

# MHA+

## Midlands Highway Alliance Plus

### Spring 2025 Newsletter

Save the date! Wednesday 17 September

We are delighted to confirm the date for the **MHA+ Annual Event**. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, 17 September**, as we return to the Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough.

Join us for a day of **networking, insights and innovation**.

This year we're focusing on the critical themes of **digital and environment in the highways sector**.



We'll also be honouring outstanding achievements with the return of the MHA+ Awards.

This year's awards will recognise excellence in the use of **digital innovations in environment, cost reduction and productivity enhancement and health & safety**.

Stay tuned for speaker announcements, award application details and booking [information on our website](#).

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## Your opportunity to shape the future of highways

There are exciting developments across the alliance with plenty of opportunities to get the most from your membership, raise your personal and organisational profiles, and offer fresh ideas and enthusiasm to help shape MHA+ for the future.

As a member, you have the unique opportunity to get involved.

Get in touch with your usual point of contact or [email us](#).



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## Connect with us: Local Authority roadshows

We are hitting the road to highlight the benefits of membership directly to our local authority partners and showcase how the alliance can support councils.

Our first stop was Milton Keynes City Council on 4 February, where Lucy Cox and Karen Notman presented an overview of MHA+ and its services to over 40 attendees in the Council Chamber, with additional participants joining online. Graham Cox, Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation, introduced the session, and the Council's procurement lead provided valuable advice on using MHA+ frameworks.

Thank you to Luciana Smart for arranging this successful event! The session was well received, and attendees appreciated the opportunity for face-to-face interaction.

### Upcoming roadshows:

**Leicester City Council** on 15 April  
**Herefordshire Council** on 22 April  
**Oxfordshire County Council** on 29 April  
**Transport for West Midlands** on 13 May.

If you think you and your colleagues would benefit from a similar or tailored session, please contact Lucy Cox or any of the MHA+ team to arrange.



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## East Midlands Infrastructure Partnership (EMIP) report launch

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) East Midlands Infrastructure Partnership (EMIP) has released its latest report: [Building to grow - an East Midlands perspective on infrastructure](#).

The report will be launched at an ICE event in Nottingham on 2 April (17:30 to 19:00). Last minute [bookings available here](#). Speakers include Lincolnshire County Council's Sam Edwards and MHA+'s Karen Notman.

The report provides recommendations for infrastructure priorities and planning, and informs regional decision-making and covers key areas such as Transport, Energy, Water Management and Flood-Risk Management.

This will be of particular interest to those members working in the local authority space and/or those working in transport, energy, water management or flood-risk management in the region, keen to understand EMIP's recommendations for the infrastructure priorities and planning in the region.

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## Find your path - supporting Gen-Z recruitment to local authorities

We're proud to partner alongside ADEPT, DfT, Colas and APSE on the 'Find your path' campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to remove barriers to local council work for young adults aged 18 to 27, or Gen Z, and address critical workforce challenges in local authorities.

MHA+ members Barnsley Council and Oxfordshire County Council are trialling the campaign.


Local authorities face significant workforce challenges:

- Only 11% of staff are under 30
- High vacancy rates
- Skills shortages in critical service areas

This campaign will bring new talent, innovation, and knowledge to local government. The "Find your path" campaign features:

- Engaging, targeted social media
- A dedicated [interactive website](#).

The website provides information on available positions, allows applicants to search for vacancies by location or sector, and offers insights into the day-to-day responsibilities of vital but often lesser-known roles.



**HIGHWAYS AND ENGINEERING**

From potholes to traffic signals, these roles are all about keeping your community connected and moving. Whether you're working on-site or behind the scenes, you'll play a key part in shaping the roads, routes, and networks that everyone relies on.

[LEARN MORE](#)



**Ann Carruthers, MHA+ Chair, said:**

“Young people are crucial to the future of local government: without attracting young and diverse talent, we risk being unable to develop sustainable solutions for our communities, implement new technologies and meet the complex environmental challenges of the future.”

“This campaign is our proactive response which aims to showcase the exciting, impactful careers on offer, that many don't even know exist.”

**MHA+ women's group and International Women's Day**

We celebrated International Women's Day on Saturday, 8 March, with highly engaged social media activity.

MHA+ Women's Group now holds monthly meetings. Its aim is to share current challenges and experiences across the alliance, offer support and explore further where the group can best make a difference.

Join this exciting initiative by emailing [Lucy Cox](mailto:lucy.cox@mha+).



## Carbon Steering Group (CSG)



The CSG continues to provide a focus point for all things carbon reduction and net zero MHA+.

### Carbon News Bulletins

Want to delve deeper into past discussions, case studies and insights? Check out the archived CSG Carbon News Bulletins, available on the [MHA+ website](#).

**Stay tuned for more updates and events from the CSG as we continue to drive sustainable practices and reduce our carbon footprint.**

## Procurement Act 2023 launched



### Procurement Act 2023

The Procurement Act 2023 is significant legislative reform, designed to overhaul public procurement practices. The Act, which came into force on 24 February, is aiming to create fairer, flexible and transparent procurement to better serve public interest. Some salient points about the act and its requirements follow:

- **Simplification and flexibility:** The Act will consolidate existing procurement regulations into a single framework, to allow more adaptable procurement procedures for contracting authorities.
- **Encourage diverse participation:** Small, medium and micro businesses, along with voluntary and social enterprises will have access to opportunities.
- **Transparency:** Greater transparency will be mandated, ensuring public funds are subject to proper scrutiny.
- **Find a Tender (FAT)** is the digital platform to support bringing this together.
- The Act will require **mandatory KPIs** for all public contracts exceeding £5m.
- A new **PRU (Procurement Review Unit)** established to enhance public sector practice by ensuring adherence to the Procurement Act and safeguarding public procurement from suppliers deemed to pose risk.

**Local authorities have until May 2025 to embed the requirements of the Act.**

**Social Value is recognised through the Act** and explicitly referred to in the minister's parliamentary statement (February 2025). For links to the statement and other useful documents, please see below.

[The Procurement Act - a summary guide to the provisions](#), [National Procurement Policy Statement](#), [Ministers Parliamentary Statement](#).

Guidance Documents and Videos.

- [The Procurement Act 2023: A short guide for suppliers](#)
- [Procurement Act 2023 - Guidance documents](#)
- [Procurement Act - short guides](#).

Karen Notman, MHA+ Manager, commented: "MHA+ frameworks are fully compliant with the public procurement regulations under which they were tendered and will comply with the Procurement Act 2023 upon re-tendering. Of course, we will continue to seek out and act on best practice in contract management."

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## MHA+ Learning, training and development

MHA+ is dedicated to supporting the professional development of your highways team. We offer a range of learning and development (L&D) opportunities to equip them with the latest skills and knowledge.

## NEC 4: Introduction to the Short Engineering and Construction Contract (ECSC) virtual learning course



The ECSC e-learning course has been developed for the appointment of contractors for engineering and construction work which does not require sophisticated management techniques, comprises straightforward work and imposes only low risks on both client and contractor. It provides a modern method for clients, designers, contractors and project managers to work collaboratively to consistently achieve their objectives.



The e-learning format mirrors the one-day tutor-led course, delivering key information in approximately two hours.

## Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) learning

The Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) has a suite of bespoke Highways-focused training, which is relevant to our members.

We have put in place arrangements (working in partnership with CIHT) for our members to have free access to the following three online courses:



In partnership with



- **Introduction to FHRG carbon calculation and accounting standard (CCAS)**
  - This [free course](#) has been created to support the new CCAS standard for local highways authorities (LHA).
- **Introduction to transport decarbonisation**
  - The accredited CIHT e-learning module explains why the global effort to mitigate the risk of dangerous climate change demands very significant changes to how transportation professionals plan, design, deliver, operate, maintain, and decommission transport systems.
- **Carbon Literacy - Accounting.**

- The accredited **carbon literacy accounting** module looks at three categories of carbon accounting projects that transport professionals are likely to encounter:
  - organisational carbon accounting
  - regional carbon accounting
  - carbon accounting for assets, infrastructure, or developments
  - The content provides information on relevant standards and summarise the types of methodologies that are likely to be useful in each situation.

We work with CIHT and commission accredited events and content, using CIHT subject matter expertise. [Head over to the CIHT website](#) to access and refine your search using the search bar.

You can request to complete these modules via the MHA+ Learning Management System (LMS). If you do not have a MHA+ LMS account and want to complete these learning modules: head to <https://mhaplus.vc-enable.co.uk>

If you already have a MHA+ LMS username and password, click [login to your MHA+ LMS account](#).

## Learning content from MHA+ suppliers

We are encouraging our framework suppliers to engage directly with our MHA+ members and advise how they can support continuing professional development. They are available as part of the [MHA+ learning gateway](#).

The logo for PSP 4, featuring the letters 'PSP' in a bold, teal font, followed by the number '4' in a larger, bold, teal font.

### MHA+ Learning Gateway Content

Latest content from our [MHA+ framework suppliers](#) on the MHA+ YouTube channel to access valuable content from MHA+ framework suppliers. This includes recent updates such as:

- **Aecom Bitesize Training:**
  - STAP (Surface Transportation, Aviation and Ports) Bitesize Training Programme – [The new specification for highways works](#)
- **Amey Consulting Lunch & Learn Sessions:**
  - [A595 Moresby Hall embankment and drainage design](#) - access the PowerPoint presentation



- [Induced demand and generated traffic](#) – so what's the fuss?
- [A52 Derby Road, QMC Roundabout, Nottingham - Edge beam replacement project](#)

### Register Your Interest

MHA+ member organizations can register interest and indicate potential participant numbers for upcoming L&D events by contacting [Julia May](#).

Don't miss this opportunity to empower your highways team with the skills they need.

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## ADEPT Live Labs 2

ADEPT hosted the [LiveLabs2Expo](#) in Liverpool, providing updates on the research progress and next steps for the final year of projects focused on the future decarbonisation of highways.

The event featured:

- Presentations and panel discussions on the challenges of decarbonisation
- "Dragon's Den"-style pitches from subject matter experts
- Ambitions and potential for the future of decarbonising highways.

Live Labs 2 is one of the world's largest initiatives of its kind. If you missed the Expo, attend the online Mini Expo on 30 April. [Find out more and sign up here.](#)

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## Highways Records & Searches Service Improvement Group

The 'List of Streets' task group, formed by officers from 3 Highway Authorities, is addressing inconsistencies in how the 'List of Streets' is produced, and how any amendments are dealt with for this specific Highway record.

This task group aims to address these irregularities. What we are hoping to achieve is, regardless of where you live in England or Wales, when you want to know if your road is maintained by your local Council you will get a similar looking result.

This is also the intention for any changes to the 'List of Streets' as once more there are differences in how this is achieved. The aim is for a best practice in how any changes

can be done are all carried out in the same way for every Highway Authority in England or Wales.

We will share the findings, actions and outputs of the 'List of Streets' task group soon.

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## The Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice

[The Well Managed Highway Infrastructure \(WMHI\) Code of Practice \(CoP\)](#), published in October 2016 by the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG), provides guidance for local authorities on managing highway networks. It emphasises a risk-based approach, encouraging authorities to tailor their policies to local circumstances rather than adhering to prescriptive standards. Though not legally binding, compliance demonstrates best practice and helps authorities manage risks and meet statutory duties. The current CoP hasn't been updated since publication and is now in need of updating to meet the needs of the modern highway.

TRL is carrying out a piece of scoping work on behalf of the Department for Transport (DfT) to identify what and how the current CoP should be updated. This is a short term commission, separate to the actual updating project, as it is recognised that a more informed view of the scope of the work to update the CoP is needed before starting to update the document. TRL has created a survey to scope out what in the CoP works well, what doesn't work well and what changes or additions might be needed to ensure the CoP meets the requirements of the industry now and into the future.

TRL invite you to [complete this survey](#) and help shape the future of the CoP. The information provided will be used to develop a published report defining gaps and making recommendations for the future updating of the CoP.

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## Learning points: Wider determinants of health

Wider determinants of health are the social, economic and environmental factors that influence people's health.

The [National Institute for Health & Care Research \(NIHR\)](#), funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, works to improve public health and promote economic growth through health and social care research.

It works with the NHS, universities, local government, other research funders, patients and the public to improve people's health and wellbeing and promote economic growth through health and social care research. They aim to provide local authorities with the data they need to make key decisions. Learn more at the NIHR website.

Karen met with the strategic lead in Leicestershire on 12 December 2024 to find out how this relates to transport.

The aim is to raise awareness and encourage the local authority to consider health inequalities when developing local transport plans, changes in place-based strategies, developer guides, scheme development, and so on.

Assessments use the World Health Organisation's Health Impact Assessment (HIA) approach.



There are 30 Health Determinants Research Collaborations (HDRCs) across the UK with funding to assist local authorities undertake research with key local universities. Most are to the north or south of the MHA+ region. The ideas come from the local authorities, so research areas vary across the country.

The initiative currently funds a Masters programme in Public Health to upskill people in this area so projects can be assigned to Masters students on projects related to:

- Carbon reduction
- Trees and biodiversity
- Road safety (especially passenger safety and gender differences)
- HIA application to design
- Air quality (especially particulate matter performance)
- Noise pollution

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**Out and about with Lucy, MHA+ framework manager**

**Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) meeting**

On Tuesday 18 February, Karen and I met with the new Director of Operations for industry partners CECA (The Civil Engineering Contractors Association) and the Executive Director for CECA Midlands regarding their frameworks project researching the key frameworks their members use and how they are embedding best practice tools and any blockers to adopting best practice.

A survey is being drafted that MHA+ will be consulted on. We also look forward to further liaison with CECA Midlands and the other regional offices within the geography of our membership in areas where we can offer mutual support.

## Interchange 2025, Manchester

Lucy joined industry leaders at Interchange 2025, the UK's leading transport infrastructure event in Manchester.

Invited by Taylor Woodrow, Lucy immersed herself in crucial discussions shaping the future of transport. A highlight was the panel discussion on "The Future of Devolution," featuring metro mayors Andy Burnham (Greater Manchester), Tracy Brabin (West Yorkshire) and Oliver Coppard (South Yorkshire). They explored the transformative role of transport in achieving regional economic, social and environmental visions.



Lucy highlighted the insightful panel, "Building for a Challenging Future," featuring MHA+ suppliers WSP and Amey, showcasing their expertise in navigating the complexities of modern infrastructure development.

Lucy added: "MHA+ is committed to staying connected with industry trends. It's vital for MHA+ and partners to be at the forefront of these conversations, ensuring our projects and strategies align with the evolving landscape of transport and infrastructure."

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## Welcome to our new starters - Victoria and Sam



I am Victoria and I am thrilled to join the team as the new Executive Support Officer for MHA+.

I recently graduated from the University of Leicester with a bachelor's and master's degree in History. My studies focused on local English crime and deviance.

I am looking forward to starting my career in the world of highways. I will be working closely to support the Medium Scheme and Professional Services Partnerships Framework boards, the Executive Board, and the Programme Board whilst providing administrative support to the MHA+ team. I am excited to be working with the team and look forward to meeting everyone over the course of this year.

I am Sam and I have recently joined the MHA+ Team as the new Finance and Administration Assistant. I have spent the last 7 years working in the finance department for a Franchisor, supporting and expanding 4 different franchises across the UK; varying from promotional products to cleaning IT equipment.



I am excited to move into the world of the MHA+ and highways. Working closely with Tina to support with any finance responsibilities within the MHA+, and I look forward to working with you all.