

Asset Management

The Institute has added this new section to its web-based Knowledge Network to support members implement Asset Management Plans.

A recent upload is news of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Transport Infrastructure Assets: **Guidance to Support Asset Management, Financial Management and Reporting (March 2010)** just published but hardly light reading and expensive.

The new Code of Practice from CIPFA provides guidance on the development and use of financial information to support asset management, financial management and reporting of local highways infrastructure assets.

The Code:

- uses a whole-life cost-based approach to highways maintenance underpinned by life cycle planning
- helps authorities to model and understand the consequences of different maintenance strategies and standards of service
- supports long-term financial planning and budgeting, including corporate capital planning and the operation of the Prudential Code
- supports long-term performance assessment, benchmarking and better procurement
- provides detailed information on the cost of individual maintenance activities that can be used to drive down the cost base, and to monitor whether treatments deliver the expected performance
- provides a simplified approach to the calculation of gross asset value.

If you are interested in structured Asset Management training leading to an IHE Professional Certificate, email deputy@theihe.org.

New Technician Council

Launched in April, the new Technician Council is sponsored by BIS and has been welcomed by the Engineering Council which is a founder member.

Initially, the Technician Council will aim to expand and develop technician registration schemes largely based on the Engineering Council model. It will help to facilitate the initial drafting of registration standards in science IT etc, ensure that appropriate support, professional development and information is made available alongside registration for individual technicians and drive forward the agenda of promoting the professional status of and recognition for technicians, including marketing and policy influence roles.

The then Business, Innovation and Skills Minister said: "In securing future economic growth it is essential that we have the right people with the right skills in the right jobs. Employers must be able to find skilled technicians and be confident that their knowledge and abilities have been rigorously assessed.

The new Technician Council has a vital role to play in bringing together all of those who employ and train technicians to make this happen. It will champion rising standards and promote the immense value of technicians to our economy."

The Council is the creation of a working group including the Engineering Council, Science Council, Royal Academy of Engineering and others brought together under Lord Sainsbury's leadership last year to explore issues surrounding the professional registration of technicians. Introducing the Council, Lord Sainsbury said: "The establishment of the Technician Council will provide a simple and effective mechanism for promoting the professional status of and recognition for technicians."

Tony Sharp, IHE President, reassured members, "The Council will not usurp any Engineering Council functions rather it will put additional and significant weight behind the Technician grade and is very welcome".

THE News

- Martyn Grimwood MIHE, aged 33, died recently in a collision whilst traveling in a taxi near Chelmsford. Martyn was a dedicated engineer and charity fundraiser.
- Ian Rowlett is secretary of the newly formed IHE Nottingham Centre. We would welcome other members who want to set up a centre at their workplace and can offer support from HQ staff.
- Newly elected to IHE Council from June 2010 are David Armstrong, Southampton City, Jo Davies, Kent CC, Vinod Dhayal CEng, Mott MacDonald Structures, Jonathan Pearson, Lincolnshire CC/Eastern Branch Secretary and Kevin Walsh, Capita.
- New on www.homezones.org.uk : The Legislation section has been updated for the Scotland planning changes; Case Studies now include Sustrans' DIY streets; find the latest PAMELA report on delineators for disabled people using shared space.

Changing climate measures

See also new PPSs from DCLG on Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate and DfT's Statistical Report on people's attitudes towards climate change in relation to transport, and to what extent attitudes have changed over time. The report covers: General concerns about the environment and climate change; Perceived levels of knowledge and perceived consequences of climate change; Potential for individual behavioural change; Support for policies to reduce transport admissions and Potential for influencing behaviour.

REMINDER

IHE's Annual General Meeting follows the Winchester Seminar at 4.45pm, Friday 18 June 2010, at the Guildhall. The speaker is Paul Arnold, Project Manager on the A3 Hindhead Tunnel under the Devil's Punch Bowl SSI site.

