

ADEPT ENGINEERING COMMITTEE

NATIONAL BRIDGES GROUP

Meeting update

Date and Time: 10:30 on Tuesday 11th February 2020

1. Guest Presentations –

- a) **Post tensioned special Inspections – Donald Pearson-Kirk**
- b) **Reviewing the Bridge Inspection CSS tables – Simon Hollyer**

2. Network Rail liaison – recent correspondence between ADEPT and Network Rail have had an impact on the activity of the Access Planning Group with 3 Heads of Service from NR attending the latest meeting. There was some movement on ADEPT members recovering possession cancellation costs with NR offering to provide a one-off budget – after which a levy may be applied to BAPAs to be used in future claims. This last point is disappointing and will be resisted by ADEPT as it could take away the incentive for NR

3. Bridge Strike Prevention Group – a request after the last Bridges Group meeting for a member to represent ADEPT on the Bridge Strike Prevention Group was successful and a senior Traffic Engineer for Devon County Council now represents ADEPT

4. Bridge Inspector Competency Scheme. ADEPT Bridges Group members and the Chair of UK Bridges Board met with LANTRA and the BICS Steering Group at CIHT HQ on 12th February. Three alternative schemes, ADEPT/Devon, SCOTS and CSS Wales are gaining momentum and whilst it is disappointing the BICS scheme has only had limited success ADEPT and UKBB should be satisfied be encouraged that Inspector competency assessments is now a hot topic.

5. DMRB Review – this review is nearing completion and thanks ADEPT have been grateful for the opportunity to be involved in standards review especially the rewrite of BD97/12, Scour Assessments. An ADEPT member has collaborated for three years with Exeter University on this important area and further collaborated with Highways England to ensure the impact of debris on scour was included in the new document

6. Canal & River Trust – with little success over the last three years in resolving the issue of ADEPT members being charged excessive CRT fees to undertake their statutory duty, the President of ADEPT has written to the CRT CEO in a hope to make some progress. Two ADEPT member authorities have undertaken work on/over CRT assets without complying with the unofficial CRT Code of Practice and the outcome is awaited to see if precedent has been set.

7. Highways England / Local Authority Boundary Issue – after many years of 'discussion' between the HE and ADEPT over the individual responsibilities for interface/boundary issues an agreement has been made subject to a request from ADEPT Bridge

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Group to change the title of the document CoP to Guidance. Whilst not all members will be happy with some areas of the agreement a major stumbling block covering the ownership of approach embankments was resolved after legal advice from an ADEPT member; ADEPT has had to capitulate and agree with HE's assertion that approach embankments constructed to cross a SRC bridge will be the responsibility of LAs. Mark Stevens, Chair of ADEPT will advise HE of our acceptance

8. **NHT Performance Indicators** – a presenter has been invited to the next meeting to discuss appropriate NHT PI's for bridges
9. **The Annual Bridge Conference** - a number of ADEPT Bridges Group members will be providing presentations at the Bridge Conference on 12th March and further 'hot topics' at a workshop on the 13th. Topics include 'Scour at Bridges', Structures asset Valuation Investment tool (SAVI) and a Pecha Kucha covering many topics in short two minute presentations
10. **RAC Foundation Survey** – the press release covering the results of the recent RAC Foundation FOI was issued on Friday 28th February. Sub standard bridges is again the main topic. ADEPT Bridge Group works with the Foundation (different organisation from the vehicle recovery namesake) to provide appropriate questions that identify the challenges that our member face. The response to the survey is quite staggering with 99% returns and the DfT will be made aware of the findings which has to be good for ADEPT as funding issues are a main headline note.

Kevin Dentith
Chair ADEPT Bridge Group