

AGI Council meeting minutes 24 January 2025

Participants: Fergus Craig (chair), Peter ter Haar, Sam Tizzard, Liz Scott, Simon Nigh, Bob Chell, Alan Moore, Ian Maxfield, Tamsin Fulton, Denise McKensie, Patrick Rickle, Richard Flemmings, Vida Williams

Apologies: Ben Kemble, Kenna Dallaway, Stuart Tosney, Adam Burke, Andrew Cameron, James Wardroper, John Seabourn, Sara Stewart

Welcome

Fergus opened the meeting. He and Peter outlined a recent meeting with Abi Page, who had updated them on the incorporation of the Geospatial Commission into Government Digital Service. The intention is that AGI will conduct an interview with the AGI, and set out these changes on behalf of the industry via Faith. Two implications are that (a) GDS will now be just a participant at the Cambridge Conference and (b) GDS will take over sponsorship of the Government Geography Profession.

2025 budget

Alan reported that the 2024 accounts are close to being finalised and will be submitted to the accountant in late February for submission in April. Profit stands at £12.9k, balance at £119k and cash at £143k.

Alan then outlined the [draft 2025 budget](#).

- An overall £6k increase in income is assumed based on a modest growth in membership.
- Costs are profiled to increase by £40k this year, including a £10k increase in advertising and marketing and a £5k increase in other costs. The notable additional item is a £25k exceptional investment cost related to the Foresight Report.
- We are projecting a planned loss of £15k as it stands. Alan is consulting on whether we can capitalise the Foresight cost and therefore spread it over several years.

The draft budget was agreed. Alan asked for any feedback or requested changes by 1 February, following which a final budget will be presented to Exec Group for approval.

Skills and Education

The S&E Group meeting is taking place on 29 January. The group membership is being reviewed. The future participation of the GC (currently via Becky Reid) is unknown. Plans for 2025 include a possible skills survey and a landscape mapping exercise, particularly for education providers, working closely with the RGS.

A range of other ideas have been floated. These include:

- Supporting a new apprenticeship at Leeds University
- Developing geospatial skill profiles
- Convening an education forum, including universities to share objectives and explore how to improve AGI impact.

Relating to the latter point, Fergus reported that OS is setting up a similar discussion with RGS and GC to ensure that the industry is consistently represented across all education levels.

Events

Simon, Tamsin and Liz reported that they are creating an events calendar covering national and network groups. There is scope to expand regional events.

An EO event is taking place in Geovation on 29 January, sponsored by Pixel. There is potential for a future EO event at Informed Solutions offices in Manchester, and Mott Macdonald are interested in future sponsorship.

The March regional Manchester event, 'The future of 3D in geospatial' is now open for registration. Jacobs are sponsoring the venue and Mott Macdonald the drinks.

Ollie Hughes is stepping down from GeoBusiness. The show organisers remain very supportive of AGI Awards. We will be partnering on the EO stage and have an opportunity for a slot on the main stage with RICS and possibly RGS. The event is evolving to being more 'geospatial' than 'survey'.

Digital

Sam reported that implementing the membership price increase in our systems is proving complex. The current membership portal is unreliable and is consuming much effort.

A CRM register of potential current and past member interactions is being investigated. This is planned as a configuration of SharePoint lists and PowerApps.

Teams channels are available for all AGI groups. Should there be a channel for all AGI members? Denise suggested that any such initiative should be focused on specific topics, and Peter advised to test the concept with a network which already has some momentum.

Communications

Vida and Esther are mapping out current activities. Operational processes are working well under Faith and Cheryl. The key request to Council is to provide Faith and Cheryl with regular news and content.

Can we involve Associate Partners in sharing communications? This prompted a discussion about the AGI's MOUs.

Action: Denise will review the AGI's register of MOUs and ensure it is accurate and up to date.

Case studies for the website are being managed via Sam.

Josie Vos is standing down in her role as design support and a volunteer replacement is being sought from within our membership.

Peter challenged the comms team to ensure that messages and posts are as timely as possible. Some communications, such as AGI Awards winners, can be prepared in advance and posted in near real-time.

Foresight report

Richard outlined the plan for development of the report in 5 phases.

- Survey – this is planned to go out to membership at the end of January to (a) raise awareness and (b) identify key themes.
- Interviews – up to 20 interviews, which will be an hour long and recorded. Interviewee personas need to be identified. To be completed by mid June. It's intended that some of the interviewees will speak at the launch event.
- Editorial – an independent editor may be hired for this. Faith will be the primary copywriter, and will be contracted over and above her standard AGI role.
- Publishing, including graphic design. The report could be published in multimedia format.
- Launch event – needs distinct planning to start in March with a dedicated working group.

Satellite Application Catapult, OS and 1Spatial are all keen to partner. Aim to develop a statement outlining principles of editorial independence. Sponsorship packages need to be developed. Alan suggested that this initiative could be used to raise engage with members, particularly associate partners.

The budget for the report is £25k, of which the largest component is 30 days of Faith's time.

ECN

Bob recently joined an in-person ECN meeting. A further planning meeting is scheduled soon. Discussed topics include:

- GGP Rising Star awards
- Networking event, possibly at OS
- AGI, RGS and BCS 'triple talk'
- An initiative to support people 6-20 years into their career

Bob would like to trial ECN usage of a Teams channel, as the community has good interaction and engagement.

AGI Awards

Fergus confirmed that the awards will be going ahead this year with a similar template. The award categories may be increased, and the voting rules will be revisited.

GeoCom 2025

Peter will be speaking at GeoCom in Edinburgh on 27 February. Simon will also be attending and possibly Richard.

AOB

Housing roundtable: Richard reported that Faith has written a report based on the discussion which is now being circulated and will be published in February. Following this, there is potential to establish a Housing Network; Esri and Cadcorp have both expressed interest. Simon volunteered to act as a Council sponsor. The UK Reiff event in May was

suggested as a launch opportunity. It was noted that the UK will be hosting an international housing event in 2027.

Action: Simon will investigate the feasibility of establishing an AGI Housing Network.

FOSS4G: Simon is interested in developing connections to this community and asked whether AGI had any existing or historic engagement. There has been some prior cross-promotion and no bad experiences. This year's FOSS4G event will be held in Bristol in October.