**Sewerage Adoption Panel**

**Meeting on 18 October 2024 at 2.00pm via MS Teams**

**In attendance:**

**Victor Olowe – Chair**

**Kate Raybould – Secretary**

**Nick Ayling – Thames Water**

**Gary Boddington – Anglian Water**

**Kenny Mawson – M J Gleeson**

**Alison Tregale – South West Water**

**Sam Vernon – Vistry**

**Gavin Thorne – Barratt Homes**

**Jenny Henman – Yorkshire Water**

**Richard Starritt – Severn Trent**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Item** | **Action** |
| 1 | **Introduction and Apologies**  The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Karl Walker. It was noted that the meeting was quorate, with the required number of water company and developer members in attendance. |  |
| 2 | **Declaration of Interests**  There were no interests to declare from any of the Panel members. |  |
| 3 | **Waiver of notice and publication period (standing item)**  The change proposal from Torrent Water Management had been previously published on the Panel’s website and therefore the waiver was not required. |  |
| 4 | **Approval of minutes of Panel Meeting held on 10th July 2024**  The minutes of the Panel Meeting held on 30th April 2024 were approved for publication. There were no matters arising from the minutes. The Secretary would review the action log to update any outstanding actions. | Review Action Log (KR) |
| 5 | **Open Change Proposal**   * **Addition of the material HDPE for raising sections to DCG v2.1 E6.7 - Torrent Water Management Ltd**   The Panel discussed the change proposal form received from Torrent Water Management Limited regarding the addition of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) as a material for cover frame seating rings in relevant sections of the DCG. Following the Panel’s request for further information, Torrent has provided further information on the testing carried out by WRc on the product and its engagement with Highways Authorities, which the Panel reviewed. In addition, the Panel has consulted with its Technical Sub-Group and the WUK Standards Board.  Based on the responses to its consultation, the Panel noted that there were obvious benefits of the TORiser product as evidenced by the fact that some water companies were already using it on a trial basis. The Panel must be mindful of the need to encourage innovation in the sector in accordance with the Adoption Code principles. However, the Panel could not recommend or approve individual products; particularly as this could give rise to competition issues given the limited market for similar products. While the Panel could make an alternative change to the DCG to refer to ‘other materials’ in addition to the existing reference to concrete, this would be of limited effect as it would be too generic and possibly counterproductive.  Section 2.5 of the Sewerage Sector Guidance (SSG) already provides for innovation on the basis that: ‘*new processes and products are able to be presented to the Sewerage Company for approval. It is expected that initially, trials will be conducted by way of an agreed deviation from the DCG before an application is made for the new way of*  *working/product to be more generally adopted via the SSG governance process*.’ It was noted that the trials of the TORiser were not yet complete and therefore it was not yet ready to be promoted under the innovation process.  After discussion, the Panel agreed that the proposed change would be rejected as E6.7 of the DCG did not restrict the use of the product because the innovation process under section 2.5 of the SSG already allowed for the product to be used in any case. However, it was noted that there should be a clear process for assessing products which have completed trials under 2.5 and making any changes to the DCG. The Secretary will draft the Panel’s letter of recommendation to Ofwat and circulate it for approval by the Panel. | Draft letter to Ofwat (KR) |
| **6** | **Geocellular crates query – discussion with CIRIA and feedback from stakeholders**  Following discussion at previous meetings, the Panel has consulted with stakeholders and CIRIA on the query raised by manufacturers regarding the adoptability of geocellular crates and the application of CIRIA C737. From this feedback, it does not appear that a change to the DCG is required. CIRIA have offered to attend a Panel meeting to discuss the issue and the Panel agreed that this would be helpful, so that it can confirm its view and companies can respond to manufacturers accordingly. |  |
| **7** | **Severn Trent query – SAM 5/1**  Severn Trent Water had submitted a minor correction through the new website form, which related to Appendix B Procedures, Stage 5: Maintenance Period & Sewage Sector Guidance, Appendix F Levels of Service and reporting requirements, SAM 5/1 request for pre maintenance inspections. AT will contact STW directly to discuss the feedback from the LoS Group on the query. | Contact STW (AT) |
| **8** | **AOB**   * The next meeting will be scheduled for late November, so that CIRIA can attend to discuss C737. * Thames Water are currently looking at a new specification for sewers in areas with high groundwater, including welded systems to prevent water infiltration. This may generate a change proposal in due course. * WUK have issued a contract to WRc for the work on updating the DCG to align with the new version of CESWI. The Secretary will chase WUK for an update. | Ask CIRIA to meeting (KR)  Chase WUK (KR) |

**Sewerage Adoption Panel**

**Meeting Action Log**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of Meeting** | **Action** | **Action Owner** | **Due Date** | **Status** |
| 06/10/22 | CESWI – submit change proposal | WRc/  CESWI Group | 30/11/22 | On hold |
| Vistry change proposal – write to Vistry re: division/group query | KR | 11/10/22 | Complete |
| Vistry change proposal – draft email for consultation | KR/All | 14/10/22 | Complete |
| ToR – comment on draft change proposal | All | 11/10/22 | Complete |
| ToR – submit change proposal to Ofwat | VO/KR | 14/10/22 | Complete |
| NAV rep on Panel – discuss with Ofwat | KR | 10/10/22 | Complete |
| BPF query on website – respond | KR | 21/10/22 | Complete |
| 19/12/22 | BPF change proposal – write to BPF to clarify | KR | 15/01/22 | Complete |
| Vistry change proposal – provide comments on diagram | RS | 11/01/22 | Complete |
| Vistry change proposal – request extension from Ofwat | KR | 23/12/22 | Complete |
| WIS IGN – update Panel website | KR | 11/01/22 | Complete |
| CESWI project – speak to WUK | KR | 11/01/22 | Complete |
| Website – speak to Vu | KR | 11/02/22 | Complete |
| Tidying amendments – collate list | All | 28/02/22 | Superceded |
| 31/03/23 | CESWI – chase WRc/WUK | KR | 30/04/23 | Complete |
| BPF change proposal – draft email to Sub-Group | KR | 12/04/23 | Complete |
| BPF change proposal – request extension | KR | 12/04/23 | Complete |
| Chris Faulkner change proposal – write to CF to clarify | KR | 12/04/23 | Complete |
| Arrange next meeting | KR | 30/04/23 | Complete |
| 09/06/23 | BPF change proposal – suggest wording for C7.1.2 | NA | 12/06/23 | Complete |
| BPF change proposal – draft letter to Ofwat and circulate | KR | 12/06/23 | Complete |
| Chris Faulkner change proposal – draft letter to Ofwat | KR | 31/07/23 | Complete |
| Ofwat meeting – email KR with topics | All | 28/06/23 | Complete |
| 10/11/23 | JDP change proposal – draft email to WRc and circulate | KR | 17/11/23 | Complete |
| Homes England – draft response and circulate | KR | 17/11/23 | Complete |
| Adoption of STWs – collate details and circulate | GT | 30/11/23 | Superceded |
| Adoption of STWs – review by Panel | All | 29/09/24 | Superceded |
| Attenuation crates – draft email to CIRIA and circulate | KR | 17/11/23 | Complete |
| NAVs – provide details of scenario | GT/All | 30/11/23 | Superceded |
| WUK PDaS query – circulate for comment | KR | 10/11/23 | Complete |
| Code updates – chase WUK | KR | 10/11/23 | Complete |
| New Connections Committee – attend meeting | KR | 28/11/23 | Complete |
| 12/01/24 | CESWI update – liaise with WRc and WUK re: WRc costs | KR | 19/01/24 | Complete |
| CESWI update – ask WUK to add note to DCG re: update | KR | 31/01/24 | Complete |
| JDP change proposal – draft letter to Ofwat and circulate | KR | 15/01/24 | Complete |
| Tidying amends – liaise with Vu Online | KR | 19/01/24 | Complete |
| Adoption of STWs – include note in tidying amends | NA/KR | 30/04/24 | Complete |
| Mission Rubber – respond to queries | KR | 15/01/24 | Complete |
| Geocellular crates – update email to CIRIA and circulate | KR | 19/01/24 | Complete |
| Meeting with Ofwat – email Panel for items | KR | 26/01/24 | Complete |
| 30/04/24 | Geocellular crates – ask CIRIA for info on testing | KR | 31/05/24 | Complete |
| SAM 5/1 – raise with LoS Group | AT | 31/05/24 | Complete |
| 10/07/24 | Torrent change proposal – ask Torrent to clarify re: HAs and WRc testing | KR | 31/07/24 | Complete |
| Torrent change proposal – draft note for consultation | KR | 31/07/24 | Complete |
| Geocellular crates – draft note to stakeholders | KR | 31/07/24 | Complete |
| 18/10/24 | Action Log - review | KR | 30/11/24 | Complete |
| Torrent change proposal – draft letter to Ofwat and circulate | KR | 31/10/24 | Complete |
| SAM 5/1 – discuss with STW | AT | 30/11/24 |  |
| Geocellular crates – invite CIRIA to next meeting | KR | 31/10/24 | Complete |
| CESWI – chase WUK for update | KR | 31/10/24 | Complete |