



SERVICE IMPROVEMENT GROUPS

Update: September – October 2023

There have been seven Service Improvement Group meetings plus a SIG Chairs meeting since the last update in August 2023. We continue to have excellent levels of attendance and participation from group members across the MHA Plus region.

Agendas, minutes and presentation slides from all SIG meetings are available on the [MHA Plus SIG members website](#) along with benchmarking exercises and online discussion boards.

Term Maintenance - Reactive maintenance was the focus of the September meeting with presentations from Milton Keynes, Worcestershire & Lincolnshire and discussions on treatment types, programming/scheduling techniques to optimize productivity, traffic management initiatives and data analysis.

Highways Structures - At September's meeting, Cheshire East shared an excellent case study which showed how much carbon could be saved by using alternative energy sources on site (hydrogen/solar-powered welfare unit and Instagrid rechargeable powerpack), recycled/leftover materials, electric plant and tools, plus low carbon transport options when carrying out repairs to a damaged bridge parapet. Details of the presentation are available on the [MHA Plus SIG members website](#).

Winter Services – Following on from the in-person event in May, the September meeting saw attendance from Dom Browne (Highways Magazine/Cold Comfort), Econ, Safecote, Vaisala and SW Highways Alliance and continued discussions around NWSRG guidance and priorities for research/innovation. Group members were also asked to contribute to and attend 2024 Cold Comfort event if possible and provide suggestions about how it could be more attractive to local authority delegates.

Development Management – Group members shared guidance and policy around the topic of 'street trees' and associated commuted sums/management and maintenance processes. Discussions took place on the topic of the potential enactment of Schedule 3 F&WM Act and how this may impact on development management teams/resources. Recruitment issues within the highways development control field were also discussed and information about relevant apprenticeships/university courses was shared.

Flood Water Management – The October meeting focussed again on the potential enactment of Schedule 3 F&WM Act and the how LLFA's will take on the role of SAB. A small working group plan to meet in November to look at both SAB-specific and general LLFA-related training and apprenticeships as a way of planning for future recruitment requirements. Group members have established links with Birmingham, Nottingham Trent and Loughborough universities and continue to explore the opportunities that these links may provide.

Transportation Data & Analysis – Presentation on Transport Planning Apprenticeships at Leeds College of Building which was also presented by Richard Garratt at the recent MHA Plus Annual Event. Richard Wheatly also presented on the topic of analysing DfT journey time data with Navman and INRIX using tools developed in-house at Leicestershire CC.

Casualty Reduction – Discussions around 'Vision Zero' and Safe Systems approaches at member authorities and National Highways. Sharing views, experiences and policy/strategy positions on 20mph zones across the region.

SIG Chairs - 7 out of 16 SIG chairs were able to attend the meeting in September 2023 and it was an excellent opportunity to share information about the work of the SIGs and identify areas of crossover and synergy, particularly around the issues of recruitment and retention.

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](#)

The MHA+ Programme Board would like to invite members to nominate new projects for funding.



The Programme Board are particularly interested in ideas which are innovative, and/or raise the profile of the work of MHA+.

Please scan the QR code or use the menti link below to submit your ideas.

<https://www.menti.com/alcz1gq267uz>