



## August 2022

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### **Membership Fee's Reminder: Please pay your membership fees on time this autumn!**

Local Authority membership of Midlands Highways Alliance Plus (MHA+) is subject to an annual membership fee of £3,750 which covers alliance running costs. On 31 March 2022, however, 14 membership payments for the financial year 2021/22 were still outstanding - and at the time of writing there are still a dozen member authorities yet to pay for the last financial year.

Alliance membership allows a member authority access to benefits including:

- A collaborative community of client, consulting and contracting professionals
- Staff development through active engagement in governance, working groups, etc.
- Free training via the free Learning Management System (LMS)
- Free shared learning opportunities e.g., supplier training, learning library, working groups
- Free Annual Conference event with opportunity for networking, learning and self-promotion
- Free Service Improvement Group (SIG) network of 16 highways and transport specialist groups and supporting website (previously MSIG)
- Medium Schemes Frameworks (MSF 3/4) where terms and conditions agreed
- Professional Services Frameworks (PSP 3/4) where terms and conditions agreed
- Information via website, information sharing platform (ISP), newsletters and meetings
- Support via core team and supplier contacts.

The Future Highways Research Group (FHRG) recognises that local highway authorities demonstrating the greatest value for money are active members of alliances such as MHA+. Persistent non-payment of membership fees will ultimately undermine the services MHA+ are able to offer and increase future membership fees. Non-payment is now routinely reported to the Programme Board. All local authority Directors with outstanding fees due will be written to and continued non-payment will be escalated to the Executive Board with a recommendation on further action to be taken.

Purchase Orders for membership fees for the financial year are typically requested in September for payment by 31 March. Please ensure that we have up to date contact details in advance of the request so that orders can be raised, and invoices paid by 31 March 2023, to avoid placing your membership benefits at risk.

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## PSP 4 Procurement Update

Feedback from the Client Survey, which was undertaken recently to gather client views on how PSP 3 has performed and what PSP 4 should look like, will inform the PSP 4 Working Group. The working group will meet throughout the summer to prepare the business case for the new PSP 4 framework and the tender documents which are to be issued in the autumn. The [PSP 4 Procurement page](#) on the website will be kept updated at each milestone as the procurement process progresses.

If you would like to get involved in the procurement, then please contact [Karen Notman](#).

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## MHA+ Carbon Steering Group

The MHA+ Carbon Steering Group is now in place and the first meeting was held in June. The terms of reference were agreed, with its purpose being to provide a focus for the MHA+ in relation to all matters pertaining to the Carbon Reduction agenda in the Highways sector.

One of the group's first actions will be to focus on the 'big ticket' items, which will most impact the carbon reduction goal we all have to strive to achieve. Alongside this key area, we are keen to secure an understanding of where MHA+ members are in their journey on the carbon reduction agenda and what the variety of organisations in the Highways sector, be it national, regional, or local are doing as well. A 'roundup bulletin' on all matters carbon, will be produced over the next couple of months and circulated to MHA+ members, to keep you informed of what is happening and be updated regularly.

The Group is also keen to share examples of developing best practice in this relatively new area of work with MHA+ members. If you have examples in your Council/organisation of the good work you are doing or indeed developing in relation to the carbon reduction agenda, we want to know about it! So please contact MHA+ Support, [Ian Bamforth](#) or give him a ring on **07842 034616**.

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## Service Improvement Group Update

Just two Service Improvement Group meetings and two sub-group meetings have taken place during July 2022, and we take a break from SIG meetings during school summer holidays. A full programme of meetings is planned for the autumn, and we look forward to seeing members old and new.

**Highways Asset Management** – Members were updated on the BIM Working Group, Future Highways Research Group work on Scope 3 guidance and UKRLG meeting with CIPFA regarding valuation of assets. National Testing Labs Ltd provided a short presentation about their services which can be viewed on the MHA Plus SIG members website. Xais will be invited to attend the October 2022 meeting to present on footway surveying.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – Discussions focussed on sharing information and experiences relating to the introduction of Moving Traffic Enforcement and future plans to introduce MTE powers in subsequent tranches. Cashless Parking was also discussed, and members shared information about the benefits and challenges of moving to fully cashless systems.

**S106 Sub-group** – Sharing good practice around managing and recording contact with developers in relation to S106 activities, discussions about requirements to refund unspent contributions and commitment to collect information from group members on charges for travel plan monitoring and related activities.

**EV charging sub-group** – Further discussions about submissions to LEVI fund with group members still waiting to find out if their bids have been successful. Sharing information about E bikes and scooter models and various pool schemes across the region. Ongoing discussions around trials of on-street electric vehicle charging solutions for residential properties.

Details of all upcoming Service Improvement Group meetings are available on the MHA+ Calendar and further information on each service improvement group is available from [Alice Russell](#).

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## **Presentations from the MHA+ Annual Event are on the website**

For those who were unable to attend, and those who would like to revisit the presentations from the annual event held in June, they are now available to members on the website. You can find the presentations [here](#), under 'Events' then 'MHA+ Annual event 22 June 2022 – carbon reduction & value'. We hope you find them informative and utilise their availability.

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## **MHA+ Annual Report**

The 2021/22 MHA+ annual report is now available on the website and can be found [here](#).

The report provides a range of content that provides financial outcomes, impacts provided by our work streams, as well as identifying future aspirations. The size of the membership continues to increase, and this provides a range of mutual benefits. The alliance increases their access to expertise, and a corresponding increase in the breadth of member engagement and collaboration. This augments the alliance focus on quality, innovation, cost effectiveness and early supply chain.

The report reflects on the residual impacts of COVID-19, but how MHA+ was proactive in a full programme of events, effective delivery of our frameworks and increased visibility with the relaunch of the MHA+ service improvement group platform. The alliance continues, both to fund, as well as identify projects and activities that can be subsidised. These are supported to enhance national imperatives, as well as continuing to support our ethos of MHA+ collaborative partnering.

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## **Horizon Scanning & Industry Updates**

**UK Roads Liaison Group becomes the UK Roads Leadership Group:** The UK Roads Leadership Group enables people and goods to move safely, effectively, and sustainably by bringing together the UK's highway and road authorities to inspire and influence policies and guidance.

**CIWEM's Survey on Surface Water Management:** Survey on flood risk management, with focus on co-operation and collaboration, funding, capacity, and skills.

**New CIHT Podcast, Active Travel:** This podcast discusses five key trends and issues with Professor Rachel Aldred.

**Asset Valuation Update from CIPFA:** CIPFA has established a Task and Finish Group to address an issue regarding the derecognition of parts of infrastructure assets following 'replacement' expenditure. This is a complex and serious issue. The group will consider the issues arising and how it might assist in their resolution.

**Research into Proximity of Public EV Charging:** A new report has highlighted stark regional variations in the proximity of public electric vehicle (EV) charge points to drivers without off-street parking.

**Impact of Inflation:** The value of the Department for Transport's (DfT) assets increased by £45bn last year as higher inflation rates impacted on the cost of modern equivalent replacements for infrastructure assets.

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## LCRIG Conference



The **Local Council Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG)** supports the Department for Transport and is a community interest company, accredited to ISO 44001. Its purpose is to promote collaboration that will ultimately see improved highway services, maintained to a standard that road users expect and deserve.

LCRIG will be holding their annual '**Strictly Highways**' event at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, on 4-6 October 2022, with the theme "Making the case for local roads" and MHA+ will be there as a partner organisation.

The event aims to bring together the whole highways community, including councils, the Department for Transport (DfT), academia, industry associations, the supply chain, and media to enable those attending to learn about innovation and technology, share experiences and receive updates from the DfT.

The programme will be split into four key focus areas: net zero, collaboration, innovation, and skills, which align to LCRIG's key activities and initiatives. We are keen that MHA+ is represented so please let **Karen Notman** know if you are attending or speaking.

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## ADEPT Live Labs Reminder

Following on from the recent ADEPT Live Labs 2 in-person seminars and online webinars, we wanted to make all our members aware that the competition prospectus has now been finalised. The bidding process commenced on 28 July with expressions of interest to be submitted by 30 September 2022.



As an Alliance, we would be really interested to find out which of our members are looking at submitting bids for Live Lab 2 funding. It may also be useful for our members to find out which other authorities are looking at bidding and whether there is an opportunity for collaborative working on a particular project or projects.

There may also be ways in which we can support our members who are considering taking part in Live Labs 2, so we would love to hear from you.

Please contact [Ian Bamforth](#) if you would like to discuss in more detail or tell us about your innovative projects.

Full details of Live Labs 2 and previous Live Labs 1 projects are available [here](#).

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## Tribute to Cumbria Council's Peter Clay

Peter Clay has sadly passed away after being ill for some months following the diagnosis of a long-term illness. He was an active member of MSIG for many years before the merger to MHA+ and no doubt was known to many of you. He had been ill for some time but only last year reached out to us to re-establish contact.



He arrived at Cumbria County Council in 1984 following a career in the army, starting in the Civil Engineering laboratory. Then moving to the highway contracting division, before going to West Cumbria as an Area Engineer in Whitehaven, and then a roads engineer in the Lillyhall Office.

He later moved to the Asset team in Carlisle and in 2020 became a technical advisor, providing technical advice and assurance for scheme design and compliance with technical design standards for highways including pavement, geotechnical and drainage design. Peter had a passion for his work, attending external meetings in the North West and North East regularly as well as national meetings to share best practice.

With more than 35 years' experience within highways maintenance and his extensive knowledge and industry wide contacts, Peter was a National Advocate for LCRIG, ensuring that LCRIG remained in touch and worked in partnership with other council groups and industry associations.

**Paul Boss, Chief Executive of the Road Surface Treatments Association (RSTA).**

*“Having worked with Peter for many years on several national and regional working groups, he was one of the few who really put 100% plus into everything he did. His attention to detail and what was right was second to none, helping ensure relevant documents and other materials used today are accurate and easy to use. A friendly approachable man who was happy to see he was making a difference. As long as there was coffee in his flask, completing the task in hand took as long as was needed. One of the best who will be sadly missed by all who knew and worked with him.”*

**Paul Binks, Highways Asset Manager, Lancashire County Council (LCRIG Board Member)**

*“Peter was one of the first people whom I met when I started asset management, he was always very welcoming and friendly and was prepared to take a ‘Newbie’ under his wing; for which I am forever grateful. A great bloke who will be sadly missed.”*

Peter is survived by his wife Gill and son Michael.

**Please make donations to Myeloma UK, [here](#).**

For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact Jacqui Wooldridge/  
Karen Notman. If you have colleagues who may not have received this email please share it with them,  
so that they can contact us directly to confirm that they wish to receive our bulletin, alternatively if you  
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