

## **Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 6 October 2010**

### **Present:**

Mike Winter	ADEPT/Dorset County Council (Chairman)
Brian Bell	Network Rail
Graham Bessant	London Underground
Graeme Brown	DRD (NI) Roads Service
Bob Flitcroft	ADEPT /Lancashire County Council
Paul Foskett	DfT
Neil Garton Jones	CSS Wales
Satbir Gill	TAG/London Borough of Hounslow
Colin Jenkins (substituting for Stuart Molyneux)	Metropolitan Councils
Liz Kirkham	Adept/ Gloucestershire County Council
Rod Howe	British Waterways
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
Andy Phillips	Welsh Assembly Government
Stephen Pottle	TfL (Vice Chairman)
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Paul Williams	LoBEG/London Borough of Brent
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

### **Apologies**

Graham Cole	CSS/ Surrey County Council
David Mackenzie	SCOTS

### **Welcome**

Mike Winter welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from David Mackenzie and Graham Cole.

### **1. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

### **2. Matters arising**

Neil Loudon asked for clarification on the interim advice note [after the meeting the UK Bridges Board Secretary checked and clarified that this referred to the action from the minutes of the Bridges Board meeting 17 February 2010 where Hideo Takano confirmed that HA is producing an "Interim advice note" on the embedding of SCOSS & CROSS into their procedures].

Mike Winter confirmed that he was ratified as Chairman of the UK Bridges Board at the last UK Roads Liaison Group meeting.

Mike Winter confirmed that Greg Perks had sent a copy of the UKBB Business Plan.

**Action: Mike Winter to review UKBB Business Plan and circulate for comment. The Plan will be published in advance of the next UKBB meeting.**

The Board discussed the development of a briefing note on personal safety incidents and agreed that a statement to introduce the document would be helpful. The note should cover the background to why and how the exercise was completed by Bill Valentine. The note should also clarify that it is not a guidance note but simply to share information on different approaches by bridge owners.

**Action: Mike Winter/Liz Kirkham to finalise the briefing note on personal safety incidents at bridges with a covering statement explaining how the document was developed and that it is to share approaches but not provide guidance. Authorities should be reminded that it is always useful to seek legal advice when implementing any scheme to address personal safety incidents at bridges.**

#### a) Fact sheets

The Board discussed the development of media fact sheets and agreed the following:

**Action: Road over rail incursions fact sheet: Paul Foskett to get Richard White to draft the fact sheet and for Bob Flitcroft and Brian Bell to conduct a final proof.**

**Action: Bridge strike fact sheet: Brian Bell to produce the sheet in co-ordination with the National Bridge Strike Prevention Group.**

**Action: Highway retaining walls fact sheet: Mike Winter to produce.**

**Action: Parapet strike fact sheet: Rod Howe to send press release by British Waterways on parapet strikes. Mike Winter to ask Brian Poole of Durham Council to draft a fact sheet.**

**Action: Heritage and conservation of bridges fact sheet: Rod Howe to produce, taking account of the CIRIA guidance on heritage structures.**

**Action: Bridges and biodiversity fact sheet: Liz Kirkham to produce.**

**Action: Maintenance of large span bridges fact sheet: Bill Valentine/Neil Loudon to produce. The Board agreed that this should also include a note on ship impact.**

**Action: Personal Injury Incidents fact sheet: Bill Valentine to produce**

**Action: General bridge maintenance arrangements: Stephen Pottle/Graham Cole to produce. This should incorporate bridge inspection, assessment and typical maintenance works such as component replacement and refurbishment. It should also cover risk of failure of weight restricted bridge by overweight vehicles and the difficulty of 'policing' TROs. Reference should be made to the impact of budget restrictions on bridges.**

**Action: Geo-technical issues and bridges fact sheet: Chris Chiverall from CIRIA to produce – UKBB Secretary to contact Chris to arrange this.**

#### b) COP implementation

The Board discussed this later – see item 8a)

### **c) Vehicle incursions**

Liz Kirkham confirmed that she had sent the letter to authorities encouraging responses on vehicle incursion information for the DfT.

### **3. UK Roads Liaison Group meeting**

The Board noted the minutes of the last UK Roads Liaison Group meeting.

### **4. Sustainability and Climate Change**

It was generally agreed that climate change impacts of temperature on bridge components such as bearings and movement joints were much less significant than those of floodwater.

- a) **Flooding and Bridges – post Transcom discussion:** The Board agreed that it was unlikely that the current Transport Select Committee would publish a report on the inquiry into the Cumbria Flooding Incident. Mike Winter confirmed that once the work by the Highways Agency on the review of BD 74: Assessment of Scour was completed (see below) the Board would review any gaps that might exist between that work and the guidance on flood risk considered necessary within the Highway Structures Code of Practice.
- b) **Review of BA 74 – Assessment of scour:** Neil Loudon confirmed that that following the workshop on the review of BA 74, the consultants were updating the document. Neil confirmed that a draft will be circulated soon and that the final document should be ready this year.
- c) **Flood Risk Regulations 2009/Flood & Water Management Act 2010:** Mike Winter said that the Lead Local Flood Authorities (for England & Wales) are currently preparing their Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments for submission to the Environment Agency by June 2011. Mike noted that it was important for bridge owners to liaise with the lead officer for flooding regarding any structures that are affected by or cause flooding.

### **5. Dft research**

- a) **UKRLG role and future funding:** The Board sought clarification on the role of the UK Roads Liaison Group as a disseminator of research. Paul Foskett confirmed that the brief did go out under the framework contract, but that it was currently under review. Mike Winter noted that it would have been useful for the Bridge Owners' Forum (BOF) to have been made aware of the procurement process for the dissemination role.
- b) **Future of Bridge Owners' Forum:** The Board stated their view that BOF was providing an important role and that the UKBB were keen to see the continuation of BOF. Mike said BOF was reviewing how costs could be reduced and was seeking modest funding support from member organisations so that it could continue its operation. The Board

also stated that the independence that BOF brings is one of its key strengths and to run effectively, the support from a dedicated technical secretariat was essential.

- c) **CIPFA depreciation modelling toolkit:** Paul Foskett confirmed that this research project was currently under review by DfT for funding commitment. Mike Winter noted that this was the final piece of the jigsaw for highway structures asset management and was an important project to be supported.
- d) **Design & Maintenance Standard for Local Roads:** Stephen Pottle provided a brief update on the project. Stephen said that the research had identified a number of gaps which had been prioritised because the remaining project funding was limited to £50,000. One gap related to better guidance on risk assessing departures from standards. The work is likely to be completed early in the New Year and will be available through the TAP website: <http://www.tap.iht.org/>

The Board discussed the previously ranked research proposals from BOF and agreed to review these with a view to re-submitting the top 2/3 research proposals for consideration for funding by UKRLG.

**Action: UK Bridges Board Secretary to re-circulate the UKBB research proposals and submit to the next UKRLG meeting for funding support – including outlining the recommendation of support for funding of the Bridge Inspector Training project.**

## **6. Geotechnical Asset Owners' Forum (GAOF)**

The Board agreed that it was useful to keep up-to-date with the GAOF and agreed that getting copies of the minutes of the GAOF meetings would be good.

**Action: UKBB Secretary to be added to the circulation list for GAOF minutes and then circulate to UKBB members.**

**Action: Andy Phillips to act as a link between UKBB and GAOF.**

## **7. LOBEG & TfL report**

Paul Williams presented the report by LOBEG & TfL and said that the research had helped highlight the issue of consistency of inspection. The Board agreed that this further supported the case for the project on Bridge Inspector Training.

## **8. Structures Code of Practice**

- a) **Implementation – review of progress:** Mike Winter said that the ADEPT National Bridges Group had agreed that it would be useful to conduct a survey of Local Authorities to gauge progress towards implementation of the code. Justin Ward said that the UK Network Management Board had recently conducted an online survey and that he might be able to support the research process.

**Action: UKBB Secretary to conduct Graham Cole for support on the survey process on Implementation of the Code of Practice by Local Authorities.**

- b) **Suggestions for future updates:** Mike Winter had suggested two future items for update which have been logged:
- a. Guide to implementing the Eurocodes (ADEPT)
  - b. Flood Risk Assessment

Stephen Pottle also suggested that a reference to TAP portal would be appropriate when it contains information on structures.

- c) **Updates to Complementary Guidance for sign-off:** the Board supported the updates, but noted a small typing error on page 10 of the word 'website'. Once this is corrected, the Board supported the online publication of the updates.

## **9. ADEPT & Network Rail Liaison**

The Board discussed the number of groups that Network Rail is involved with and potential risks of overlap as a result of this.

**Action: Brian Bell to provide a brief note on the groups that Network Rail is involved with and Mike Winter to provide an update at the ADEPT National Bridges Group.**

The Board also discussed the issue that Local Authorities sometimes experience difficulty gaining access to Network Rail sites. The Board noted that there might be the option to use the Network Rail inspection contractor to carry out the bridge inspection (instead of carrying their own inspection).

The Board discussed the report highlighted in the CROSS newsletter of the Network Rail bridge collapse which raised the issue of hidden detail inspections: The newsletter is available here: [http://www.cross-structural-safety.org/assets/uploaded/newsletters/pdf/23\\_CROSS%20Newsletter%2019%20Final.pdf](http://www.cross-structural-safety.org/assets/uploaded/newsletters/pdf/23_CROSS%20Newsletter%2019%20Final.pdf)

The Board also discussed the report into the failure of Network Rail's Crane Bridge which was caused by scour.

## **10. British Waterways Liaison**

The Board noted that British Waterways was likely to become a charitable trust.

## **11. Eurocodes updates**

Mike Winter noted that the ADEPT guide for Local Authorities on implementing Eurocodes would be launched at the Conference on in November.

## **12. Conferences and courses**

- Eurocodes Conference
- 17 March 2011 - Surveyor Conference

## **13. Communication**

The Board noted that the UKBB was due to feature in the January/February edition of Transportation Professional.

**14. AOB**

Mike Winter mentioned the DfT Consultation on Local Transport Funding and said that a response from the UKBB was not considered necessary.

**15. Date of next meeting**

To be circulated by UKBB Secretary.