

Regional Procurement and Collaboration for Service Delivery



Client: Midlands Highway Alliance
Project: Infrastructure Sector – Procure
Purpose: Regional Procurement to Improve Service Delivery and Efficiency

The Challenge

The Midlands Highway Alliance (MHA) is an alliance of 10 local highways authorities in the Midlands and the Highways Agency. It was formally launched in July 2007 and is developing collaborative working to improve service delivery and efficiency of key aspects of the highways service. In its first two years of operation it has been supported financially by the East Midlands Centre of Excellence, now reformed into the East Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and the Highways Agency. The Alliance has five key work areas and four are already delivering benefits.



The Benefits

The MHA is also developing best practice for Term Maintenance arrangements. A model of best practice has been developed and each authority has been assessed. This is leading to a collective programme of improvement to help authorities to converge towards best practices.

This is being applied to both 'in-house' and 'external' arrangements. It should lead to more efficient and effective delivery of this 'bedrock' aspect of the highways service.

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What CWC Did

With the Highways Agency a framework involving four contractors has been set up to deliver highways schemes costing up to £8m. In its first year of operation some £10m of local authority schemes and £40m of Highways Agency schemes will be delivered through the framework. The framework is saving local authorities the cost of procuring their own contractors. Also, early contractor involvement, Open Book working and appropriate risk allocation will lead to further savings, cost avoidance and cost certainty for schemes.