



## Budget priorities, service levels, drainage

Find the key to good highway maintenance. Maintenance engineers are constantly challenged with delivering quality services which meet the public's expectations, within ever tightening budgets. IHIE's conference with Highways Magazine on 13 October 2009 is designed to help.

**Paul Hardy, exp consulting**, will identify the need for greater understanding of Asset Management by maintenance engineers and highlight some of the ways the industry is tackling this challenging subject, including the introduction of current work on a training programme for engineers to help them understand, develop and deliver HAMPS.

Knowing the value and condition of highway infrastructure allows authorities to predict future costs and target their priorities accordingly. **Derek Buchanan & Kevin Whiteside of MGWSP** will demonstrate how zero based budgeting can be seen as a systematic approach to budget allocation, that can assist engineers in allocating of increasingly limited resources.

Combining an Asset Management approach with the problems related to climate change and changing weather patterns is becoming an important consideration. Over half of the flood damage experienced is due to drains, culverts, sewers and ditches being overwhelmed. It is therefore important to investigate how this risk can be averted. **Mark Benton & Gordon Hunt of Oxfordshire County Council** will review their Authority's successful DfT element 2 bid, identifying the contribution of its drainage assets in coping with flooding problems by the mapping of all pipes and other drainage infrastructure across its network, to correlate with EA's graphical data on flood prone areas. This will highlight the need for good inventory data on the drainage asset, whilst **Scott Tompkins (Gloucestershire CC)** will show the effects of recent flooding events in Gloucestershire and the work being carried to mitigate further similar occurrences.

Speakers in the afternoon will include **Ed Bunting, DfT Senior Advisor**, and **Steve Spender, Hampshire County Council**, who will discuss the link between meeting our customer's aspirations and defining levels of service. **Eddie Fellows of Birmingham City Council** will explain how his Authority has introduced elements into their contract documents and working practices aimed at meeting their customer's needs and aspirations through good contractor performance. **Steve Munro from Amey** will give a service provider's view of working with Clients and customers to provide the appropriate level of service to meet public expectations.

## Asset Management

Asset Management is high on the Government agenda. Earlier in 2009, the Treasury Chief Secretary wrote to CIPFA "Our highways and transport infrastructure is one the biggest assets the UK public sector has. How well it is maintained and operated has a high impact on our quality of life". To back this up, DfT has put £32M into local authorities to assist them to build up their asset data and manage their maintenance more efficiently.

Asset Management training is also much in demand by IHIE members as evidenced in the 2009 Member Survey where it topped the poll, hence IHIE is offering a unique training package from this November. Organised in conjunction with the industry's foremost expert, Paul Hardy of exp consulting, the programme offers an introductory course for newcomers, a six day residential training course for asset managers leading into an IHIE Professional Certificate. "This is an exciting development for highway engineers" said Steve Spender, IHIE Vice President and Highways Manager Hampshire CC. "Practitioners' knowledge will be tested on the course and their ability to perform will be tested by the Certificate. Having professional asset managers will help local authorities deliver long term value for money maintenance."

The first courses offered are at Leicester:

- 2 November 2009; **An Introduction to Highway Asset Management**
- 3rd-5th November 2009 and 8th-10th January 2010; **Practitioner Training**

The IHIE/exp courses will cover the basics for newcomers and, for engineers already grappling with Asset Management plans, topics include:

- Lifecycle Cost Analysis
- Risk Management in the context of Asset Management
- Service Standards & Performance Management
- Asset valuation and financial planning
- Contract management & procurement
- Long term investment planning value management
- Building a business case
- Programme management

The course is based around the CSS Framework for Highway Asset Management and the Codes of Practice for Highway Management, coupled with a variety of other relevant national and international texts.

## Training and Development

### Preparing for your Review

6 October, London

4 November, Birmingham

\* *Credit Crunch rate of 2 for 1!*

In depth advice and support in going for IEng and EngTech with a focus on CEng in October.

### Improve your skills in Traffic Signs

16 September, Loughborough

The course to maintain your expertise in direction, warning and regulatory signing.

**Supported by DfT**

### Annual Traffic Signs Conference & Exhibition 2009

17 September, Loughborough

DfT-led discussion on ideas for the DfT review of traffic signing. Up dates on Chapter 8, DfT streetscape ideas, SS12D training for designers of roadworks, the TfL speed limit map and ISA and plans for the Olympics.

**Supported by DfT and Buchanan Computing**

### Durable Surfaces

8 October, Leeds

Jeff Farrington's popular course on how to get more durable surfaces.

### Highway Asset Management

#### Introduction Course

2 November 2009 or 8 February 2010

#### Practitioner Training (2x3days course)

3-5 November 2009 / 9-11 February 2010

Unique assessed training for newcomers and their managers. Delivered by Paul Hardy, exp consulting.

### Annual Highway Maintenance Conference & Exhibition

13 October 2009, Northampton, Hilton.

The postponed IHIE/Highways annual conference: Speakers on asset management, drainage and defining levels of service.

### Highway Law (TBA)

December, London WC1

If you are interested, email IHIE.

A course for road design, maintenance and development engineers delivered by expert barristers.

## NEED A SPECIALIST?

Extra workload? Specialist skills required?  
IHIE member consultants can help.

or

## SERVICES TO OFFER?

Get yourself on the IHIE list.

[www.ihie.org.uk/gateway/register/](http://www.ihie.org.uk/gateway/register/)