
New Alliance launched!

After many months of consultation and discussion, the Midlands Highway Alliance Plus was formally launched in August 2020 with the first MHA Plus Programme Board meeting taking place. The new Alliance brings together the Midlands Highway Alliance, the Midlands Service Improvement Group and the West Midlands Highway Alliance and aims to support its member authorities in collaborating to providing effective, efficient innovative and sustainable customer focussed highway services.

We have put together a series of Frequently Asked Questions for you about membership, meetings and communications which can be found [online](#).

Alliances and Sustainability – the MHA Plus week long virtual event

Due to the Covid restrictions this year's annual event will be virtual and will consist of a series of webinars over the week of **12 - 16 October 2020**. The focus of the programme will be on the new relationships we are forging, celebrating our successes and sharing best practice. The event is free of charge.

Visit <https://www.mhaweb.org.uk/events/annual-event-2020/> for more details on the webinars available and how to book your place.

Medium Schemes Frameworks the next step

The Medium Schemes Working Group plan to publish a Prior Information Notice (PIN) during the autumn, notifying the industry of the intention to start a procurement exercise for the next Medium Schemes Framework. Interested contractors are encouraged to attend the MHA Plus event in October to find out more.

MSIG Task Groups update

We would like to welcome all members of MHA Plus that were not previously members of MSIG and offer an open invitation to you and your colleagues to join any of the following 15 MSIG Task Groups:

Accessibility & Smarter Travel	Highways Asset Management	Third Party Claims
Casualty Reduction	Highways Structures	Traffic Engineering
Civil Parking Enforcement	Highways Records & Searches	Traffic Signals
Development Management	Street works & Temporary Activity	Transportation Data & Analysis
Flood Water Management	Street Lighting	Winter Services

Task groups typically meet between 2-4 times a year although during the current pandemic we are conducting our meetings virtually using MS Teams. If you would like to nominate contacts at your authority to receive communications/invitations for some or all of the above groups and also request access to the [MSIG website](#) and online discussion boards please contact MSIG Task Group Coordinator alice.russell@derbyshire.gov.uk

Professional Services

A total of 21 authorities are now using the PSP 3 framework and turnover has now exceeded £11 million. The three ways to commission our suppliers for professional services are by direct call off using AECOM, mini competition between AECOM and Amey Consult, or sub-regional call off with Amey for regions 1 and 2 and AECOM for regions 3 and 4. For secondments Waterman Aspen can be commissioned by direct call off or you can use mini competition with Waterman Aspen and Matchtech. Details for the framework managers can be found on the [Professional Services contact card](#).

Skills Community

Face to face learning events – we remain optimistic about bringing you the benefit of collaborative learning, and our postponed NEC events will be available as soon as is practicable. In the meantime, on the [MHA Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) you will find:

- Introductions to NEC 4 ECC, NEC 3 TSC and NEC 4 PSC/PSSC contracts modules.
- Additional softer skills e-learning modules such as decision making; mental health awareness; and introduction to listening to supplement the ‘virtual’ technical content.

Make the most of the LMS - members can access a range of learning, training and development opportunities provided by the MHA skills community, our framework suppliers and MHA members through the [LMS](#).

Register your interest - members are asked to confirm their interest in the following learning events to ensure we have enough notional participants:

NEC 4: Project Supervisor accreditation to equip delegates with the skills necessary to be able to fulfil the role of a Supervisor using the NEC 4 Engineering and Construction Contract.

NEC: Highway Design and Detailing using the DMRB – An intensive two-day training course that provides the technical background, hands on experience and considered opinion necessary to enable you to produce effective engineering solutions on your projects.

Please email mhaskills@leics.gov.uk to register your interest by 1 November 2020.

Horizon scanning / industry update

A regular feature in the new MHA Plus newsletter will be a round-up of key articles and opportunities for members to engage with / respond to. A summary of the most recent are outlined below:

Consultations - there are currently three government consultations seeking your views by 30 September 2020.

- [Pavement Parking: options for change](#)
- [Review of The Highway Code to improve road safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders](#)
- [Parking Code Enforcement Framework](#)

The government’s consultation on [proposals for reform of the planning system in England - Planning for the Future](#) closes on 29 October 2020.

Air quality funding– local authorities are invited to apply for a share of [£2 million of funding for projects to improve air quality](#), following the recent launch by DfT and Defra. Applications must be submitted by 12pm on 14 October 2020.

Active travel – DfT £2bn investment in active travel has been supported by the recent publication of their policy document “[Gear Change – A bold vision for cycling and walking](#)”.

Young professionals – CIHT are hosting a virtual [Young Professional Festival](#) 19-23 October 2020, which will include webinar, workshops and masterclasses, and cover themes such as climate change, emerging technology and future skills.

CIHT Collaboration Award 2020 commendation

The A46 Anstey Lane widening scheme was shortlisted for the [CIHT Autodesk Collaboration Award 2020](#) and was commended for the way the project teams aligned to form 'one team', that delivered a high-quality, on-time and under budget scheme with exemplar safety, environmental and sustainable standards, demonstrating a truly aligned and collaborative culture and approach. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Information Sharing Platform (ISP)

The ISP hosts a range of helpful resources, shared reference documents, confidential documents and notes of meetings. Access is tailored to your individual requirements – so make sure you and your colleagues are registered. The ISP can be accessed from the [MHA website](#).

For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact alice.russell@derbyshire.gov.uk

If you have colleagues who may not have received this email, they can contact us directly to confirm that they wish to receive our bulletin, alternatively if you wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin email MidlandsHighwayAlliance@leics.gov.uk
