

## Case Study

## Midlands Highway Alliance

The Midland Highways Alliance (MHA) seeks to increase cross authority working by promoting joint procurement of highways services and by identifying and embedding best practice. The collaboration will improve the procurement and delivery of five strands of highways services:

- Major capital highways schemes
- Capitalised maintenance and improvement schemes (Medium schemes)
- Professional services
- Highway term maintenance
- Commodities

Participating highway authorities are:

Derby City Council	Derbyshire County Council
Highways Agency	Leicester City Council
Leicestershire County Council (Lead LA)	Lincolnshire County Council
Northamptonshire County Council	Nottingham City Council
Nottinghamshire County Council	Peterborough City Council
Rutland County Council	

The successful contractors for the MHA Medium Schemes Framework are Balfour Beatty/Birse, Carillion, Osbornes/Aggregate Industries, and Tarmac. The Medium Schemes Framework is for structural maintenance and new highway schemes each valued at up to £8.0m. The MHA estimates that its local authority members will procure projects worth around £28 million through this new framework in the first year with the Highways Agency procuring a further £50m.

The Medium Schemes Framework is available to all highway authorities, along with the Highways Agency, in the East and West Midlands Regions, together with those adjacent authorities in neighbouring regions.

By working together, the MHA aims to reap efficiency gains of up to 10%, speed up the procurement process, deliver schemes to a higher standard and improve cost certainty. The spend through the framework is expected to increase up to £150 million in following years as public bodies are placed under greater pressure to realise efficiency gains in the face of spending constraints.

Procurement of commodities has started. This has led to substantial savings (£700k over three years) on highway salt in a supply framework procured by ESPO (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) on behalf of both East and West Midlands.

There is also a successful Professional Services Framework set up by Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

A further strand of activity is promoting best practice in term maintenance and small improvement activities. A best practice model has been developed and each authority has been compared with this. The outcome, apart from an improvement 'hit list' for each authority, is a series of Alliance improvement activities to help authorities converge towards best practice.

Higher quality projects are also a priority as the Alliance will share innovation and performance data across its members, improve working practices, and aid workflow throughout the supply chain.

### **Contact for further information**

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