

HMEP Strategic Peer Review



The HMEP Strategic Review enabled Blackpool Council to test their current practices and identify more transformational changes within a specific area of capital spending to achieve greater value from levels of investment.

Name of Alliance/Authority/Client	Blackpool Council
Project Description	<p>We used the HMEP Strategic Review offering to test current practices and identify more transformational changes within a specific area of capital spending to achieve greater value from levels of investment. In addition we also used the review to place highways maintenance firmly on the corporate agenda making sure that it was seen as a matter of strategic importance for Corporate Leadership team and the Members of the Executive.</p> <p>The review itself focused on our approaches to the planning and delivery of a large capital investment project known as Project 30. We were recognised for innovation and forward thinking when addressing some of the problems we faced and this recognition of good practice by fellow professionals proved highly motivational for the staff involved. The review also highlighted areas where opportunities had been missed to make plans more corporate and to communicate them effectively to local people. We were challenged to improve mechanisms to involve residents and to position their plans within the corporate agenda.</p>
Outcomes and benefits	<p>“The HMEP Strategic Review gave us a chance to take a focused look at our approach to highways maintenance and efficiency in the round. It really brought this very important issue to life for the Corporate Leadership Team and the Members of our Councils Executive.”</p> <p>“The peer review team was able to encourage several areas of good practice, identified a few areas for improvement and supported that with sign posting to HMEP products and good practice in other authorities. As a peer reviewer I was pleased to find some work in my own authority regarded as good practice and also took back to my own authority several improvement proposals”</p> <p>“Since the review we are clear that we all work together to ensure we make the best use of our highways network and that very much includes ensuring that we bring our residents with us from the start of the decision making processes through to delivery on the ground.”</p>
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Disclaimer: When considering all HMEP case studies, please remember that whilst the initiative described was beneficial in this case, it may not be suitable in every situation.

About HMEP

- **HMEP exists to support the sector on its journey to transform highway services.**
- **HMEP does this** by the highways sector, for the highways sector, **working with people and organisations to enable change, so that greater savings and efficiencies can be achieved and the demand highway services can be met.**

Context

- Managing local highways is now a **critical challenge** for local authorities who **are in the spotlight and feel concerned about the future of their** single biggest asset: **local roads.**
- They know that maintaining **their highways, with less money**, is a key priority; and that this has been intensified following the bad weather and **continued demand and scrutiny** from the public and business leaders.
- Doing **significantly more with significantly less** has never been more important, or needed.
- Balancing **longer-term**, strategic planning while **keeping our local roads safe and serviceable** is a critical challenge.

Get involved with, and contact HMEP:

- Go to the [HMEP website](#) and find out more about our Efficiency Resources
- Sign up for HMEP email updates or ask the HMEP advocate or elected member in your area to contact you. Send an email to highwaysefficiency@dtf.gsi.gov.uk with your request