

Midland Highway Alliance Plus Project funding

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Collaborative projects continue to be an intrinsic part of the development of the alliance. MHA+ business planning has ensured that funding is available to enable effective collaboration and maximise the expertise available to deliver projects.

As a preliminary, budget has been allocated for a Project Fund¹. However, given the number of authorities who contribute to the funding of MHA+, more robust and transparent approval processes need to be in place.

- 1.2 The approval process is necessary as it is envisaged that some proposed projects will
- ✓ cut across the remits of more than one group
 - ✓ scope is fit for purpose
 - ✓ augments (does not repeat) previous project work that has reached a natural end point
 - ✓ reduces duplication
 - ✓ time limited
 - ✓ be value for money

2. Background

- 2.1 Previously, MSIG task and finish projects were required to submit documentation - that identified the scope of the proposed project, timescale and required funding. Generally, MHA commissioned external consultants, using the professional services partnership framework.

3. Next steps

- 3.1 The commissioning process (developed by MSIG) has been adapted. The modifications will ensure contextual information is considered as well as identification of budget, products/output and timescales
The process now includes stages to include additional analysis of the bid, and improved project/performance management.
- 3.2 MHA+ Programme Board will agree projects and sign off project proposal. Bid preparation and monitoring will be integral to MHA+ business plan monitoring

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¹ Projects can range from a half day workshop on highway inspection criteria; a major study into Climate Change Adaptation; bespoke product development for MHA+ members to provision of learning training and development