

Minutes of the 58th meeting of the UK Bridges Board (UKBB) held at the CIHT on 13 February 2019

Board members in attendance:

Liz Kirkham	(Chair) ADEPT/Gloucestershire County Council
Kevin Dentith	ADEPT/Devon County Council
Keith Harwood	TBC
Richard Fish	BOF
Colin Hall (for Rob Dean)	Network Rail
Gary Kemp	DfT
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Bob Humphreys	CSS Wales, Gwynedd Council
Peter Simpson	Canal & River Trust
Hazel McDonald	Transport Scotland
Andrew Strang	SCOTS/Perth and Kinross Council
Satbir Gill	Representing TAG
Jason Hibbert	Welsh Government
Nick Burgess	London Underground
Neil Loudon	Highways England
Colin Ferris	Department for Infrastructure NI
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

Paul (SCOSS/CROSS)

1. Welcome

Liz welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Colin Hall from Network Rail who has representing Rob Dean. Rob has recently confirmed that he will have to step down from the group as he is leaving Network Rail. Liz noted the groups thanks to Rob Dean for his contribution. Rob has been a really positive contributor to the group, including acting as Deputy Chair. Apologies were received from Sharan Gill TfL

2. SCOSS/CROSS

Dr Paul McNulty provided an update on SCOSS and CROSS noting a couple of key issues:

SCOSS – this is for issues that are in the public domain and include incidents that have involved incidents such as major bridge collapses e.g. FIU Bridge Collapse in Miami and Morandi Bridge Collapse in Genoa. CROSS is either for confidential reports from the industry or for incidents that are smaller scale and that do not make it into the news.

Following the presentations, Liz Kirkham opened for questions and observed that the industry keeps coming up the issue of competency. Richard Fish noted that procurement issues might cause problems particularly if the industry is moving towards the lowest price as this could lead to employing contractors that don't have the necessary safety oversight.

Richard added that the UK has no statutory body to investigate bridge collapses. Liz noted the lack of a highways accident investigation board, but noted that the RAC Foundation and DfT have set-up a Road Accident Investigation Board. Liz noted that she had suggested expanding the remit to include design failures of infrastructure.

Richard Fish said that there is already a Rail and Air accident investigation branch.

Neil Loudon said that Dame Judith Hackette report on Grenfell will have wide reaching impacts and potential impacts on building regulations. Neil Loudon said that root cause analysis said that it is often a result of several factors. The issues of climate change predictions are being considered for design issues (particularly temperature issues).

Action: UK Bridges Board members encourage their organisations to report to CROSS

3. Access planning sub-group

Liz said that the group was set-up as a task and finish group. Liz noted that the group has set-up some material on the website and carried out liaison within the industry.

Liz asked if the group should continue. Satbir Gill said that the group should continue as there were still issues regarding possession planning, inspections, major works, and access planning. Neil Loudon supported this view and need to avoid problems that have been encountered.

Action: Liz Kirkham to feedback to Richard Waters that UKBB recommend that the Access planning sub-group continue but noted the need for commitment from representative organisations

Kevin Dentith said the Canal & River Trust have presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that has been rejected by ADEPT. There is a task and finish group managing this issue and future engagement will involve Defra. Kevin noted some of the concerns such as public bodies being treated like developers in terms to cost charges.

Action: Justin Ward to work with Richard Waters on the website content and include details provided by Hazel McDonald from Transport Scotland. Also ensure the content is more visible on the website

4. Bridge Owners Forum

Richard Fish said that a focus had been on research at the last meeting, but other updates included bridge strikes. Future engagement will involve a focus on engaging with the Cambridge Centre for Digitally Built Britain; resilience (including climate change and against terrorism, fires); and on drones/UAVs and using them with enhanced digital imaging including thermal and trying to develop this into a best practice guide.

Liz said on the bridge strikes that Rob had asked if Mark could attend the UK Bridges Board. The Bridge Strike Prevention Group report to the UK Network Management Board as the issue is more of a network management issue. Liz said that she had spoken with Mark Kemp, Chair of the UK Network Management Board, but that Mark will present to the UKNMB.

5. Research

Update on current research projects

Structures Decision Support Tool 022-UKRLG

Keith Harwood said he is looking after the Structures Toolkit and is due to be finished by the end of March 2019. Keith said that a questionnaire had been circulated through ADEPT and there was a response saying that the toolkit would be useful if it went into commercial software as it has the potential to produce useful results. Keith said engagement with suppliers has also been encouraging.

Keith said they have added in the guidance on performance indicators. Liz said that the Design Guidance for Local Roads was being delayed due to an update to TD19 that it would be worth delaying this.

Action: DfT to draft letter of funding confirmation for the work identified at the UKRLG meeting in November 2018 for the research on bridge condition indicators to Keith Harwood

Guidance for the assessment of masonry arch bridges 023-UKRLG

Masonry research – Bob Humphreys said that the work is ongoing with plans to publish this in the summer. Bob said that the guide would be freely available through CIRIA. Richard Fish asked about the relationship with BD21. Neil Loudon said that BD21 would be reviewed after the research by UKRLG was published.

Safety Critical Fixings report

Neil Loudon said that the 18 March would be the launch of this document and CIRIA have undertaken some publication of this.

Neil then asked about the implementation of the report to ensure that it is used within the industry.

Action: Justin Ward to cover the Safety Critical Fixings report in Transportation Professional and included on the UKBB website

Future UKRLG research

The Board discussed a range of research proposals proposed by BOF.

First priority agreed was an update to the Guidance for Road Restraint Systems on Local Roads.

Liz noted the need to submit bids for future UKRLG research. There was a discussion on the update to Guidance of Road Restraint Systems research proposal to be updated (to bring in parapet design guidance). It makes a lot of references to TD19 then it was delayed.

Action: Liz Kirkham offered to lead the procurement on this work through Gloucestershire County Council. Neil Loudon offered to facilitate contact with the team working on the update of TD19 as part of the DMRB review.

There was a discussion on proposals for: *Gap analysis for Strategic Bridge Management (based on the previously discussed “Cradle to Grave” concept and Human factors in Asset Management Decision Making*

The Board agreed with Liz Kirkham’s suggestion that the initial focus for this work should be on bridges but that there was potential to widen out to cross/pan assets. This should take account of the work by SCOSS/CROSS.

Action: Keith Harwood to draft research proforma on the research for improved understanding of Deterioration of Concrete Bridges.

Action: Kevin Dentith to arrange for research pro-forma to be completed for: *On-line Training modules for the improved understanding of the behaviour of arch bridges (proposed by Philip Gray (TfL) and supported by Graham Cole and CIRIA)*. [Noted this would be a follow on from 023-UKRLG above]

There was a discussion on research into the extent and consequences of overloaded HGVs (including data collection of data from existing WiM sites and potential impact on fatigue susceptible structures). Hazel said that Transport Scotland is working with Police Scotland and the haulage industry to work on some of the issues, particularly around enforcement.

Action: Hazel McDonald to draft a research proposal (as a phased project). Phase 1 would focus on research to identify the extent of overloaded HGVs on the road network [including stakeholder analysis] with support from Neil Loudon and Jason Hibbert

Jason said that this is another pan asset issue – including road safety, pavement deterioration, network management and so on.

Action: Richard Fish to arrange for the research template to be completed on research proposal to conduct a review of state-of-the-art sensors for corrosion detection in reinforced concrete.

Action: All above to be completed by end of March 2019 ready for

Action: Hazel McDonald to flag up the UKBB research proposals to the Scottish Road Research Board SRRB

6. Bridge Strike Prevention Group update from Network Rail

Neil Loudon said that Network Rail's campaign had finished and Highways England was due to run a campaign targeted at construction plants and hauliers. Kevin Dentith said that roadworks.org might offer information to assist with bridge strike prevention

7. Highways England/Local Highway Authority Boundary issue

Liz Kirkham said that ADEPT Engineering Board had not been able to support endorsement of the Highways England Code, because of the ongoing disputes around embankments and approach fencing..

Action: Neil Loudon said that Highways England would consider the feedback from ADEPT and provide an update on the Highways England/Local Highway Authority Boundary issue

Neil said that at some point a line might have to be drawn in the sand acknowledging that not everyone might be satisfied with the final document.

8. Parapet Height document (confirmation of adoption by UKRLG)

Action: Justin Ward to chase up with Rob Dean on the amendments to the parapet height document following review by UKRLG

9. Review of DMRB and MCHW

Neil Loudon said that work was progressing, and good progress was being made. Andrew Strang asked when Highways England standards are being published. Neil Loudon said some have already been updated and are available on the standards website. The drafting deadline is September/October this year.

Andrew Strang said for the need for additional information to find the update when a standard has been noted to have been 'withdrawn'. Neil Loudon noted he would take this on board.

10. Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme

a. update from steering group members

Hazel McDonald said there was meeting planned for tomorrow. Hazel said that there have been several workshops held across the UK to help prepare people get ready for scheme and that these have gone well. There is a discussion with Network Rail on adopting the scheme and consideration of a modular approach to the scheme.

b. follow up letter from UKBB Chair

Liz Kirkham said that Hazel has drafted a letter and read out some of the points, taking into account feedback from Andrew Strang.

Action: Liz Kirkham to redraft the letter based on feedback from the UKBB and work with Hazel McDonald and Justin Ward to circulate to UK Bridges Board members (including developing a short survey to be completed)

Action: BICS Steering Group to continue to engage with ADEPT Bridges Group

Kevin Dentith said that the ADEPT Bridges Group had raised concerns about the BICS scheme – as is revenue funded and this is under pressure - that an alternative scheme was being developed by several highway authorities. Kevin said that this needs to be professional scheme and will build on BD63.

Hazel McDonald said that by splitting the scheme into modules has been approved so that the scheme works for smaller authorities and it also needs to be adapted to Network Rail. Andrew Strang said that this might be helpful but there was an immediate problem within SCOTS is that inspectors from in-house staff and terms of reference and annual fees for the work is a challenge.

Keith Harwood – UKRLG Asset Management Board – is working on a competency framework for highway inspectors. Keith said this was different to the bridge's competency scheme.

Action: Keith Harwood to circulate the work by the UKRLG Asset Management Board on Code of Practice competence training 025-UKRLG

Liz concluded that the Board needs to make the BICS scheme being the best to choose.

11. LoBEG representation

Liz Kirkham engagement with LoBEG would be valued.

Action: Justin Ward and Liz Kirkham to invite LoBEG to be represented on UKBB

12. RAC Foundation survey and Post Tensioned Structures

Kevin Dentith said that Post Tensioned Structures Inspections (PTSI) there was about 50 or so across the country that have not had an inspection.

13. Minutes of the last meeting

Item 3 refers to the impact of the Genoa Bridge Crash needs amended; and the subsequent paragraph requires deletion and BOF meeting was 6 November not 6 December.

Action: Justin Ward to ask Rob Dean for slides and lessons learnt for Bridge Strike work

Action: BICS figures will be updated tomorrow [to circulate with minutes]

14. Minutes of the UK Roads Liaison Group

Liz Kirkham noted the road tunnels report that anything sent to the commission will now be sent to UKRLG. Keith Harwood said the minutes needed a correction as should be Hertfordshire and not Hartfordshire.

15. AOB

Update on CIRIA research – This was noted has been circulated.

16. Date of next meeting

23 May 2019