

Minutes of UK Network Management Board meeting 27 September 2022 held on Teams

Name	Representing
Mark Kemp	Chair of Board, Hertfordshire County Council, ADEPT
Justin Ward	Secretary, CIHT
Ewan Wallace	SCOTS
Satbir Gill	Hounslow Highways representing TAG
Freda Rashdi	National Highways
Tara Clinton	Greater London Authority
Helen Huemer-Markides	Greater London Authority
Jonny Moran	Transport Scotland
Danny Williams	Active Travel England
Anthony Ferguson	DfT
Martin Key	Active Travel England
Nick Tyler	UCL representing Academia

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Mark Kemp welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded for Andrew Sherry (TfL) and Graeme Salmon, Infrastructure NI.

2. Infrastructure mapping application (IMA) and national underground asset register (NUAR)

Helen Huemer-Markides talked about two digital platforms that the Greater London Authority (GLA) use to better co-ordinate infrastructure delivery in London. Following the presentation Satbir said that he was working on both the IMA and NUAR with the GLA.

Mark Kemp asked about the data, was this 2D or 3D (it is 2D). Mark asked about private bits of kit, e.g. IT kit for a university, private electricity connections etc...asked about how to get to receive that data also. Helen said that now they are trying to get data from all asset owners.

London, Wales, Northeast will be rolled out next year and this will be followed by the rest of the country (Wales, England, Northern Ireland – but Scotland has a similar system that they are using) over the following year. Helen explained that the roll-out with local authorities does take time, to explain the system, to sign legal agreements and so on. Mark said that this would be good to take to the National Traffic Managers Forum to raise awareness (as they have street works within their remit).

Action: Helen Huemer-Markides to contact Mark Corbin for a presentation to NTMF on the IMA and NUAR [Mark Kemp to provide contact details]

Helen explained that this is currently voluntary, but the Cabinet Office are consulting on this, for example should this be voluntary or compulsory and are considering possibly legislating in the future. Freda Rashdi asked about the role of National Highways in the work. Helen said that Atkins was leading on the roll-out/onboarding with national bodies. Anthony Ferguson said that data from NUAR would be extremely helpful for the Street Manager. Ewan Wallace said the Vault system in Scotland (a similar system to NUAR) would benefit from ongoing learning from both sides in terms of development. Ewan highlighted that the planning element going forward (via IMA) was very interesting to explore and would raise this in Scotland.

Action: Ewan Wallace to raise awareness of IMA within Scotland

Mark Kemp asked how much work boroughs had to do to confirm their assets. Satbir Gill said that they provided the data to GLA. Helen said Hounslow Highways were in a good position to provide data and noted that not all authorities were in such a good position; and, as such, a shopping list of more essential asset information is provided.

Action: Justin Ward to work with Mark Kemp about an article on IMA and NUAR in Transportation Professional for UKRLG pages potentially

3. Active Travel England

Danny Williams introduced himself as the CEO of Active Travel England and Martin Key is head of strategy at Active Travel England.

Danny explained that in August 2022, Active Travel England came into existence with their head office in York. Primarily the focus has been on assessing highway authorities, at the end of July, that ATE wanted them to complete a detailed self-assessment process (77 authorities all completed their assessments on time). This has led to establishing five levels (level 0 = not engaged 4 = very engaged). The assessment process will continue to evolve as ATE get more data. The assessment aids the process for directing investment, but also indirect investment (e.g., the Levelling Up fund – where ¼ of schemes has an active travel element to them). Late October/early November the results from the assessment process will be published. Mark asked about sharing lessons and Danny said that a drop-in approach was in place. Danny said that political support/ambition was a key element to the assessment, as was evidence of delivery.

Danny said that they are thinking about establishing forums or user groups of different types of authorities was under consideration. The regional engagement teams will help with two-way interactions between authorities. Danny said that Baroness Vere is the Minister that has the responsibility for ATE. Danny said that ATE is setting itself up as an internal consultant within DfT to work with external bodies. The systems, structures, and processes that align with other people will be key to this.

Danny said there is no consistent way of talking about active travel in terms of data. Danny said that Treasury asked about what the benefit of active travel is, and Danny said that BCR for investment cases, economic benefits, in terms of political messages are not aligned. Danny said that they are going to build the Active Travel Infrastructure Platform to have a way to work with local authorities to show what active travel infrastructure they have and what they are planning to develop.

Mark Kemp asked about the interface with development control and the ability to build schemes with infrastructure that supports active travel. Danny said that plan is that ATE becomes a statutory consultee in developments (anything over 150 units). Ewan Wallace highlighted about the Levelling Up fund and said that there are elements in Scotland (four local authorities that are doing Levelling Up bids) so what the interface with ATE was.

Action: Danny Williams to consider Wales, Scotland, NI Levelling Up funding and interaction with ATE

Ewan asked about public health agenda and active travel, and Danny responded saying that this was core to ATE highlighting the seriousness of the agenda. The Board agreed that the health argument was often critical in terms of engaging political support to active travel schemes.

Jonny Moran from Transport Scotland said that the SNP – in collation with the Green Party – has committed to increase budgets by ten times on active travel spending.

Mark Kemp highlighted that the focus had been on infrastructure but asked about the behavioural change elements of ATE work. Danny highlighted that training was important and ATE is looking to support this, noting that elements of rural guidance would be important.

4. Updates from UKNMB members

Anthony Ferguson said that new Ministers and portfolios recently agreed. Freda Rashdi said that preparations are underway for the next roads period (RIS 3).

5. UKRLG

Mark Kemp noted the UKRLG review. Satbir Gill highlighted that for the UKRLG new Board on climate change it would be good to have an academic representative.

Action: Ewan Wallace to raise the suggestion of an academic representative to the new UKRLG Board on Climate Change with UKRLG

6. UK Network Management Board

Mark Kemp raised that action of an update on road safety from Pauline Reeves would be good to put in place.

Action: Mark Kemp to invite Pauline Reeves to the next UKNMB meeting

7. AOB

Anthony Ferguson highlighted the Traffic Management Act.

Action: Anthony Ferguson to work with Mark Kemp and Satbir Gill on a session on Traffic Management Act