

Funding:

- There needs to be a greater awareness of funding, spending plans and income generation in the sector
- What funding models are being considered?
- Can there be a clearly identified ring fenced fund for maintenance of current infrastructure?
- Who is providing funding and why?
- How stable is the funding?
- Can traffic related income be reinvested into the sector?
- What is the current and expected income from the industry?

Session 2 – Standards & Specifications (p.m.)

Common themes were identified are produced below.

There are two distinct areas but which overlap : Standards for equipment and technology and standards for services, delivery, and maintenance

- Clarification and understanding of should dos and must dos – guidance and standards or law and legislation
- Levels of liability in the new age
- Encourage standards Committee members to attend meetings
- Users of products should become more involved in standards committees
- Standards should be live and updated regularly when needed
- Associations should freely challenge bad practice at procurement - whistleblowing
- Industry reps need to participate more fully
- There needs to be standards for material/quality and operation which are performance based
- How many standards are there?
- Industry should be leading in setting good practice – clear need to collaborate with users and developers of strategy
- Raise awareness of existing standards
- Policing of standards – what is liability and how is it deal with
- Who has the knowledge of use/application relevance?
- Rule of guidance vs Rule of law
- Specs and standards come after event – should this continue to be the case?
- Is there a requirement for Procurement training to enable procurers to be aware of all required standards?
- Risk assessment requires a knowledge of the outcomes of behaviour by engineers which requires education and training
- How are the competencies going to be determined – who are the experts and how is this passed down.
- Current lack of consistency in application
- Funding for standards generation is limited – little support left from DfT or academia
- Funding currently private and reducing
- There has been an increased hollowing out of knowledge base.
- Should there be a mutual compliance framework?

Next steps:

Those attending to report back to their Associations on the findings of the meeting and take further comments and feedback from their members.

There was a request that we take steps to notify those relevant bodies that we have created this forum for dialogue to ensure that we are transparent and open.

Arrange a next meeting for those attending and any other identified associations who have an interest to feedback to the group and determine the specific issues which need to be addressed.

Agree outcomes going forward.

Determine how to approach the format of the future session to invite policy makers and the user community to attend and engage with dialogue.

If this is to be an ongoing forum should the policy makers attend once a year following advance notice of issues to be covered? Create a plan of action.

Actions:

KF to produce report of meeting and circulate

KF to produce a draft letter to be submitted to suggested individuals

AP to provide a precise of the group to attendees at the DfT meeting In June

KF to arrange next meeting date with a view to September

Thanks given to everyone attending.

Meeting ended at 4.00pm

****Below is the list of generated comments from those present on strategy and funding (amalgamated into commonality above)*

- *What are the business case models for DfT / HE / ADEPT?*
 - *RIS*
 - *RIS II*
 - *RIS III*
 - *If these are successful can they be applied to local networks?*
- *Would the DfT consider developing a preferred operating model for all local authorities to adopt?*
- *What is the DfT vision for the future highway and future highway maintenance?*
- *Devolved governments – what are they doing?*
- *What is the minimum asset requirement and what will this cost?*
- *What is the best use of existing asset?*
- *What is the criteria for the future?*