
Executive Board approve MHA+ Annual Business Plan.

Now that the MHA+ has a membership of over thirty highway authorities, **governance** is even more important, to ensure that the alliance is giving its members what they want. As part of this, an Annual Business Plan is produced by the Programme Board which outlines all the activities proposed for the financial year, how they will be funded and what resources are needed. The report is presented to the Executive Board at its Spring meeting.

This year that meeting, chaired by Ann Carruthers of Leicestershire, took place on 25 March, and the key item on the agenda, the business plan, was **approved** subject to three amendments: -

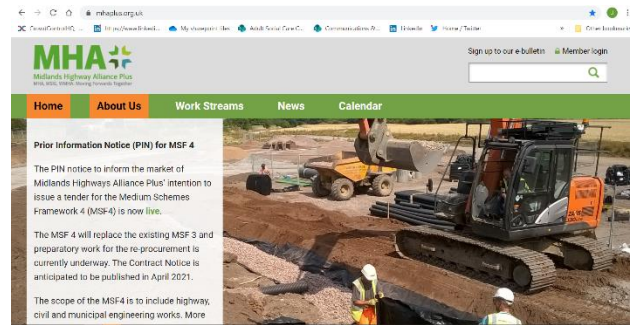
- With over 20% of English highway authorities as members, the board felt that the MHA+ is in very strong position to influence decision makers, particularly in areas such as future funding. It was agreed that to emphasise this, a third bullet point specifically on this subject should be added to the aims and objectives in para 1.3 of the Business Plan
- The Board discussed how they wanted members of the new alliance to behave, in terms of sharing expertise, experiences and information that they have for the benefit of all. It was felt that opportunities were being missed because of the lack of engagement with some authorities. The board asked for a list of values to be included in the plan, which laid out the alliance's expectations for the involvement of its members, and made it clear what was expected. This would allow the board to look at areas where things could be improved.
- The Board noted that a new process was being put in place to manage the new process for funding specific task and finish projects and asked that details of this be included in the plan. Already, a combined meeting of the Term Community Board and the Highway Asset Management Group has identified several possible collaborative projects based on the Code of Practise for Well Managed Highway Infrastructure. Other projects being looked at are 'Climate Change Adaptation' (an update of the 2015 report) and 'Carbon Footprint' (a tool for calculating the carbon footprint of schemes). However, the board is aware that a lot of work is already being carried out by ADEPT and other organisations in the sector relating to carbon and would like to see what the scope of that work is before progressing. If you have any ideas on possible projects that would benefit the alliance please contact the Alliance Manager.

These three amendments are currently being drafted and the final business plan should be available by mid-April.

The board was very impressed by the good progress being made by the service improvement groups, and the framework boards, who carried on with their schedule of meetings on MS Teams, despite the pandemic. For more information please contact **Peter Barclay, MHA+ Manager**

MHA+ website now live

We have now completed the transfer of the contents of old MHA website to the new MHA+ site www.mhaplus.org.uk. Your existing links will be redirected to the new site so please update your records ahead of the switch-off of the old site.



MHA+ (formerly MSIG) Task Groups update

Our 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 is available on the [MHA Calendar](#) further information on each task group is available on the [MSIG website](#).

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

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

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

Successful completion of this programme will enable a delegate to describe themselves as an accredited NEC4 Project Manager with specific reference to the ECC. The delegate will be able to demonstrate the key processes crucial to the NEC 4 and how to apply them to an ECC Project.

There will be reference to common NEC processes and application, but this training programme is specifically intended to be used on projects.

Supplier learning content - our framework suppliers offer a broad range of learning content that may be useful to building your knowledge base.

The specialist bitesize webinars provided by Aecom (which can be found half way down the page) have been popular (with over 150 views since May 2020). They are available via YouTube - just click on the subject area.

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. There is also the option to post, comment on and download resources. Access to content is based on your personal profile - for more information on how to become an ISP user and access to the ISP visit our [website](#).

Horizon scanning and industry updates

A summary of recently published reports, guidance, research and engagement opportunities which may be of interest to alliance members are outlined below:

Local councils across Britain are being urged to take advantage of a new **BIM Early Steps Roadmap** developed by the Construction Innovation Hub which will make the switch towards a data-led approach to the management of buildings and estates easier than ever.

Net Zero Transport: the role of spatial planning and place-based solutions, this RTPI research was carried out by LDA Design, with City Science and Vectos. It explores how different places can achieve an 80% reduction in surface transport emissions by 2030, as part of a pathway to net zero by 2050.

There has been an **increase in the number of substandard road bridges** managed by councils across Great Britain. Local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales have identified 3,105 bridges – defined as structures over 1.5m in span – as being substandard.

CIHT offers an overview of the **MHCLG National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code consultation**

The Government has confirmed that the **on-street residential grant scheme (ORCS)** will continue in 2021-22

The Engineering Council's revised Guidance on Sustainability emphasises the inter-connectedness of environmental challenges and solutions, the role of regeneration and restoration, and consideration of the whole life cycle – including safe disposal.

The DfT's **local highways maintenance incentive fund page** has been updated with scores for 2020-21 and guidance for 2021-22 is expected imminently.

Road related data and how to use it – this research undertaken by Atkins under PIARC supervision provides a clear framework for road administrations to systematically compare their current practices and develop tailored action plans.

Collaborative approach proves to be award-winning

Outstanding teamwork between Leicestershire County Council and Morgan Sindall Infrastructure was acknowledged at the **Highways Awards 2020** which saw the collaborative relationship between the two organisations scoop Highly Commended.

Morgan Sindall Infrastructure is the sub regional contractor working with the county council on an improvement scheme on the M1 J23 and the A512 at Loughborough, aimed not only at relieving current traffic congestion, but also ensuring that the road network is fit for the future.

To kick start their partnership journey, they set up working groups with representatives from each organisation, focusing on six key areas - health, safety and wellbeing; working with communities,



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getting it right first time, environment and ecology, cost and efficiency, and innovation. These working groups set targets for project teams including making sure there was no duplication of tasks; social value and providing a lasting legacy for the local community; innovative environmental focused trials and joint training.

Judges agreed that the partnership work excelled in many areas, especially community engagement, which led to many local people welcoming the project and understanding its value.

Councillor Trevor Pendleton, county council cabinet member for highways and transport, said: “It is clear that our partnership is working well – our ‘one team’ approach on our projects has already shown financial and community benefits. We are delighted that our efforts have been recognised at the Highways Awards.”



Paul Gott, Morgan Sindall Infrastructure’s managing director for highways, said “We are thrilled to receive this recognition, it is a great achievement for the partnership, delivery teams and individuals involved. This is just the beginning and it shows what can be achieved when two organisations work together to challenge the status quo.”

For further information contact **Susie Grantham**, Performance & Stakeholder Manager, Infrastructure – Highways, Morgan Sindall.

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



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