



July 2024 Newsletter

MHA+ Annual Event on 17 September - book your spot now!

The MHA+ annual event is coming up soon. Featuring a series of face-to-face events with a series of workshops and activities on the themes of skills and digital. This will be hosted at Holywell Park, Loughborough on Tuesday 17 September. **Mark the date to your calendars now, and ensure you and your colleagues are booked in via the [MHA+ Learning Hub annual event page](#).**

A promotional banner for the MHA+ Annual Event. The banner has a teal and white color scheme. On the left, there is a magnifying glass icon over the text 'Skills and Digital'. To the right, there is a network diagram with various icons representing skills, digital, and industry. The MHA+ logo is in the top right corner. Below the main text, the date 'Tuesday 17 September 2024' and the location 'Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough. LE11 3GR' are listed, along with the website 'www.mhaplus.org.uk/events'.

The annual event features a wide range of presenters and will focus on how MHA+ members and their supply chains can work collaboratively to:

- Help develop a safe and competent workforce.
- Identify and address gaps in skills, knowledge and confidence to build the capacity and capability of the workforce for the future
- Work with industry professional partners and sector skills bodies
- Assess digital maturity and develop digital strategies that support business objectives and improve customer experience
- Use digital and AI technology to work more intelligently, provide insight and support delivery
- Adopt modern methods of working to deliver efficiently and effectively.

The 2024 MHA+ annual event programme will include presentations, optional breakout sessions, and exhibition features, including intelligent transport, future skills, digital design, virtual world, harnessing data and digital materials.

All our MHA+ framework suppliers will be hosting a market place, providing event participants with an opportunity to network and meet our MHA+ framework and delivery managers.

MHA+ Best use of technology awards 2024

One of the core principles of MHA+ is that we share and recognise good practice to help us all to move forward.

This year we are going to recognise and reward some of the great uses of technologies that you are making in your organisations at the Annual Event, with 'best use of technology awards' in 3 categories: Design, Construction and Maintenance.



1. Best use of Technology in Design in MHA+

Entries must describe how a technology, (software, hardware or other) was created, trialled or used to bring value to the design of highway works.

2. Best use of Technology in Construction in MHA+

Entries must describe how a technology, (software, hardware or other) was created, trialled or used to bring value to the construction or modification of a highway.

3. Best use of Technology in Maintenance & Asset Management in MHA+

Entries must describe how a technology, (software, hardware or other) was created, trialled or used to bring value to the maintenance and / or asset management of a highway or discrete assets within a highway.

Deadline for entries is 12 August. Shortlisted entrants in each category will present to the MHA+ Annual Event on 17 September so that we can all hear about the great work being done.

The winners will be decided by the MHA+ community through a live vote at the event. Come along to the event to vote for your favourite.

If you haven't already, don't forget to [sign up to the annual event](#).

Please contact [Kay Smith](#) if you have any questions on how to apply.

Join us! Service Improvement Group (SIG) co-ordinator

MHA+ is recruiting for a Service Improvement Group (SIG) Co-ordinator. We are looking for someone friendly and organised with good communication skills and some knowledge of, and interest in, the highways and transport sector and local government, to manage the delivery and effectiveness of the SIG workstream.

The SIG workstream comprises of 16 technical specialist groups of key highway service practitioners from across a quarter of England's local highway authorities. Working closely with the MHA+ team to support our members to provide effective, efficient, innovative, and sustainable highways services.

Interested? Act fast as the closing date is Sunday 21 July. Read more and apply now via our job advert: [Service Improvement Group \(SIG\) Co-ordinator](#). Please feel free to contact the [MHA+ Team](#) if you have any questions.

STEM Ambassadors

MHA+ Manager Karen Notman and Mike Barnett of Leicestershire County Council recent took part in an event facilitated by ICE East Midlands to encourage 16-18 years olds and university undergraduates in the Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths (STEM) industries. It's one of several such events MHA+ are engaged with. You could, too.

Do you want to inspire the next generation, give something back to your community and help fill the growing skills gap? Then why not become a STEM ambassador? STEM ambassadors promote the study of and careers in the Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths industries.

Become a STEM ambassador! Head to the [building our workforce](#) section of the MHA+ website.

Service Improvement Group (SIG) highlights

We continue to have excellent levels of attendance and participation from group members across the MHA+ regions. Agendas, minutes and presentation slides from all SIG meetings are available on the [MHA+ SIG members website](#) along with benchmarking exercises and online discussion boards. Brief updates on the SIG meetings follow.

SIG Chairs

The eight SIG Chairs provided feedback on key outcomes from their SIG meetings to the group and awaiting the appointment of a SIG Co-ordinator. Chairs were requested to provide content for MHA+ business plan update and 2023/24 Annual report. MHA+ Framework learning content; YouTube and project description sheets links were advised to the Chairs.

Casualty reduction.

There was a group discussion that included 'Vision Zero' and sharing of 'Safe Systems' approaches at MHA+ member authorities and National Highways. Other topics included sharing views, experiences and policy/strategy positions on 20mph zones across the MHA+ region.

Development Management

No progress on Shared Surface approach but Section 50 guidance launch is felt to be imminent. Presentation from Leicestershire on highway design guide project with topics covering low carbon materials palette, Active Travel and value of trees toolkit. The SIG members shared content on Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, discussed pertinent Appeal Decisions and section 59 template. No progress reported on List of Street sub-group

Traffic Signals

Presentations from two system suppliers on access to system data using vehicle SIM cards and the use of AI to optimise traffic signal functions. SIG updated on a review of pedestrian crossings working group. Recruitment of experienced engineers using the DfT funding – positive feedback on post FE/HE recruitment. Advised on the rigour in Active Travel site assessments to secure funding



Highways Asset Management

A Price Update model was shared with the SIG. Advised on the positive take-up of the e-foundation award commissioned by MHA+ skills available via the MHA+ lms – all have passed the test and received their certificates. Discussion on 6/12 DfT funding allocation and meeting/advising DfT reporting requirements for schemes/maintenance works. Leicestershire provided presentation on Vaisala Road AI. Content from UKRLG AM Board was shared. M2i shared content on 'Value for Carbon' work undertaken in partnership with UofLeeds

Street Lighting

Hybrid meeting held following tour of ASL Lighting. Issues concerning health & safety were advised and SIG to provide information that key issues can be discussed with Highways England. EV discussion included the need for consistency of charging and benefits of relationship management with sustainability and Active Travel colleagues.

DNO issues were discussed at length and document share - to use as a basis for discussion with Ofgem was an action. Updates from regional groups, including Live labs 2 project. LCC dimming pilot outcome was shared £142k savings; 81 tons Co2e. Positive feedback on development of street lighting career pathways and successful recruitment of post HE/FE candidates.



Flood Water Management

Feedback from SIG members on recent storms HENK and BABET, with identification of lessons learned, funding issues and best practice. Group members agreed to convene a task and finish group to discuss National Flood Funding Recovery Framework; next meeting includes presentation on flood investigations and water course regulation

Transportation Data & Analysis

Hybrid meeting held at County Hall in Matlock. Presentation from 2 product suppliers on technology providing real-time data (via sensors and mobile phone) to support Active Travel schemes; transport planning, modelling and evidence-based data needed for project briefs. Data and analysis being used to predicate decision being made prior to the creation of EMCCA and potential to prepare EMCCA capital project bids.

Highways Records & Searches

List of Streets best practice document working group making good progress in considering the 'development' survey responses; working group membership augmented to ensure broader geographic spread and representation from local authority 'tiers. Good SIG representation on the County Council land Charges Group and updates provides '. Good progress in work to migrate local land charges paper-based data to a digital online platform



The CSG is the focus of all things Carbon Reduction and Net Zero for MHA+. Some recent highlights include:

- **Carbon News Bulletin** – The bumper [June issue](#) featured interesting items and links on the carbon agenda at regional, national and beyond. Previous carbon news bulletins can be found on the [MHA+ website](#).
- **UKRLG, Adaptation, Biodiversity & Climate Group** – John Lamb (Chair of the Group) provided an excellent presentation to the group, highlighting its purpose, key activities and challenges in terms of Climate change and links with Carbon reduction and the synergies therein.
- **Carbon Management Task & Finish Group** – Has been created to look at providing for a more consistent approach to the management of carbon in relation to projects in MHA+ Medium Schemes Framework 4. Duncan Healey (Galliford Try) is chairing the group which will provide regular updates on progress over the next few months.
- **Suppliers Carbon Event** – The CSG are linking in with the Live Labs 2 Centre of Excellence team, in providing a short focussed event on carbon related products. Watch this space for the announcement of a date shortly.

Social Value Working Group



The Social Value Working Group, chaired by national expert Julie Cartwright (AECOM), continues to look at ways that MHA+ members can work together to raise the profile of Social Value and maximise Social Value efforts.

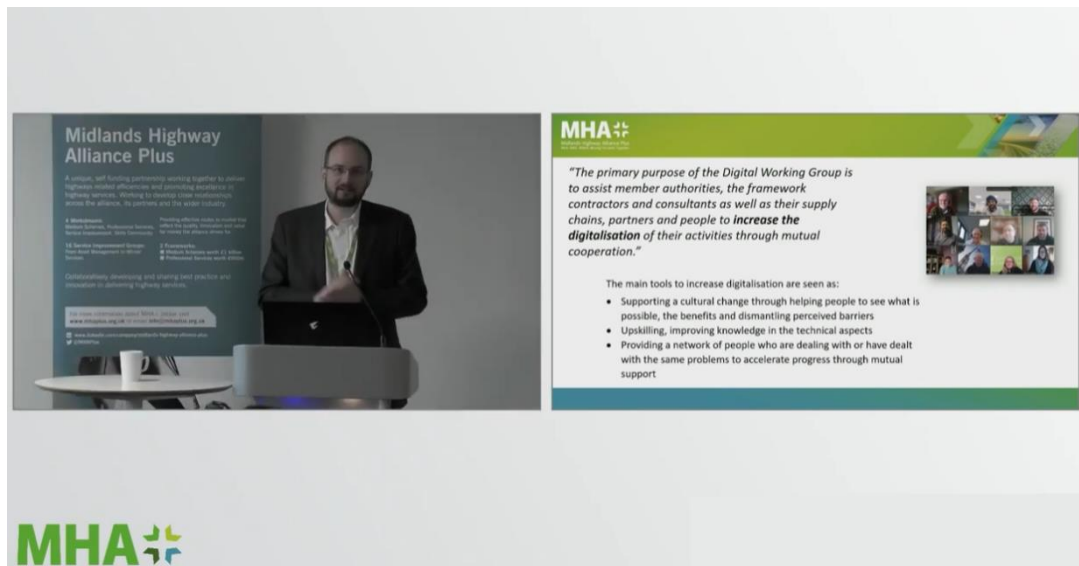
From this, the idea of a Social Value Events calendar has been born, and members are encouraged to enter their Social Value events during the year to enable visibility, collaboration and support networks to form for these events. Service Groups are encouraged to view the calendar and get involved with planned events within their locality. The calendar will be hosted by MHA+ once we have it populated.

- Please would you consider submitting your events to [Kay Smith](#) or if you would like to know more or attend one of our quarterly meetings, please get in touch we would love to hear from those that are leading on Social Value in your organisation.

Digital Working Group

The Digital Working Group (DWG) provides coverage on all things digital (including BIM activity), supporting members in their digital journey through its events and workshops in 2024.

The DWG hosted a successful event at the NEC in May. The theme was on Digital's Value Throughout the Highway's Lifecycle. MHA+ members can read more and watch videos of these presentations via the Information Sharing Platform - [Digital Working Group page](#).



Links to these valuable presentations can be accessed directly below:

- [Value in Digitalisation of Design](#)
- [3D Concrete printing for highways infrastructure](#)
- [Value in Digitalisation of Construction](#)
- [Digitalisation of Concrete Testing](#)
- [Value in the Digitalisation of Handover](#)
- [Digitalisation of Highway Testing](#)
- [Value in Digitalisation of Maintenance](#)

MHA+ has a clear overview of the important industry cross-cutting themes of carbon, social value and all things digital via its thematic groups.

If you want more information about the thematic groups, to contribute or learn more, please contact our MHA+ Support, Ian Bamforth (ian.bamforth@leics.gov.uk) or Kay Smith (Kay.A.Smith@Leics.gov.uk)

MHA+ supporting continuing professional development

Our framework suppliers have a wide range of content matter specialists and offer MHA+ member access to learning content that may be useful to building your knowledge base.

Our frameworks use new engineering contracts (nec) which MHA+ has subscribed to. There's a [range of accredited nec contract content](#) now available to MHA+ members.

Take a look at some of the recent content provided by [Aecom](#), [Amey Consulting](#) and [Waterman Aspen](#) with links to downloadable links on MHA+ YouTube channel or case studies on their corporate websites.

We encourage our framework suppliers to engage directly with our MHA+ members and advise how they can support continuing professional development. This includes providing specialist content via bite-size learning and lunch and learn sessions. We have over 90 webinars from our subject matter experts available as part of the [MHA+ Learning Gateway](#). A fresh programme of seminars is currently being delivered.

The latest video is from Amey Consulting. Amey recently presented a Lunch and Learn webinar on YouTube on [Challenges with the asset management of long span bridges](#).

Medium Schemes Framework 4 (MSF4) - Employment and Skills plan

Did you know each MSF4 Scheme is required to have an Employment and Skills Plan?

MHA+ MSF4 follows this guidance and requires the completion of an [Employment and Skills Plan](#) – summarising the targets (and any benchmark requirements) that will be achieved during the scheme. There is [original guidance](#) and templates to support the completion of an Employment and Skills Plan.

Initial targets and their achievement can be mapped using the MSF 4 ESP template. You can [download the template here](#).

Mental Health Awareness at the Framework Community Board

At the MHA+ Framework Community Board at Burleigh Court Conference Centre in Loughborough. This meeting started with a powerful, inspiring and thought-provoking session around mental health awareness, positivity and resilience by Kev Dillon from the [Black Country Blokes](#).



You can watch the Black Country Blokes podcasts at the [Black Country Blokes website](#) where topics of mental health, disability, and the ups and downs of life in general are discussed.

Awards-a-go-go!

Wolverhampton City Centre public realm improvement scheme - the Wolverhampton City Centre Public Realm Phase 1 & 3 - has won the Large Project of the Year and the Safety and Innovation Project of the Year at the Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE) Mercia Branch awards. The awards were hoisted by 80s pop icon Toyah Wilcox and held in April at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel in Birmingham.

Huge congratulations go to everyone involved from the City of Wolverhampton, Amey Consulting and Taylor Woodrow Infrastructure.



The Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR) was awarded Highly Commended in Team Achievement at the prestigious East Midlands Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) #EMMAS24 awards.

This award highlights the fantastic collaborative work between AECOM, Galliford Try and Leicestershire County Council as part of the Midlands Highway Alliance Plus.



Nottinghamshire Travel Choice was 'Highly Commended' at the CIHT East Midlands Awards (April 2024). This project (delivered by Nottinghamshire CC and AECOM) was a behaviour change initiative with the objective of supporting increased walking, cycling, public transport use and car share. This work was commissioned via the Midlands Highways Alliance Professional Services Partnership (MHAPSP3)

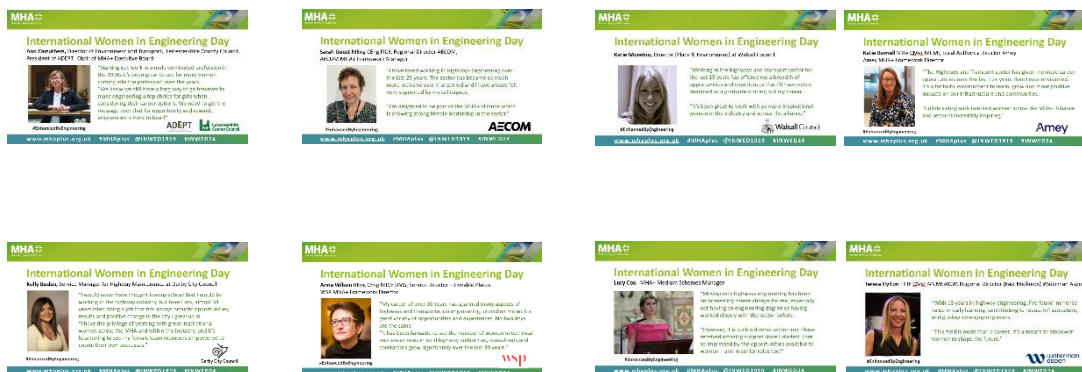


Derbyshire CC / AECOM was also ‘Commended’ at the CIHT East Midlands Awards (April 2024) for a cycling audit and scheme prioritisation project in relation to *Visit.Sleep.Cycle.Repeat*, a leisure-cycle initiative linked to the visitor economy.

This award was for an MHA+ Member but the project was won in open tender. However, it made use of a rural-focused cycle audit methodology developed for Nottinghamshire CC, through an MHA PSP3 commission.

Celebrating International Women in Engineering Day

MHA+ celebrated International Women in Engineering Day on June 23, with a big push through the day on [MHA+ LinkedIn](#) with colleagues from across MHA+ authorities and suppliers supporting the day. Click on their image for more information.





Karen Notman, MHA+ Manager, said: “MHA+ benefits from strong female leadership throughout the Alliance. In its governance, across its local highway authority membership and throughout its supply chain of consultants and contractors, are many influential women who toil daily to make a difference in delivering highway and transport services and infrastructure”.

“We have featured just a few and I would like to personally thank each of them for taking the time to support me in this collaborative initiative to raise awareness of the many interesting and rewarding roles there are across the sector and encourage more women to join us”.

For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles, please contact us. If you have any colleagues who may not have received this email, please share it with them, so that they can contact us directly to confirm they wish to receive our bulletin. Alternatively, if you wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin, email the [Midlands Highway Alliance Plus](#).

