

Minutes of the 54th meeting of the UK Bridges Board (UKBB) held at the CIHT on 12 October 2017

Board members in attendance:

Liz Kirkham	(Chair) ADEPT/Gloucestershire County Council
Nick Burgess	London Underground
Kevin Dentith	ADEPT/Devon County Council
Richard Fish	BOF
Nicola Head	Transport for London
Rob Dean	Network Rail
Bob Humphreys	CSS Wales, Gwynedd Council
Steve Berry	DfT
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Hideo Takano (for Neil Loudon)	Highways England
Wayne Hindshaw	Transport Scotland
Andrew Strang	SCOTS/Perth and Kinross Council
Peter Walker	Canal and River Trust
Efyn Williams (for Jason Hibbert)	Welsh Government
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance

Lee Kelly (item 2)	CIRIA
Jenny Roberts (item 12)	Gaist

1. Welcome

Liz Kirkham welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were recorded for Colin Ferris, Neil Loudon, Graham Cole, Satbir Gill and Jason Hibbert.

2. Presentation update from CIRIA

Lee Kelly from CIRIA gave an overview of work that CIRIA is involved with. Lee said that CIRIA had a project proposal on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for infrastructure asset management. He also highlighted that phase 2 of work on structural health monitoring for civil infrastructure would commence in November.

Richard Fish noted thanks for Lee for acknowledging the role of BOF being instrumental in developing some previous CIRIA reports. Richard added that 'structural performance' – as opposed to 'structural health' - would be more appropriate term to use. There was a point on the need for security issues to be considered when it comes to data use. Kevin Dentith noted the structures toolkit and said that work on deterioration modelling should take account of this.

Action: Lee Kelly to circulate the presentation

3. UK Bridges Board minutes

The minutes were approved.

Matters arising – it was noted that the World Road Association work on use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) was still underway and that a report would be out later this year.

All the other actions were completed aside from the updates from Sharanjit Gill on behalf of TfL.

Action: Rob Dean to provide an update on future competency requirements

A number of AOB items were discussed next.

Rob Dean noted two items: 1) parapet costs and 2) bridge height scanning by automated vehicle equipment (see item 10 below). On the first point he said that Network Rail had funded a protocol for cost sharing document that, once completed, would require another organisation to take ownership of it. Liz Kirkham asked if this could be a UKBB document and suggested that, once the Board had a copy of the document, the Board could reach a decision at the next meeting.

Action: Rob Dean to circulate parapet costs document for consideration of adoption by UKBB for agreement to be made at the next meeting

Wayne Hindshaw raised the issue of overloading of HGVs, and abnormal loads travelling without notification.

Action: Wayne Hindshaw to share Transport Scotland's work on overloading for HGVs

Richard Fish asked if there was a space on the board for a representative from large bridge owners. There has previously been a representative from this group.

Action: Richard Fish to send details of contact for a future representative for large bridge owners

4. Minutes of the UK Roads Liaison Group

The Board took note of the last UKRLG meeting.

Action: Liz Kirkham to discuss with Garry Sterritt UKBB representation from UKBB on the Asset Management Board

There was a discussion about potential topics related to data. Rob Dean suggested how data on structural health monitoring might be useful for traffic management.

5. Future business plan

The Board reviewed the business plan.

Action: Justin Ward and Liz Kirkham to work on an updated business plan.

6. BOF Grand Challenges

Action: next meeting agenda to have an item on BOF Grand Challenges

7. Code of Practice on Boundary issues

Hideo Takano provided an update on the work on the Code of Practice. Steve Berry noted that any final agreement would have an impact on the new Road Investment Strategy and suggested Neil Loudon clarify this position with the Highways England (HE) Board in advance of any agreement being reached. Any final decision should consider the licence requirements for HE. Steve added that there was the issue of future liabilities for any agreement.

He concluded by saying that the DfT lawyers agreed with the legal view from Highways England.

Action: Steve Berry to share DfT legal advice on boundary issue

8. DMRB review

Hideo Takano said that he had noted the comment from UKRLG that local authorities make substantial use of DMRB. Steve Berry said that there were quite a lot of concerns as, if the document was streamlined too much he had the feeling that this would create a massive problem for local highways. Liz raised the particular issue of masonry parapets, as Highways England have suggested that these are no longer a concern of theirs, but every other bridge owner in the country required some continuing standards.

Action: Neil Loudon to discuss DRMB review with Steve Berry

9. Safety critical fixings

The Board noted that a new version of report would be reviewed shortly by the Steering Group.

10. Bridge height measurement

Rob Dean noted that the Network Rail (NR) 'challenge statements' (to stimulate industry challenges) was worth looking at and said this was available for the NR website. Out of this a project on bridge strikes had emerged looking at measuring cross sectional measurements of bridges. Rob asked if anyone from the Board was interested in getting involved with this. Kevin Dentith suggested that Ben Wilkinson, the Chair of the Bridge Strike Prevention Group would be most appropriate.

11. Access planning sub-group

There was a discussion on the access planning sub-group and the Board agreed with the point raised by Rob Dean that the issue of possession planning was a rail industry wide problem. The Board members suggested a range of potential solutions. Liz Kirkham said that she had drafted a letter to send to Peter Hendy (on behalf of the UK Bridges Board) and had shared this with the Chair of UKRLG, Graham Pendlebury for review.

Action: Liz Kirkham to share with Steve Berry the draft letter regarding Network Rail's practice of cancelling railway possessions at short notice

Steve Berry suggested raising the issue with Peter Wilkinson (the Director General of Rail within the DfT) or with Paul Maynard.

12. BridgeCat project

Jenny Roberts from Gaist gave a presentation on a project underway with the DfT. Following the presentation Liz Kirkham commented that this was a really exciting project. The Board raised a number of questions and issues: from risks of parking a vehicle on a bridge during a potential scour event, the effect of high winds, the effect of turbulence on underwater equipment, the safety of operatives (and potential for a remote operated vehicle (ROV)), to the potential use of UAVs underwater.

Steve Berry said that DfT had challenged Gaist to come up with an innovative solution for scour inspections for bridges and was pleased how well they had done.

Action: Steve Berry/GAIST to provide an update following live tests

13. Date of next meetings for 2018

1st Feb

21st June

18th October