



➤ Shaping
the Future

MHA 

Midlands Highway Alliance Plus
MHA, MSIG, WMHA: Moving Forwards Together





Ann Carruthers,
Director of Environment and Transport,
Leicestershire County Council

➤ Who are we?

I am extremely proud to be the Chair of the Midland Highway Alliance Plus (MHA+) Executive Board responsible for leading and directing the organisation to support our members in delivering high quality, cost efficient highway and transport services and schemes.

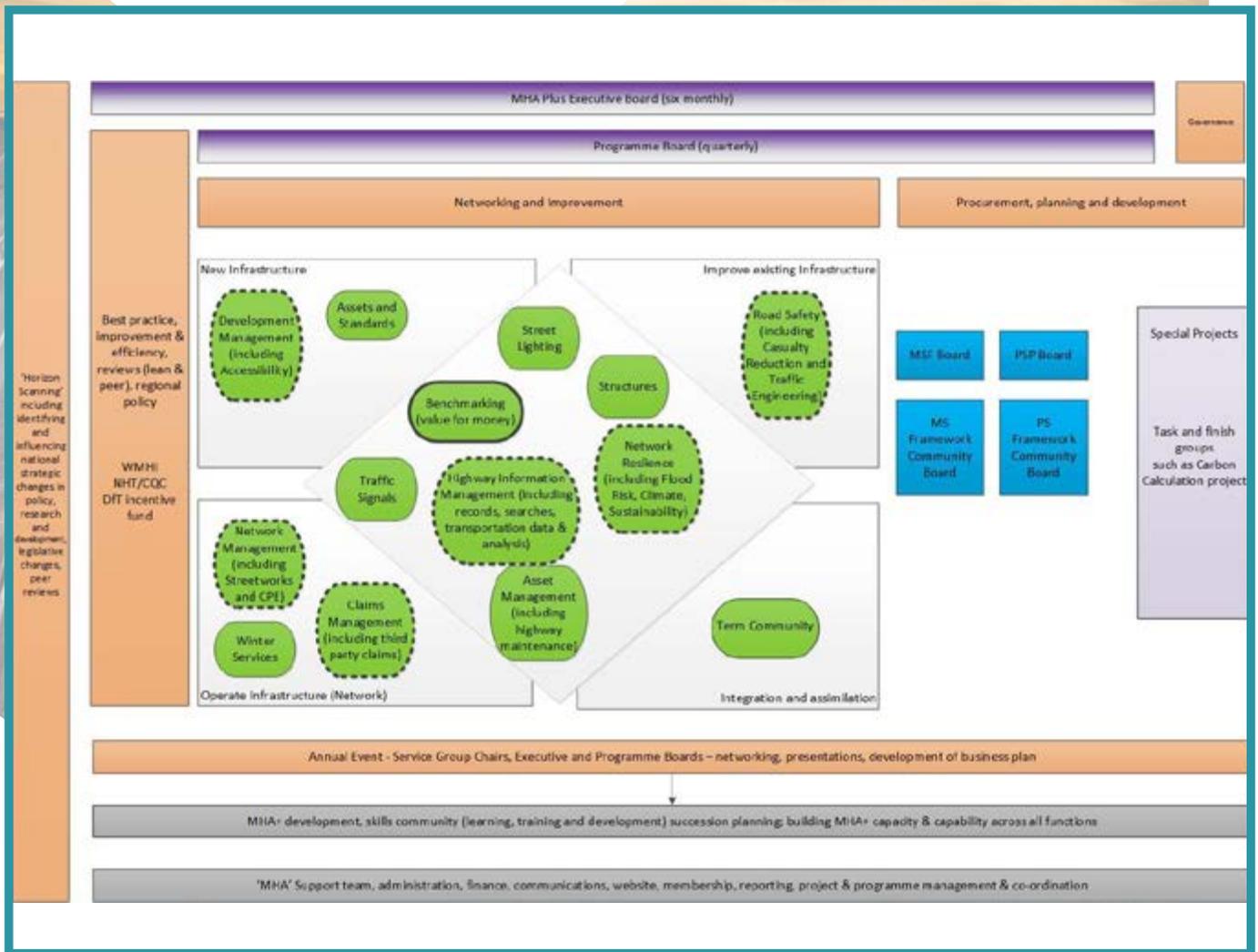
As we move through and out of the Covid-19 pandemic, the challenges for highway authorities continue to increase. We have been living with the ongoing financial position of diminishing highway maintenance funding for years; however, the pandemic has increased this pressure at both local and national level. In addition, government looks to infrastructure provision as a key means of stimulating economic recovery, so the onus falls on highway authorities to bid for and deliver significant infrastructure schemes.

With climate change at the top of the agenda for all of us, carbon reduction is a key priority for the industry and we are examining how we can achieve our carbon reduction targets through adopting more innovative approaches to service and scheme delivery and engaging with road users.

All of this is set against a background of scarcity of resources across the industry, where national headlines are highlighting shortfalls in materials and skills and driving significant inflationary cost increases for the sector.

MHA+ has a key role in supporting our members in tackling these challenges via a vibrant community of best practice as well as providing access to frameworks for consultancy and contractor services. Lastly, we also have a real opportunity to use our voice to influence across the sector. After all, just over 20% of the country's highway authorities are MHA+ members. So, if you are an existing MHA+ member, or thinking about becoming a member, there are lots of reasons to participate and really benefit from collaboration with the MHA+. I look forward to working with you.

Ann Carruthers,
Chair of MHA+ Executive Board



Midlands Highway Alliance Plus (MHA+) was formed in 2020 from the merger of three regional efficiencies groups, the Midlands Highway Alliance, the Midlands Service Improvement Group and the West Midlands Highway Alliance and has over 30 local highway authority members from the Midlands and beyond.

MHA Plus member authorities cover a wide geographical area from Lancashire in the north, Lincolnshire to the east, Oxfordshire in the south and west to Herefordshire and are a mix of County, Unitary and City Councils.

The aim of the combined alliance is to collaboratively support its member authorities in providing effective, efficient, innovative, and sustainable customer focussed highway services, by:

- *developing and sharing best practice in delivering highway services*
- *providing effective routes to market that reflect the quality, innovation and value for money the alliance strives for*
- *Influencing the national agenda by direct participation and lobbying.*





All members contribute to the success of the **MHA+**. Overall **governance** is by a director level Executive Board, that meets twice a year and provides strategic direction, reviewing and approving the **MHA+** business plan. Each member authority has a representative on this board, and this allows each authority to have its say.



The **MHA+** Programme Board meets four times a year and provides oversight, context, and delivery of the business plan, as well as budget monitoring. The Board is chaired by Ian Bamforth from Worcestershire County Council (a member authority).

The **MHA+** Manager is Karen Notman, her role is key to ensuring the main priorities and objectives of the **MHA+** business plan are delivered and the day to day operation of the Alliance for its members is effectively managed.

➤ What we do

MHA+ Service Improvement Groups

The MHA+ service improvement groups continue to promote the ethos of the original Service Improvement Group of improving service delivery through critical challenge and the sharing of best practice within the disciplines of Highways and Transportation. Currently there are 16 groups that meet regularly to look at and discuss specific areas of highway and transportation provision covering:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Low Carbon Transport & Travel | Highway Asset Management | Third Party Claims |
| Casualty Reduction | Highway Structures | Traffic Signals |
| Civil Parking Enforcement | Highways Records & Searches | Traffic Engineering |
| Development Management | Street Lighting | Transportation Data & Analysis |
| Flood Water Management | Street works and Temporary Activity | Winter Services |
| Term Community | | |

Members have access to a wealth of reference documents, benchmarking data and presentations from industry experts and organisations such as National Highways, DfT and NHT as well as online discussion boards for each group area available through a dedicated [website](#).



700+
members

of a network of local authority highway and asset management practitioners

ALMOST

100

Discussion board questions posted in 2020-21



OVER **200**
Individual responses

from the Service Improvement Community

265
ENTRIES

in the **efficiencies and benefits log** reported by Group members since 2010





Action Plan
MSF3 Aims & Objectives

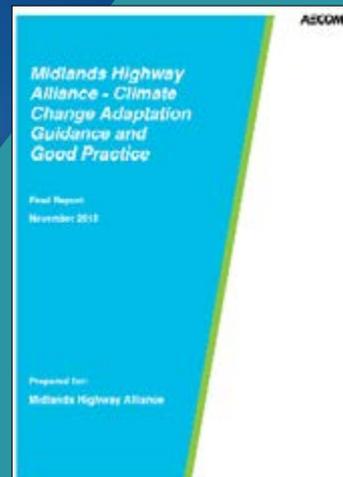
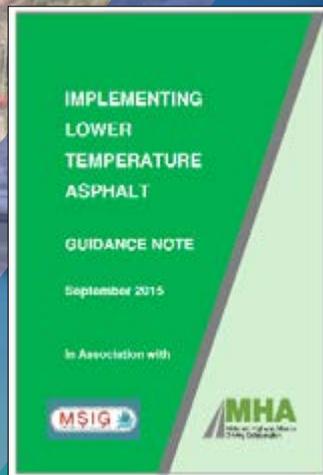
➤ Medium schemes framework

By procuring collaborative **frameworks**, based on the New Engineering Contract for the design of and construction of major highway schemes, the MHA+ delivers savings for members in the region of £4 million a year.

Four national contractors have signed up to the framework and the alliance's philosophy of collaboration. The current third generation framework has been used by most MHA authorities and is likely to deliver schemes to the value of around £500 million over the four-year

duration. The workload is mainly large-scale capital highway works, with values between £1 million and £100 million per scheme.





➤ Professional Services Partnership

One of our main services is to ensure that MHA+ member authorities have easy and economical access to consultancy services. This is done by establishing a **professional services framework** that all authorities can use, which considers (as far as is practicable) the needs and aspirations of member authorities in that procurement process.

The two lots allow member authorities to commission all aspects of professional services from two suppliers AECOM and Amey Consult or to second in staff from Waterman Aspen or Matchtech. Aggregating the work of all the member authorities to give an annual turnover of around £18 million ensures that the tendered rates are competitive.

The framework also allows various collaborative projects to be carried out e.g. Climate Change Adaptation, Low temperature asphalt.

➤ MHA+ development and skills

MHA+ development has a wide remit and includes procurement, commissioning and performance management for asset management, skills, communication media, information systems and processes for MHA+.

This offers significant **MHA+** infrastructure support such as design and development to support **MHA+** members as well as our medium scheme and professional services frameworks. The systems and processes schemes supporting the **MHA+** community are designed to incorporate an extended membership with ease, either on an individual, member authority, framework supplier or federated basis. This includes the:

- Information Sharing Platform which is available to approved users and has levels of secure access to documentation.
- The Learning Management System (LMS) which is used to deliver specific workshops that support the acquisition of technical skills, such as design and delivery; and as a method to manage attendance to other **MHA+** activities whether virtual or face to face.

The range of learning and development opportunities on offer continues to grow and includes webinars from our PSP 3 suppliers available via the [**MHA+ website**](#)



➤ What are the benefits?

MHA+ brings a range of benefits to member authorities, including:

- Participation in a wide range of industry sector workstreams and discussion groups.
- Access to quality, trusted resources for the design and delivery of works, services, learning, training, and development opportunities, by working with the private sector through a series of well-established framework contracts.
- Learning from peers and experts within the sector through networking opportunities with like-minded people who are passionate about highways & transportation.
- Participation in Peer Reviews to help you understand how your authority can make service delivery improvements.
- Access to best practice advice and sharing ideas about innovation and efficiencies.
- Opportunity to be part of the 'bigger picture' to look at benchmarking and public satisfaction as measured by the NHT and CQC Efficiency Networks.
- Gathering insights and advice in relation to DfT and other funding initiatives.
- Involvement in special projects such as Carbon Reduction in the industry.
- Invitation to attend MHA Plus annual event which is the flagship event within the Midlands.
- Being a member of a large Alliance family that provides for collective influence opportunities on key priority issues for the industry



➤ How to find out more.

Speak to a member of the MHA+ team – their contact details can be found [here](#) or email MidlandsHighwayAlliancePlus@leics.gov.uk

Leicestershire County Council acts as the host authority for the alliance, and provides support in the areas of financial management, procurement, and communications.



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