

Introduction to Bridge Owners Forum

Background

Keith Harwood

Head of Profession – Bridges and Structures

Chartered Bridge Engineer and Member of IAM

Worked in UK and Africa since 1982

County Council since 1998 in Warwickshire CC, Herts since 2012

Interested in management of existing structures, prolonging the life

Projects – Improving management of bridges in Herts

Current work

Member of HAMFIG, Structures Toolkit subgroup, guiding Atkins

Talk 18 months ago on the Herts Toolkit

Interested in research – collaboration with Herts and CSIC

Representing

Representing ADEPT, new to both ADEPT and BOF

Employed by Arup, but full-time as part of Whole Client Service in Herts

Conflict of Interest if Arup were involved

Assisted Graham C with reviewing the research proposals as part of the TFG for UKRLG

Thoughts on key priorities for BOF to address

- Coordinated approach across bridge owning organisations. Particularly important to local authorities who interface with all the other owners, yet are a divided and disparate bunch. Do the risks lie in stock owned by the big bridge owners – what about Luton, or Thames Water?
- Understanding the long-term deterioration of structures. Whether we have a looming crisis in concrete bridges.
- Understanding risk – How to manage structures based on risk rather than condition. Maintaining network performance. We often mention risk of collapse, but there are other risks to network operation which are more likely but less severe.
- Extending the service life of structures whether through improved maintenance, better inspection and investigation, or more robust risk management
- Long life expansion joints, making existing bridges integral, management of half joint structures