



In our first newsletter of 2021 we would like to wish you all a happy new year and welcome members old and new to join us as we continue to build on our collaborative strengths as MHA Plus. 2021 promises to be a year of challenges and opportunities for us all as we strive to provide excellent highways-related services for our customers and residents across the Midlands region.

Our new chair, Ann Carruthers (Leicestershire CC) will continue to steer MHA Plus in a positive direction; ensuring that we develop resilient and flexible working practices that will enable us to meet the environmental and financial challenges ahead as we move into the post-pandemic phase and deliver infrastructure projects that will bring prosperity and opportunity across the region and beyond.

Ann has also been named as one of the **nine new appointments** announced by The Highways Sector Council in December to broaden its representation of the industry and to transform delivery in the highways sector, using a unified voice and approach across contractors, consultants, central and local government.

Medium Schemes Framework

A replacement works framework for MSF3 will be procured this year. Following the approval of an outline business plan for MSF4 by the MHA+ Programme Board in June last year, the working group has met regularly to develop new documentation based on the use of the current framework which introduced NEC4 published in 2017.

The procurement process will be supported by Leicestershire's procurement team using their E portal and will be one of the first construction frameworks to use the new post Brexit processes.

Meanwhile the existing **MSF3 framework** contractors are still available to deliver projects starting this year.

Volunteers needed for new working groups

A survey of member authorities by the Term Community Board and Highways Asset Management group has identified the following list of activities from the Code of Practice 'Well-managed highway infrastructure' (**CoPWMHI**) that members consider to be priorities for action. We plan to set up small working groups to agree the scope of each task, the cost, who will be responsible for delivery and what the deliverables will be.

Because the scope of the task relating to carbon is so broad it is proposed that an initial workshop

be set up in February to identify the specific requirements of the Alliance as a whole. It is hoped that the appropriate representatives from each member authority will attend to agree what is the most effective way to take this issue forward.

You can view the RBAM (Risk-Based Asset Management) data [here](#).

Order	Survey task ref	Description	CoPWMHI recommended
1	6	Information management, inventory, data management and asset management.	8,9,10 and 11
2	15	Plans, priorities and programming	28,29,30 and 31
3	19	Drainage maintenance	22
4	12	Carbon Footprint, climate change adaptation.	21 and 32
5	2	Engaging and communicating with stake holders.	4
6	7	Competencies and training	15

If you are interested in taking part of one of these groups please contact [David Walters](#) or [Clive Hall](#).

MHA+ (formerly MSIG) Task Groups update

The new programme of task group meetings is already underway for 2021 and we look forward to welcoming new members to our groups over the course of the year. We might even get to meet up face to face at some point but in the meantime, meetings will continue to be held on MS Teams.

The task groups are open to all MHA Plus authority employees, including those who are employed via a long-term maintenance contract for a member authority. A full programme of dates for task group meetings in 2021 is available on the [MSIG website](#) and dates are now also available on the online [MHA Calendar](#)

Please contact alice.russell@derbyshire.gov.uk if you would like to access the MSIG website, use the online discussion boards or join any of the task groups.

Skills Community

Supplier learning content - there is a range of new content available via the skills community workstream on the MHA website. Some of this can only be accessed through the LMS but we have a number of new webinars provided by our framework suppliers available via YouTube - including the Roads Bitesize Training Programme - Session 2 of 2 - Road Safety Audits - the duties of the designer which can be found [here](#).

Make the most of the Learning Management System (LMS) - members can access a range of learning, training and development opportunities via the **LMS**. Information on all MHA Plus events is available on the **MHA calendar**.

Information Sharing Platform (ISP) - the ISP hosts a range of helpful resources, shared reference documents, confidential documents and notes of meetings. Details on how to become an ISP user and direct access to the ISP can be accessed from the **MHA website**.

Horizon scanning and industry updates

A summary of recently published reports, guidance, research and engagement opportunities are outlined below:

The Government has published the **new National Infrastructure Strategy** which indicates levels of investment in local roads either directly or through the new Levelling Up Fund, with details of funding arrangements also outlined in the **Spending Review 2020 documentation**.

In December an update was made to the Code of Practice, Well-managed Highway Infrastructure, relating to responsibilities for trees adjacent to the network. For further details please follow these links to the **Code of Practice (CIHT)** and an article in **Highways Magazine on the amendments made to the highways code of practice**.

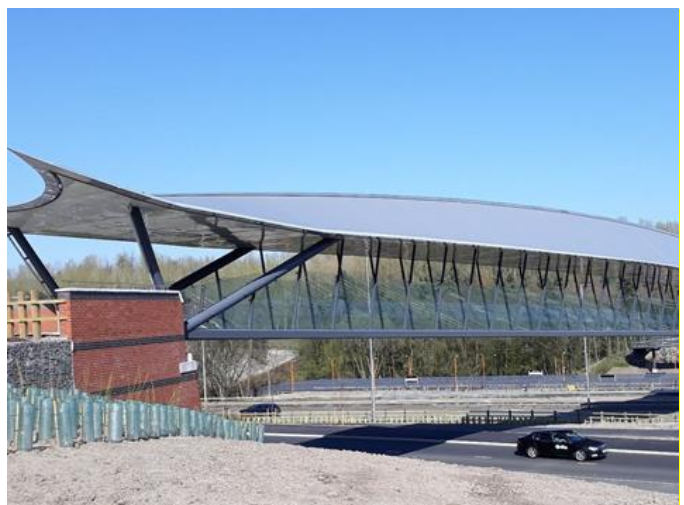
Co-ordinated by the **UK100** non-governmental group, in December 2020, a coalition of city mayors and council leaders signed the **UK100 Net Zero Pledge** which explicitly commits them to neutralising their emissions by 2030 and those of their residents and businesses by 2045.

The **End of Year One report** from the ADEPT Live Labs programme of work is now available with an update on progress of the pilot projects and potential for sharing learning with the wider local authority sector.

Celebrating success

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Telford Footbridge project, which continues to receive awards even though it opened to pedestrians in November 2018. The project won the Civils Project of the Year 2020 award at the **Constructing Excellence Midlands awards** which were announced online in December.

Contact **James Corrigan**, Project Manager Balfour Beatty Construction Services - North & Midlands for more information.



Celebrating success continued...



The A46/A5630 Anstey Lane improvement scheme in Leicestershire is now featured as a **case study for NEC4 Contracts** and was also shortlisted for the Transport Project of the Year in the 2020 British Construction Industry Awards.

Leicestershire County Council delivered this major highway upgrade in just 11 months using NEC4 contracts, on time and within budget despite Covid-19 restrictions. For more information on the scheme contact **Jonathan McGuinness**, Engineering Services Manager, Leicestershire County Council.

For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact **Alice Russell**.

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**



Follow: **@MHAPlus**



Follow: **Midlands Highway Alliance Plus**