

Minutes of the 46th meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 3 February 2015

Dana Skelley	TfL (Chairman)
Nick Burgess	Transport for London
Barry Colford	Large Bridges Rep/Forth Road Bridge
Robert Dean	Network Rail
Kevin Dentith	ADEPT Rep/Devon
Richard Fish	Bridge Owners Forum
Satbir Gill	TAG/Ringway Hounslow Highways Limited
Jason Hibbert	Welsh Government
Wayne Hindshaw	Transport Scotland
Rod Howe	Canal and Rivers Trust
Bob Humphreys	CSS Wales Rep/Gwynedd Council,
Gary Kemp	DfT
Liz Kirkham	ADEPT Rep/Gloucester (Deputy Chairman)
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
David Mackenzie	SCOTS Rep, Highland Council
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance:

Lila Tachtsi

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Dana Skelley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded for Andrew Stevenson, Graham Cole, Stephen Pottle, Harvey Hamilton and Steve Berry.

2. Structures Toolkit

Lila Tachtsi reiterated that the Board own the toolkit. Lila explained that improvements had been made to the toolkit over the last number of years (in terms of functionality, speed and so on) leading to what was now a robust tool. The current format of the toolkit in an Excel sheet was always developed as a prototype with the longer term aim being that software suppliers would develop their own tools.

Lila explained that the UKBB asked Atkins to develop an accreditation process to ensure that asset valuation is carried out on a consistent basis. Atkins are developing a draft accreditation process, which will be sent to the Board for consideration by the end of the February. The accreditation board will be set up as part of this accreditation process.

Lila explained that, such an approach to improve the governance robustness, by establishing an accreditation board to appoint an independent body to carry out accreditation would involve the following remit:

- Maintaining the Excel spreadsheet
- Initial comparability test for software suppliers
- Carry out an Annual Healthcheck
- Publish timetable

The Excel sheet would remain as a free download, but the software accreditation approach would be to take forward the structures approach along the same lines as for pavements (UKPMS) whereby the cost of accreditation would be paid for by the suppliers, but recovered through the service provided to customers.

Action: Lila Tachtsi to provide the paper on the proposal for establishing a software accreditation process to take forward the development of the structures toolkit to the UK Bridges Board members (by end of February)

Action: Following volunteers from the Board to form the accreditation board included: Satbir Gill, Liz Kirkham and Stuart Molyneux. Proposal for a workshop with software suppliers to follow after April

3. Codes of Practice Review

Lila Tachtsi provided an update on progress to date with the Codes of Practice Review, highlighting the webinar was took place (<http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/news/index.cfm/follow-up-webinar-codes-of-practice-dec-2014>) and also the upcoming workshops (http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/news/index.cfm/ukrlg_workshops_to_help_review_the_codes_of_practice).

Lila also highlighted that given there was duplication in all the three Codes and as such a proposal to develop a new code (called 'Volume o') which would be called 'Well managed highway infrastructure'.

There was some discussion on the workshops and attendance and Lila took note of helpful suggestions to the format of the sessions.

Action: UKBB members to suggest any topics for the afternoon sessions of the workshops pertaining to the Structures Code revision.

Action: Liz Kirkham to develop a paper providing feedback to the Review of Codes for relevant issues from the UKBB

Action: UKBB to provide relevant case study material for the Review of Codes project

4. Previous minutes

There was a minor correction, the minutes should have referred to the 'bridge inspector competency scheme'.

Action: Justin Ward to amend the minutes to a correct version

Matter arising

Action: Rod Howe and Neil Loudon to review issues related to personal safety incidents

Action: Rob Dean to contact colleagues at Network Rail in the suicide prevention group to consider attending a future meeting of the UKBB

Boundary issue – the Board noted that this was an ongoing issue but Lila said that Atkins – the consultant on the commission – would be in a position to have guidance available by the end of March.

LoBEG representation – ongoing issue to clarify, Stephen Pottle to address

Neil Loudon reported very positively on the development of the Bridge Inspector Competency Training Scheme and the Board agreed this would be a good future article for Transportation Professional. Neil said that Lantra was due to set up the scheme and have it up and running later this year. The Board were very pleased with the progress made on this significant issue for the sector.

Action: UKBB proposed that a future article on the Bridge Inspector Competency Training Scheme would be good for the UKRLG pages in Transportation Professional

There was a brief discussion on the issue of vehicle incursions.

Action: Gary Kemp to send a copy of the letter that was issued to local highway authorities (including Devolved Administrations) on the vehicle incursions for onward circulation to UKBB members

5. Minutes of the UK Roads Liaison Group

These were noted.

6. Research

Dana thanked Richard Fish for his contribution to the work by the Bridge Owners' Forum (BOF) on drafting three research proposals. To provide context to the discussion, Neil Loudon provided a brief overview of research by the Highways Agency and Wayne Hindshaw provided a brief overview of the Scottish Roads Research Board.

The Board discussed the proposals and agreed to Dana Skelley's proposal that the scope for BIM should be extended to beyond structures and should be a pan-asset research; the Board supported this proposal. Following a discussion on the proposals, the Board decided on the following order of priority:

1. A guidance document for how highway authorities can effectively achieve Level 2 BIM for their highway infrastructure assets
2. Best Practice Guide to installation and management of safety critical fixings
3. Guidance on methods of determining reliable and realistic deterioration models and degradation rates for bridge assets

[Post-meeting note: Dana Skelley proposed increasing the scope of a TfL commission focusing on the same area as priority 1 – Board members, by email correspondence, agreed to this proposal]

Task & Finish Group

Neil Loudon volunteered to be the UKBB representation on the Group. The Board thanked Neil for his offer.

7. Government update

Gary provided a brief update on the latest on the capital funding by DfT as announced in December.

8. National Bridge Condition Survey

Liz Kirkham raised the issue of a national bridge condition survey highlighting that ADEPT had a good response to previous work on this. However, take up at a national level was unlikely according to discussions with HM Treasury.

The Board still felt that the approach led by ADEPT was worthwhile and even on a voluntary basis the value of the results yielded benefits for the wider industry.

Action: Liz Kirkham and Kevin Dentith to look at developing a National Bridge Condition Survey based around some form a banding for condition

Action: Rob Dean to provide the Network Rail information on Bridge Condition Marking Index (BCMI) (that is part of the National Licence Condition with the Office of Rail Regulator)

The Board recognised, as Liz pointed out, that the Transport Resilience Review (2014) had highlighted the need for a national picture of bridge condition.

9. ADEPT Bridges Group

There was a brief discussion on the interface between HS2 and the Highways Agency. The Board asked how local authorities were being factored into such discussions.

Action: Neil Loudon to provide the contact name of the ADEPT representatives who were involved with the interface liaison group with HS2 to Liz Kirkham (post meeting has been completed)

There was a brief discussion on liability issues related to weight limits.

Action: Liz Kirkham to provide details to Rob Dean on liability issue (to the route team in Network Rail)

10. Network Rail Liaison

- **ADEPT (England)**

Stuart Molyneux provided an overview of liaison that has taken place between Network Rail and ADEPT focusing on a very helpful meeting in November 2014 and an upcoming one in March 2015.

Satbir Gill raised the issue of notification in advance for when work was going to be carried out on the rail network (and the resulting effect on highway authorities).

Action: Liz to provide examples of any issues that the ADEPT group were experiencing so Rob Dean can direct them to the right Route team contact

Action: Rob Dean to investigate a more collaborative and open approach to possessions (including notification and cost identification)

- **SCOTS (Scotland)**

David Mackenzie highlighted the beneficial approach of liaison in Scotland

Action: Justin Ward to circulate the notes of liaison with SCOTS and Network Rail in Scotland

- **Canal and River Trust**

Rod Howe highlighted how liaison was useful for the Canal & Rivers Trust but that the issue of bridge strikes to parapets persisted, and asked if there was an approach for highway authority measures to address this (through traffic calming or signing).

Action: Rod Howe to raise the above issue with the UK Network Management Board

11. Business Plan

Dana highlighted that the Business Plan that she was inheriting under the new Chairing of the Board looked to be very good. Dana highlighted the issue of skills shortages and also the need to be clear on the strategic priorities from the outset. The Board agreed.

Action: Review the Strategic Priorities as outlined here:

<http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/UKRLG-and-boards/uk-bridges-board/uk-bridges-board-business-plan/index.cfm>

Action: Have an action log for UKRLG actions

12. Any other business

- **Defra consultation** highlighted <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/flooding/flood-defence-consents/> and the impact this might have on works timings.
- **Highways Agency specification.** Neil Loudon said that the Highways Agency had updated a number of specifications, with some particular relevance to highway structures - details here: <http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/mchw/vol1/>