



## May 2022

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### MSF 4 update

Back in October 2021, tenders were invited from a list of eight leading highway contractors, to be returned before Christmas. A team of 20 local authority colleagues have completed the tender assessment during January and February 2022. The quality of the tenders received was very high, with 68% of all responses being judged good or excellent. The framework forecast value (£100 million per annum) and extended duration (4+2+2 years) resulted in competitive pricing being submitted with a reduction in the average direct fee percentage compared with MSF 3.

In March 2022, further clarifications of the bids were requested from all eight tenderers. This additional information has now been reviewed and a procurement report has been prepared which has been presented to the MSF Framework Board at the end of April. During May the contractors will be informed of their outcomes and following a standstill period we will move to the award for the Framework. The successful contractors will then be asked to complete the Framework Agreement.

It is our intention to formally launch MSF 4 at the MHA+ annual event on 22 June 2022.

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### MHA+ 2022-23 Business Plan now available

The MHA+ Business Plan for 2022/23 was approved by the Executive Board on 17 March and is now available via the MHA+ website's ['About Us' page](#).

The [annual business plan](#) outlines the aims and objectives for the year ahead, including key projects such as establishing MSF4, procuring PSP4, the co-ordination of our work on carbon, and improving the quality and consistency of performance management information to demonstrate effectiveness and support decision-making across the alliance workstreams.

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### PSP 4 Procurement

The procurement of PSP 4, the new Professional Services Partnership Framework to follow on from PSP 3 next April, is officially underway. The PIN engaging with the industry was issued on Thursday 14 April with a return date of 19 May. The feedback, together with existing supplier and client views, will be considered in decision-making about the shape of the new framework. It is expected that the tender documents will be issued in the Autumn.

We are also keen to capture the views of members currently using the PSP 3 framework in the decision-making for the new framework so would encourage you to take part in our [MHA+ Professional Services Framework – Improvement Survey](#) which again closes on 19 May.

As with MSF 4, we will need the support and engagement of current users of the framework to help us in decision-making, compiling contract documentation and in tender assessment to ensure that the new framework is appropriate and effective. Those involved will find that it is a worthwhile investment of time that demonstrates collaborative working and contract procurement experience.

If you are interested in being part of the working group, then please contact **Karen Notman**.

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## Ian Bamforth has joined the MHA+ team

Ian Bamforth has recently stood down from Chairing the Programme Board of the MHA+ as he retired from Worcestershire County Council at the end of April.

Ian played a key role in the merger of the MHA, West Midlands Highways Alliance and MSIG, to create the MHA+. In his role as Programme Board Chair, he has helped provide focus and support for the MHA+ in critical areas over the last two years and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian for his work with us and the important role he has played.



Whilst taking more time to do the things he wants to do, Ian has agreed to join the MHA+ Team to provide some part time flexible support working on projects, which are key to the ongoing success and delivery for the MHA+.

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## Annual Event 2022

This year's annual event will be on 22 June at Holywell Conference Centre, Loughborough on the theme of 'Carbon Reduction and Value'. We have been encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by alliance members offering to share their initiatives and innovations, with some clear synergies evident around:

- carbon reduction in the supply chain
- economic value through specification and procurement
- environmental value through asset management
- social value through programme delivery

Contributors include our collaborative working groups, suppliers and client authorities. With two further rooms in addition to the main lecture theatre, there may still be an opportunity to showcase your work before the programme is finalised. Please contact **Karen Notman** to explore this further.

For more information and to book your place via the LMS visit

[www.mhaplus.org.uk/events/annual-event-2022](http://www.mhaplus.org.uk/events/annual-event-2022)



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## PSP 3 PSSC Rate Card - Year 4 Indexation and National Insurance increases

The annual inflationary adjustment to the PSP 3 Professional Services Short Contract (PSSC) staff rates is applied on the anniversary of the framework, so the new rates for Year 4 will apply from 28 April 2022.

This year, there was also an increase in Employers National Insurance for the first time in 11 years from 6 April 2022. At its meeting on 17 March 2022, the Executive Board approved a request from the PSP 3 suppliers that an additional adjustment of +1.25% be applied to Year 4 rates to reflect this. It was further clarified by the PSP 3 Framework Community Board at its meeting on 14 April that for simplicity, this will also be applied from 28 April 2022.

The Framework uses Highway Term Maintenance Indices, Working Category 10/3, produced by BCIS for HTMA which show inflationary increases over the last year. The Index runs 6 weeks behind so there is a delay in confirming the value of the uplift so clients may find that an adjustment is applied retrospectively to invoices already issued for work undertaken during April.

The index for March 2022 has now been published and the annual percentage change in the index over the last year was 3.68% at March 2022, therefore, the increase for the Year 4 rates will be 3.68% Index + 1.25% NI uplift which is +4.93% above the Year 3 rates.

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## Service Improvement Group Update

Eight Service Improvement Group meetings having taken place during March and April and the new EV Charging and Section 106 sub-groups have each met twice. Thanks again to all those who have taken the time to attend, use the online discussion boards and share data. It is encouraging to see new members joining the groups and realising the benefits that can be gained from sharing expertise and knowledge across the region.

**Highways Asset Management** – 23 authorities contributed to a recent benchmarking exercise to gather information on which highways asset management systems are currently being used. The recent meeting included discussions about BIM, a presentation from NHT about recent changes to the public satisfaction survey questions and an update of the groups' Price Evaluation Model which is used to benchmark costs of various highway maintenance schemes.

**Low Carbon Travel & Transport**- The two newly formed sub-groups (EV Charging and S106 Travel Plan Monitoring) met to discuss the challenges of on-street residential charging provision and travel plan monitoring charges and process respectively. The groups will meet again in June/July.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – A representative from the British Parking Association attended the April meeting to answer questions on upcoming legislative changes. Excellent representation from member authorities.

**Highways Structures** – Eurovia's presentation on drone bridge inspections gave a great insight into the benefits as well as current limitations of using drones to inspect bridges and other structures. The group continues to look at risk-based approaches to various bridge inspection regimes and establish good practice in this area of work.

**Third Party Claims** – Sharing experiences and benefits of bringing claims management in-house in a number of authorities. The group will start to compare claims repudiation rates across member authorities. Agreement to include cost recovery on future agendas.

**Development Management** – Presentation from NHT with a focus on potentially developing performance measures that relate to development control. Discussion about the Biodiversity Net Gains Regulations and sharing of experiences relating to recent planning appeal decisions.

**Transportation Data & Analysis** – Presentation from group members at Leicestershire CC on uses of Python coding.

**Traffic Engineering** - Further updates from group members on how they are working to ensure TROs are updated prior to upcoming legislation changes that will accompany Moving Traffic Enforcement powers.

**Street Lighting** – Discussion about developments in solar street lighting, EV charging from lamp columns and dealing with requests to attach Jubilee related decorations to lamp posts.

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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## Skills and development

The latest Aecom Tech talks available as part of our MHA+ skills community offer are listed below:

- Roads Bitesize Training Programme – UAS – [Drone Team](#)
- Roads Bitesize Training Programme – [Designing for Cycling](#)
- Roads Bitesize Training Programme – [Road design for net zero](#) + supporting [presentation](#)
- PSP 3 Spotlight [Carbon management plans](#) + supporting [presentation](#)
- Roads Bitesize Training Programme – [Urban design and placemaking](#)
- Roads Bitesize Training Programme – [Introduction to Junction Design and Modelling](#)
- Concrete Roads Training Pavement Maintenance – [session 1](#) + supporting [presentation](#)
- Concrete Roads Training Pavement Maintenance – [session 2](#) + supporting [presentation](#)
- Concrete Roads Training Pavement Whole Life Cost – [session 3](#) + supporting [presentation](#)
- Concrete Roads Training Sustainability – [session 4](#) + supporting [presentation](#)

Members can access a range of learning, training and development opportunities provided by the MHA skills community, sector partners and MHA+ members through the [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#).

Detailed information on all MHA+ events is available on the [MHA+ calendar](#).

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## Farewell to John Surguy

AECOM's PSP Framework Director, John Surguy has retired after 15 years working with the MHA and an even longer history in highway management and local government.

John joined Derbyshire County Council (DCC) in 1973 as a trainee technician and by 1981 (aged 25) he was a Chartered Engineer, CEng, MICE – the youngest age allowable by ICE to become Chartered!



John worked in every department of DCC, including Major Roads, Trunk Roads, Bridges, Traffic, Private Streets, Highway Maintenance, and on site on the A52 Nottingham Road Diversion in Derby. He became Deputy Trunk Road Agency Manager for the local Trunk Road network (managed by DCC) before a TUPE transfer to Scott Wilson in 1998, becoming a full Director in 2005. Through company takeovers he has worked for URS and AECOM.

During this time John has worked with three MHA Managers - Steve Smith, Peter Barclay and Karen Notman, and has been an active member and contributor to the Strategic (now Framework) Boards, helping to drive collaboration.

We all wish John a long and happy retirement pursuing his other lifelong profession as a Derbyshire farmer tending his new herd of cows!

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## **Ann Carruthers is the new chair of ADEPT's transport connectivity board**

Congratulations to Ann Carruthers, Chair of the MHA+ Executive Board on her appointment as the first female chair of **ADEPT transport connectivity board**.

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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 wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin email [MidlandsHighwayAlliancePlus@leics.gov.uk](mailto:MidlandsHighwayAlliancePlus@leics.gov.uk)

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