

Minutes of 61st meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at CIHT on the 12 February 2020

Board members in attendance:

Liz Kirkham	(Chair) ADEPT/Gloucestershire County Council
Hugh Brooman	Representation LoBEG
Kevin Dentith	ADEPT/Devon County Council
Nicola Head	Transport for London
Colin Hall	Network Rail
Keith Harwood	Hertfordshire County Council, BOF
Bob Humphreys	CSS Wales, Gwynedd Council
Richard Fish	BOF
Peter Simpson	Canal & River Trust
Hazel McDonald	Transport Scotland
Andrew Strang	SCOTS/Perth and Kinross Council
Jason Hibbert	Welsh Government
Neil Loudon	Highways England
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance

David Ashurst, ARUP

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Apologies were recorded for Stuart Molyneux (Metropolitan Authorities), Satbir Gill (TAG), Colin Ferris (Department for Infrastructure NI), Nick Burgess (London Underground)

2. Rijkswaterstaat bridge renovation project

David Ashurst gave a presentation on the project. See: <https://www.arup.com/projects/rijkswaterstaat-bridge-renovations> for further information.

3. Structures Asset Management and Investment Toolkit (SAVI) - Keith Harwood

Keith gave a presentation on the SAVI (that is owned by the UK Bridges Board). For further information on the toolkit see: <http://www.ukroadsliasongroup.org/en/news/index.cfm/tp-oct-2019>

There was a discussion on approval for final release of the toolkit: Liz Kirkham asked Board members if there were any objections to publishing SAVI and no one cited any objections.

Liz confirmed on behalf of the Board that SAVI should be used as the valuation tool for the next financial year 2020/21. Liz asked - in terms of bridge management systems is it intended that the methodology becomes hardwired into the systems? Keith said SAVI should be freely available and it is open government licenced (this is noted at the start of the tool). Neil Loudon asked what happens if any bugs are found with SAVI. Keith Harwood said that the funding had been used to develop the toolkit but no support funding was available. Keith added that testing has been undertaken comprehensively.

Keith said this would be used as the CIPFA valuation tool. The Board members agreed that consistency of application across the UK for it would be useful.

Action: Liz Kirkham/Justin Ward to share SAVI for final approval by UKRLG (by email) for endorsement to publish on the UKRLG website by 12 March

Action: Keith Harwood to share the final version with Justin Ward for publication on the UKRLG website (in March 2020)

Hugh Brooman asked how closely with bridge owners use the work bank element. Liz said that the valuation must be approved so the SAVI toolkit would do that. The other elements would be beneficial for work bank planning by bridge owners, but this is not mandatory. Keith said it is a decision-support tool, so it could be used in conjunction with other toolkits, adding that it is for condition-based assessments. Hugh said that this is similar to the LoBEG system and welcomed its development. Liz thanked Keith Harwood on behalf of the Board for the work on SAVI.

Action: Liz Kirkham to speak with Justin Ward about getting in touch with software suppliers and contacting them to make them aware of the release of SAVI (formerly accreditation board)

4. Parapet Height document

Liz noted that the Board had been asked for comments in advance of the meeting.

Action: Colin Hall to update comments made by Liz Kirkham

Action: Colin Hall to work with Jason Hibbert following comments made on behalf of Welsh Government

Andrew Strang said that although SCOTS was mentioned in the Parapet Height Document he had not been cited to it and had a number of comments and concerns. Liz Kirkham said the document had previously been circulated.

Action: Hazel McDonald and Andrew Strang to discuss the Parapet Height Document to finalise the document with Colin Hall

Liz Kirkham confirmed that the document needed some further work before it was endorsed by the Board. Liz said, if the issues can be resolved without too much difficulty, the aim would be to take to sign-off by the meeting of UKRLG in July.

Action: Colin Hall to update Liz Kirkham on finalising the Parapet Height Document

5. BOF Grand Challenges

Richard Fish said that he was looking for endorsement from the UK Bridges Board (via Liz Kirkham) and through BOF.

Action: Liz Kirkham to draft text to support the BOF Grand Challenges document

Action: Richard Fish/Keith Harwood to share BOF Grand Challenges with Liz Kirkham and Justin Ward for sharing with UKRLG members

Action: Liz Kirkham to work with Richard Fish/Keith Harwood for presentation on BOF Grand Challenges on 29 April 2020

Action: Justin Ward to work with Richard Fish/Keith Harwood to cover the BOF Grand Challenges in Transportation Professional in May 2020 (including considering how to engage with EPSRC/CIRIA)

Richard Fish said he was presenting on the BOF Grand Challenges at the Bridges Conference in March. Andrew Strang suggested that the conference in Scotland later the year on bridges would also be a good platform by which to share the document. Neil Loudon asked about how the Grand Challenges would be applied, Liz replied noting that this would be used to inform the business planning of UKBB and for future research. Liz Kirkham said it fitted within the wider Grand Challenges articulated in the Industrial Strategy. Jason Hibbert said that the document would be useful for EPSRC. It was confirmed that any suggestions on the Grand Challenges would come via the UKRLG website

Action: Liz Kirkham/Justin Ward to work with DfT to update the UKRLG research proforma to include reference to Grand Challenges to demonstrate that the proposals address one (or more) of the challenges

6. Research - Updates on current projects.

The Board noted the assessment of Masonry Arch bridges research was near completion, this is being undertaken by CIRIA. Bob Humphreys said this was due to be published in summer 2020

Action: Justin Ward to work with Bob Humphreys to cover the Masonry Arch bridges research in future Transportation Professional article

The Board noted that the Safety Critical Fixings work was completed. Neil Loudon said that he was working on developing the implementation of this by Highways England currently.

Neil added all DMRB would be published by end March. Neil also raised an issue of temporary bridges that is being worked on by DfT and Highways England. Liz Kirkham noted that a survey had been circulated on this.

Liz asked about the abnormal load bridges research and Hazel informed the Board that Hugh Gillies from Transport Scotland was working with the World Road Association (PIARC) on a Special Project on overloaded vehicles. Hazel said the research proposed by UKRLG was more detailed than the one being investigated through PIARC.

Action: Liz Kirkham to ask what DfT's budget is for 2020/21 for UKRLG future research funding

7. LoBEG - Risk Based Inspections for GIs - Update on the Consistent Element Inventory - Defect Codes

Hugh Brooman said that TfL are due to release three documents shortly:

- Risk Based Inspections for GIs
- Update on the Consistent Element Inventory
- Defect Codes

Hugh said he was seeking support from UKBB prior to releasing the documents. Liz Kirkham said that as the UKRLG Code of Practice Well managed Highway Infrastructure had links in it then as long as the referenced website was correct then the Code would be up to date.

Action: Hugh Brooman to review Code of Practice Well managed Highway Infrastructure document to identify relevant references that need to be updated and inform Liz Kirkham/Justin Ward (the links to the LoBEG website)

Action: Hazel McDonald to send Transport Scotland defect codes to Hugh Brooman, Neil Loudon and Kevin Dentith

Action: Kevin Dentith to consider the CSS (ADEPT) Guidance in light of the work by LoBEG

8. Access planning group

Neil Loudon provided feedback from the last meeting and reported well on positive progress. Liz Kirkham on behalf of the Board thanked the Group for their persistence and the good engagement with Network Rail.

9. Highways England/Local Highway Authority Boundary issue

The Board noted that the document was still subject to agreement.

10. Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme

Liz Kirkham said a meeting had taken place prior to the UK Bridges Board meeting today. From that meeting it had been agreed that further information gathering to identify the perceived obstacles to the uptake of BICS would be useful.

Action: Hazel McDonald to draft questions for a survey on BICS to investigate if the competencies and attainment rankings were still considered appropriate,

Kevin Dentith noted that there are three alternative schemes (CSS Wales, ADEPT, SCOTS) and that these are well progressed (suggesting BICS was not likely to develop). Liz Kirkham said that for authorities that do not employ their own inspectors then those alternative schemes were not suitable. Colin Hall said that Network Rail was currently not using BICS, but the future arrangements for inspections was being developed currently.

Hazel said that considering Grenfell the issue of competencies was critical. Neil Loudon said that competencies will be under greater scrutiny. Kevin Dentith said that there are other processes that are developed that suit their stock and address the competency issue. Both Liz Kirkham and Nicola Head highlighted the risk that, when inspections are outsourced, client organisations need to be confident they are procuring competent bridge inspectors and the BICS scheme provides a mechanism to do this.

11. Minutes of last meeting

These were approved. Neil Loudon said that they were working with DfT on Proposed changes to Construction and Use regulations.

Action: Bob Humphreys – to arrange for Masonry Arch Bridges (two) presentation at the next meeting

Action: Colin Hall to speak with Mark Wheel on presentation on bridge strikes and forward initiatives to address the issue

Richard Fish said that the investigatory unit for bridge collapses was gaining traction. There was a discussion on the application of sensors research by DfT: Board said they would welcome being engaged for early consideration of this.

12. Minutes of UK Roads Liaison Group

The Board noted the meeting.

13. AOB

Jason Hibbert said the Welsh Government had been contacted by a company looking to research bridge strikes.

Neil Loudon noted the High and Heavy Load Grid making them aware of responsibilities with this. The routes have existed since 1972.

Action: Neil Loudon to share the presentation with Justin Ward on the High and Heavy Load Grid for sharing with UKBB and UK Network Management Board

Hazel McDonald said that Transport Scotland was undertaking a high load grid, re-measuring the heights across their network and on local authority networks. Neil Loudon asked if the critical head room of bridges was being factored in, and Hazel McDonald confirmed it was.

Action: Kevin Dentith to share information that spend on unrecoverable accident damage can be capitalised (as agreed by CIPFA guidance)

14. Date of next meeting

13 May 2020