

ADEPT ENGINEERING BOARD

NATIONAL BRIDGES GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The ADEPT National Bridges Group (NBG) drives strategic collaboration among local government bridge engineering and management professionals across the UK to advance best practices, solve critical challenges, and ensure the safety and resilience of highway bridges, tunnels, and related infrastructure. As a specialized sub-group of the ADEPT Engineering Board, the NBG leads collective action to protect and optimise critical local infrastructure on which communities depend.
2. The NBG membership consists of Chair, Vice Chair, Co-Secretaries, representatives of the Area Bridge Groups (ABG) (normally the Chair and Secretary of the ABG), and representatives of other national/regional groups as below:
 - South West
 - Yorkshire & Humber
 - West Midlands
 - East Midlands
 - South East
 - North West
 - Northern
 - Eastern
 - SCOTS
 - CSS Wales
 - Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland)
 - Transport for London
3. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Vice Secretary of the NBG are chosen by the NBG and have a tenure of 3 years after which a vote for each position will be taken by a show of hands at the appropriate National Bridges Group meeting (next due date February 2028).
4. The NBG aims to operate through collaborative consensus, ensuring all voices contribute to strategic decisions. Where there is no consensus a simple show of hands may be taken at the discretion of the chair.
5. The Chair and Secretary of the ABGs are engineers chosen by the ABG from amongst its membership and ratified by the NBG.
6. Membership of ABG comes from engineers who manage or have influence over their local authority structures stock.
7. The purpose of the NBG and ABG is:

- to develop and promulgate best practice on technical, financial, administrative and operational matters relating to the sustainable construction, maintenance, availability, safety and use of local authority highway bridges, tunnels and other highway structures.
- to provide a source of advice to local authorities and professional bodies on best practice and priorities in relation to bridges, tunnels and other highway structures.
- to provide Central Government with consolidated data regarding the issues with and condition of local authority structures.
- to provide a link between local authorities and other structures groups, asset management groups and ADEPT groups including (but not limited to):
 - UK Bridges Board (UKBB) Bridge Owners Forum (BOF)
 - ADEPT Engineering Board (AEB)
 - UKRLG/ADEPT Asset Management Board (AMB)
 - Historic Rail Estate Stakeholder Advisory Forum
 - Bridge Strike Prevention Group
- NBG will be represented at UK Bridges Board and Bridge Owners Forum by the NBG Chair (or a proxy) and a representative from Metropolitan Councils, SCOTS and CSS Wales (or their proxies).
- to consult and co-operate with other structure owners and those having an interest in bridges, inviting representatives to NBG meetings as appropriate from:
 - Network Rail
 - Canal and River Trust
 - Environment Agency
 - National Highways
 - Historic Rail Estate
 - Other ADEPT groups
 - Other bridge owners or interested parties
- to assist with production of industry documents such as Codes of Practice and guidance.
- to work with organisations such as the RAC Foundation to collate consolidated data regarding local authority structures stocks to inform a “state of structures” report to be published annually.
- to share and disseminate safety concerns from the local authority structures community for wider awareness and learning.
- to provide assistance for local authority structures teams through periods of

change.

8. The working methods of the NBG are as follows:

- to engage with members on themes for meetings with a view to organising speakers which will assist the membership with the theme.
- to assist the collation and analysis of the RACF survey data and identify annual theme question for the survey.
- to inform policy makers on the challenges affecting local authority structures teams.
- to collate and maintain a list of local authority structures managers for the UK.
- to report back to the ADEPT Engineering Board, of which the NBG is a sub-group.
- to meet three times a year (usually February, June and October) and to record the proceedings of meetings and to share with ABGs.
- from time to time to establish 'task and finish' working groups to undertake specific tasks.
- to share topics and represent local authority structure owner interests where appropriate with other groups particularly UKBB, BOF and AMB.
- to invite presentations from industry, or from other national groups, for delivery at NBG meetings.

Helen Rowe
Chair

Rob Causton
Vice-chair

Joanne Saunders
Co-Secretary

Callum Gillett
Co-Secretary

ADEPT National Bridges Group
July 2025