**ADEPT Soils & Materials Design & Specification Group**  
NEW MEMBERS WANTED!

ADEPT’s SMDS Group meets three times a year and holds a one-day summer workshop to include Southern and Northern Groups, where delegates benefit from presentations and discussions on current highways-related technical matters.

The Group includes Local Authority materials and maintenance engineers, specialists from consultants representing Authorities who have externalised technical functions, as well as representatives from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Highways England.

The diverse range of experience from a variety of client and consultant organisations enables the Group to ensure that specifications, British and European Standards together with SHW and DMRB meet the requirements of the Local Authority highway network. We produce guidance documents for ADEPT members on relevant topics and work closely with other parties such as RSTA with whom we have generated joint publications.

If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact the Chairman Stephen Child ([stephenchild@smc-consultancy.co.uk](mailto:stephenchild@smc-consultancy.co.uk)) or Secretary Steve Betteridge ([Steve.Betteridge@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.Betteridge@lincolnshire.gov.uk)) to find out more.

The ADEPT Southern Counties and Northern Counties Soils and Materials Engineers Groups each meet twice a year. Northern Counties SMEG covers English Authorities north of and including Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire/Staffordshire and Authorities from North Wales together with representation from Northern Ireland. Southern Counties SMEG covers Authorities to the south, including the Southern Welsh Authorities.

In addition to the regional meetings, the Groups combine to hold a one-day summer workshop where delegates benefit from presentations and discussions on current highways-related technical matters.

Originally intended as a discussion forum for County Soils and Materials Engineers, these two groups have evolved.  As well as  including Local Authority Materials Engineers, they now include Materials and Pavement Engineers and specialists from consultants representing Authorities who have externalised technical functions, as well as a number of interested client engineers. Several of the attendees also fulfil Asset Management roles within their organisations and provide Asset Management advice from a materials engineering perspective, contributing to a more holistic view of highway maintenance.

The diverse range of experience from a  variety of client and consultant organisations results in a valuable forum for information exchange, covering a range of innovative products, processes and asset management techniques, as well as providing  up-to-date information on changes to specifications and British and European Standards.

Each group would welcome new members who are interested in the processes of highway maintenance and who would be willing to exchange and discuss ideas and experiences to benefit all.  If you are interested in joining the group  please contact Steve Betteridge ([Steve.Betteridge@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.Betteridge@lincolnshire.gov.uk)) or Stephen Child ([stephenchild@smc-consultancy.co.uk](mailto:stephenchild@smc-consultancy.co.uk)) to find out more.