional members to check ADEPT website is up to date	ALL
10	<u>ADEPT Corporate Update / Information</u> KT – A Leadership pathway program and Carbon Leadership program webinars are available. Livelabs2 and lunch and learn sessions are also available. Details on the ADEPT website.	
11	<u>AOB</u> CM – Has been approached by Peet Guard who sell guards for columns to protect against dog urine. Claims on the website that local authorities are saving money, but the authorities mentioned knew nothing about it. SK – Is there any update on Oxfordshire’s legal enforcement of flag removal? RB shared a link showing that the Council had won a High Court injunction. Also how are signs on bridges and structures as they are more and more difficult to maintain? RB agreed. SK – Has stated a benchmarking exercise on extending the contract with Equans, however it is commercially sensitive data. RB agreed to discuss this of the record. DW – Stated that some PFIs could have done this. CM - Commented about upcoming tariffs on imported steel which could affect columns and this could affect prices.	
12	<u>Next proposed ADEPT Street Lighting Group Meeting</u> Next meeting 25.9.2026 and an in-person meeting is preferred by some but travel on a Friday is awkward.	
13	<u>Other meeting dates:</u> UK Lighting Board, KT has emailed David Denner without response. KT to speak to Justin.	
14	<u>ADEPT Engineering Board</u> https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/groups/engineering	

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15	<u>UK Lighting and Technology Board</u> http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/UKRLG-and-boards/uk-lighting-technology-board/uk-lighting-board-minutes.cfm	
16	<u>Unmetered Supplies User Group (UMSUG)</u> https://www.elexon.co.uk/group/unmetered-supplies-user-group-umsug	