

Road Condition Management Group

Wednesday 24th May 2017, 11.00–14.00

TfL, Palestra

Attendees	
Graeme Ferguson - Perth & Kinross Council (Chair)	Mark Tite – Bristol City Council
Mark Lewis – Herefordshire CC	Ro Cartwright - Linhay
Leigh Boswell - TfL	Alex Wright – TRL (minutes)
Christopher McKee – DfT	James Wallis – XAIS Asset Management
Peter Burnham – Worcester CC	Chris Dyer - Yotta
Joe Lawson - DRDNI	Chris Spong - Hyperion
Paul Davison - Hampshire CC	Ashley Singh – DfT
Apologies	
Amanda Richards – Surrey CC (Chair)	John Hunter - Norfolk CC
Daniel Bond – Rhonda Cynon Taff	Stuart Evans - South Wales Trunk Road Agent
Mike Gibb – Hyperion	Ian Cadwallader – WDM
Roger Fairclough – Highways England	Ian Hawthorne – LB Hammersmith & Fulham
Andy Pickett – Hyperion	

1. Introduction and Updates since last Meeting – AR/All

The minutes of the January RCMG had been circulated previously. These were briefly reviewed with the following items raised:

- In the AOB from the previous meeting it had been noted that auditors of WGA submissions had been asking why surveys cannot be completed by December. This has been raised at the UKRB, with the feedback that auditors should be reminded that the survey programme and the dates of delivery are well defined, and it is outside the scope of the audit to question this process.

MT reported that he is leaving Bristol City Council to join Gaist. He was invited to remain for the rest of the meeting.

Other actions from the previous meeting are included under the relevant topic areas.

2. Annual Health Check Update – RC

A summary report had been circulated with the minutes describing the progress with the 2016/17 AHC, and the programme and progress for the 2017/18 check. A question was raised over the status of the AHC for Bentley. It was stated that Bentley chose to undertake the AHC in the second window, but there had not been any particular issues with the system. This has now been completed but is awaiting ratification from AR.

RC noted that the AHC programme included the potential for additional items (drawing on the results of the research), should funding become available. However, due to the uncertainty here it was currently being assumed that these items would not be included.

RC provided a brief update on the status of HAMFIG. It was noted that the treasury are asking for WGA financial reports by the end of June. However the CIPFA supporting documents are not expected to be completed until mid-June, leaving little time. It was also pointed out that a number of LAs are under the impression that they do not have to make these reports. The requirement has been promulgated via HAMP/CIPFA events but this may not have reached all LAs. It appears that this may have been better communicated in Scotland through their established process. It was also noted that Atkins no longer have a support contract in place to update the documents, leaving a potential gap, but it was felt that Chris Allen Smith could undertake simple updates. Also, HAMFIG have not met for 18 months and there is a need for a “home” for the tools.

Actions:

- **AR** to confirm AHC completion

3. Research project funding update – GF

GF fed-back on the current research call being undertaken in Scotland. A number of ideas on SCANNER/UKPMS had been submitted to this call. As the scoring process had a focus on trunk roads, the SCANNER work was not being prioritised. Also, work on footways is unlikely to be taken forward.

However, the SCANNER ideas on u-roads and ride quality had been well received and it had been proposed that matched funding be sought from DfT, to take these forward as a joined research programme separate from the trunk road programme. Donald is to discuss this with Steve Berry. It was stated that there is a need for the RCMG to monitor progress on this because of the risk that the developments get “lost” in the current drive to consider more exotic survey technologies, even though SCANNER should be able to meet specific and identified needs for LAs.

Actions:

- **AR** to update on funding discussions

4. Visual Survey Sub Group (VSSG) Update - JW

It was reported that the Annual Engineers Inspection (AEI) manual update is effectively complete and that work was being undertaken to define the processes for Software and Surveyor accreditation. It is expected that these will be signed off by the group by 20/6, with further ongoing revisions/tweaks to be implemented over the following month. There was a discussion on the effects of this on the AHC. An 18 month transition is expected which will enable comparison of the new/old data.

The main difference in the new inspection is the reporting of severity, and the survey is slightly more time consuming to undertake. The survey now reports the material type, as this was a request of LAs. Discussion was held on the implications of the survey for training and QA, as the new defects and recognition of survey type might require higher levels of skill. However, if the survey does provide this data in a reliable way it could provide higher value data to LAs (justifying increased costs to cater for the training and experience required). It was noted that any use of the data would probably require improvements to the rules and parameters.

Actions:

- **JW** to consult with Stuart Giddings on FNS development – *carried forward from previous meeting.*
- **AR** to discuss service inspections issue with CG *this is carried forward from previous meeting, but with an update that the group are looking for volunteers.*

5. SCANNER sub-group and SCANNER Audit update –AW

The SCANNER research had been completed and presented to the UKRB in March. The reports have been delivered and are now awaiting approval from AR/JH. A number of follow up areas of research had been proposed covering cracking consistency, roughness and fretting. The recommended assessment process for cracking consistency was being trialled in the SCANNER QA programme and was showing some interesting behaviour that highlighted the need for ongoing improvements in this area.

It was stated that the research was recommending a winter shutdown. The SCANNER Contractor's Group had discussed this and it seemed feasible, but this really needs to be driven from the user (LA/RCMG) end so that it can be enforced and communicated to LAs.

It was reported that there 9 SCANNER devices were currently undergoing accreditation, with 2 further vehicles booked in. There had been a delay in the delivery of the data but this had now been received and processing had commenced. The Yotta Tempest1 vehicle had been re-accredited based on its ongoing performance but this was on the basis that the system will be phased out soon. Yotta were seeking full accreditation for Tempest3 with a new image/crack detection system which had been allowed to commence surveys to help understand the performance of the new system on the network, but this equipment was still under review.

TRL had delivered 150 of the 176 2016/2017 network QA reports and had commenced the 2017/18 audit. It was pointed out that data delivery had commenced in Scotland and therefore there was a need to commence the audit.

Actions:

- **AR/JH** Review/approve SCANNER research reports
- **AW** Commence 2017 audit

6. Update from DfT Statistics – CM

The RCE report had been published in late March. The summary results were discussed, such as the general decrease in the indicators on all road types, and the increase in the indicator for skidding on trunk roads (resulting from seasonal trending). It was stated that there is a desire to run the report earlier next year. This should not be a problem as LAs should have all their data by April. This does not mean that LAs would be able to provide the data immediately, but it should be practical to have the data delivered to DfT so that the report could be brought forward by several months.

7. RCMG survey

RC had provided a slide pack to summarise the results of the survey in a consistent manner. She may also be able to provide different ways of presenting the data if anyone has a specific requirement

(contact RC for this). It was agreed that the slides could be used to support a number of areas. There was a request for the slides to be circulated.

It was noted that there is a risk that the survey only has identified the views/practice of users who are already engaged – how could we get feedback from non-responders? Also, how could we disseminate the lessons learnt? This had been discussed at the SCLG, and was discussed in this meeting:

- potential to use the contractor's client (user group) meetings/seminars – for both SCANNER and UKMPS contractors
- Use Service Improvement Groups to host workshops – e.g. the Midlands SIG – however this appears to be the only active group we are aware of
- Webinars
- Electronic newsletters

Action:

- **AR/RC** circulate slide pack

8. DfT review of UKPMS / Condition Surveys

The forthcoming review was discussed and its potential effects on SCANNER/UKPMS. It was noted that the known gaps in the data identified in various research projects had not been filled. However, SCANNER and UKPMS still offer a viable tool to support LA maintenance that can also support national reporting. There is a need to consider how the condition data and assessment could be improved within a controlled framework. It was agreed that a working group would be formed to prepare for this review and establish a vision, ahead of Steve Berry's attendance of the RCMG in September. Volunteers for the group were: AW, CS, RC, CD, GF, JW.

Action:

- **AR** to arrange meeting of work group

9. RCMG Newsletter

It was agreed that items would be prepared on:

- UKPMS Accreditation status – RC
- SCANNER Winter shutdown proposals – AW
- The new visual surveys – JW
- WGA requirements – RC to liaises with Chris Allen Smith
- SCANNER research summary – AW
- Reporting Date for RCI results – CM

Action:

- **Above named:** Prepare input to newsletter

10. Recommendations for UKRB approval

The results of the SCANNER research have already been presented to the UKRB. AR has also presented the results of the VSSG work.

11. AOB

The UKPMS materials have now been transferred onto the UKRLG website. The group were invited to visit the site to check it and determine if (in their opinion) if any significant content is missing. TRL need to establish a link from the old site to the new site and clear the old website.

The views of the group on the membership were sought. It was agreed that the group needs to include technical expertise, which may come from industry, so consultants should be included. However, membership by LAs should be encouraged.

RF (Highways England) had provided an email update on ongoing work reviewing the DMRB standards. This stated that all DMRB standards will be updated or withdrawn by 2020. The new standards will be limited to mandatory requirements, the advice elements will be removed and referenced to external third party documents. The new standards will focus on the requirements of the English strategic road network. The document will contain annexes for temporary revision, similar to Interim advice notes. The specific requirements of the Devolved Governments will also be included in Annex's. The document will not incorporate any requirements for local authority roads.

Action:

- **All:** check new UKRLG website content
- **AW:** link from old website and clear old website

12. DONM

Next Meeting: 13th September, 11.00am TFL, Palestra.