

## **The Merger of MHA/MSIG/WMHA**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The appointment of Mike Ashworth as chair of the Midlands Highway Alliance acted as a catalyst for discussions on merging the MHA with the Midland Service Improvement Group and the West Midlands Highway Alliance.

As well as achieving organisational efficiencies, the new organisation would be better aligned with the way ADEPT was structured and would give it a stronger influence in the Highway Sector.

As a starting point, it was agreed that a small working group (WG) be set up to look at the options and how they should be appraised. At the same time the MHA Executive Board and the MSIG Steering Group merged (hereafter referred to as the Board).

- 1.2 The first meeting of the Board took place on 21 November 2017 and the working group presented a paper to the Board at that meeting outlining how the outcomes, options and appraisal methodology would be used to identify the preferred way forward.

### **2. Merger Progress**

- 2.1 At the Executive Board meeting 10 May 2019. a proposed structure was presented to the Board. This was broadly accepted, and the working group was asked to progress the merger and finalise the fee structure.

- 2.2 The completed proposals were presented to the Board on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Included were the proposed structure diagram, terms of reference and the proposed membership fee. The recommendations of the WG were accepted. It was agreed that the joint Annual Business Plan be developed based on the proposals and ratified at the 19 March 2020 meeting of the Board.

- 2.3 Following this meeting all member authorities (35) were consulted on the proposals by email both on 11 November 2019 and 9 December 2019.

- 2.4 Members were given deadline date to respond to the proposals; after which it was assumed that any authority not replying, agreed with the proposal.

- 2.5 Few comments were received, none were against the proposal.

- 2.6 Consultation, via e: mail was undertaken on 17 February 2020, outlining how the legal process for membership would work, and similarly, a deadline was given to advise on any issues.

- 2.7 No adverse comments were received

3. **Next steps**

- 3.1 The name of the new alliance is Midlands Highway Alliance Plus
- 3.2 The annual Business Plan has been prepared as required and includes the Governance processes that apply.
- 3.3 It was due to be presented to the Board on 19 March 2020 but was cancelled due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.4 All that is needed to complete the merger is to approve the Annual Business Plan. Authorities are then able to sign the legal agreement to become members of the MHA+

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