



Category: Best use of Technology in the Reduction of Cost and/or Productivity Enhancement - WINNER

MHA+ member name

West Northamptonshire Council (Highways)

other partners involved in the development of this product/project/nomination

- 1.) Kier has provided highways maintenance works for West Northamptonshire Council since September 2022.
- 2.) as Built Digital Ltd supported the development and delivery of the Smart Scheduling solution

Summary

West Northamptonshire Highways, in partnership with Kier, has demonstrated through its AI Smart Scheduling Proof of Value trial that data-driven innovation can transform highways maintenance. The project delivered measurable improvements in cost-efficiency, productivity, service delivery, and sustainability. Traditionally reliant on manual planning and local knowledge, scheduling has often been slow and inconsistent. Smart Scheduling instead offers an agile, scalable system that dynamically adapts to real-world conditions and resources.

The trial compared three months of historic activity with AI-driven optimisation, proving clear benefits: reduced travel time, lower fuel consumption, faster scheduling, significant cost savings, and greater consistency across operative teams. This is not a theoretical advantage but a practical, evidence-backed solution that enhances efficiency while reducing environmental impact.

Importantly, the approach is replicable, offering a blueprint for other authorities to adopt. By laying the groundwork for Phase 2, the trial shows AI scheduling is not only viable but vital for smarter, greener public services.