



**2012 RSTA Conference
The Belfry, 29th March 2012**

Improving Highway Maintenance Efficiency

The 2012 RSTA Conference will showcase some of the key outputs from the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP), review the activities of the Asphalt Industry Alliance and hear the latest thinking within the Highways Agency on Highway Maintenance.

Highways, from country lanes to motorways are our single biggest transport asset and they provide a vital link for individuals, communities and businesses. But these are testing economic times and we need to learn to do things differently, to drive down costs and drive up efficiencies. The DfT has been able to allocate £6M funds to develop a comprehensive and long term Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) aimed at supporting highway authorities. Over the coming years, HMEP will provide practical and adaptable efficiency solutions and allow authorities to make more informed local investment decisions to support its local community and economy. The programme will be sector led - its scope and shape, and the emerging efficiency solutions, will be developed by the private and public sectors working in partnership.

Conference Programme

HMEP Update

Steve Kent, Director of Community and Environment, Cheshire West and Chester Council

Steve will explain the key outputs from the HMEP work stream looking at Research and Data Management. This workgroup aims to bring together and consolidate much of the existing benchmarking and performance data that underpins the highway maintenance sector, but which does not currently provide a consistent and coherent picture of performance and improvement. Topics will include customer perception and satisfaction with the services delivered, 'future proofing' of the service, focusing on carbon reduction and related environmental aspects.

Pot Holes Review

Alan Taggart, Director of Highways Asset Management, Atkins

On the 6th April 2011 Norman Baker MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, announced an initiative to develop best practice in dealing with pot holes. This followed increasing public concern about the widespread damage to our road network caused by severe winter weather. The review is looking at the best ways for addressing the problem of pot holes, recognising that this is not simply about engineering but also design standards, investment strategies and forward planning.

Asphalt Industry Alliance – An Overview

Alan McKenzie, Chief Executive, Breedon Aggregates Scotland Ltd, Director at Bear Scotland Ltd, and Chairman of MPA Scotland

The AIA is an alliance of the Mineral Products Association and Refined Bitumen Association and draws on the knowledge and resources of each association. It was established in 2000 to increase awareness of the asphalt industry and the benefits of asphalt. The AIA promotes the benefits of modern asphalt to the industry, specifiers, policy makers and general public.

Alan will illustrate some of the work ongoing within the Asphalt Industry Alliance aimed at promoting and increasing government spend on Asphalt roads.

Highways Maintenance within the Highways Agency

Donna James, Pavement Team Leader at Highways Agency

The Highways Agency are responsible for the operation and stewardship of the strategic road network in England on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. The strategic road network consists of motorways and major trunk roads; other roads in England are managed by local authorities.

Donna will highlight current thinking within the Highways Agency on matters relating to technical developments affecting Highway Maintenance on motorways and trunk roads.