



25 July 2018

CECA North West

NEWS DIGEST FROM CECA NORTH WEST

Welcome to this round up of news from CECA North West. If there are any items you wish to include, please let me know. If you would like to contact me, or wish to arrange a meeting, I can be reached via email: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk or mobile 07703 585027.

Civil Engineering Contractors' Association North West news

Contact details

The office address is: CECA North West, The White House, Wilderspool Business Park, Greenalls Avenue, Warrington WA4 6HL Email: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk; Tel: 07703 585027. Although the office is not manned full time, I can be contacted on the above email and mobile number. We are also on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CECANW>

Free and discounted services for members - what can we do for you?

CECA NW always wants to make sure it delivers the services that members want. So, please tell us what your priorities are. We are always looking for ways to enhance the services CECA NW offers to members, which currently include:

- Legal services (see below)
- Training
- Tendering support
- Market intelligence
- Lobbying

But, please contact Guy Lawson if there are any specific areas where we can be of assistance.

CECA NW Legal Advice Service

Willow Contracts has provided very high quality advice to CECA NW members over the last year - and their support and expertise for legal and contractual matters is highly recommended. The email address exclusively for members is CECAsupport@willowcontracts.co.uk and this will automatically contact Chris Hutchinson and his colleague. For the telephone service, the dedicated number is 01924 919392. In the event that the call cannot be taken any voicemail left is automatically routed to Chris's mobile phone. Call costs I am advised are at standard rates.

Tendering workshops

Members are invited to contact Guy Lawson for 1-2-1 tendering workshops, where he will advise on PQQs and ITTs, eg on how to present socio-economic and CSR data as effectively as possible. This is a free service to CECA NW members. Please contact him at the above number or email.

CECA NW in the news

Read about Diane Bourne's route to becoming one of our leading civil engineers:
<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Diane-Bourne-story.pdf>

CECA NW Golf Day 2018 - photographs!

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nucrUQd9aRjWPhL8B4q4R_fL07mYtT-B?usp=sharing

CECA website is now live!

The new CECA website is now live. All members should re-register to access information on the members' area: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/members-area/>

CECA NW meeting with West Cumbria Mining - 13.00, Wednesday 5 September 2018

A meeting has been arranged for CECA NW members, at West Cumbria Mining's Haig Pit site, Whitehaven. Interested parties should contact me: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk

CECA Rail Supply Chain Conference, Manchester

The presentations from the conference are available via the CECA website:

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CECA-North-West-Rail-Conference-Slides-14-June-2018.pdf>

CECA NW Annual Awards Dinner, Friday 12 October 2018

Quentin Willson will be the guest speaker at the CECA NW Annual Awards Dinner, Midland Hotel, Manchester. Entries for the Awards must be submitted by **Friday 7 September** (please note the new category for projects up to £1 million). To book your tickets for the awards dinner:

http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=125

CECA NW flyer 2018

The CECA NW flyer 2018 is available via the CECA website, and hard copies can be ordered from Guy Lawson: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CECA-NW-flyer-2018.pdf>

CECA NW - the video!

Please find a link to the CECA NW video - aimed at promoting careers in the industry. It is now available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/BH4L-Fe47nY>

We will be updating the video this year, so please send in any footage of projects that we can use.

CECA NW member benefit - free access to socio-economic value measurement tool

CECA NW has acquired a licence for LM3 (the socio-economic modelling tool that is widely recognised by clients, and enables bidders to evaluate the local value they can bring to a contract). Please let me know if you are interested in using LM3 - or have any queries about it: <https://www.lm3online.com/>

Sponsoring the Civil Engineering Challenge

We are sponsoring resource packs to enable scouts and guides to achieve the Civil Engineering badge, developed by Pippa Higgins of Vinci. Please let me know if you would like more information. We are now funding over twenty groups to undertake the civil engineering challenge.

Training & Development

HKA Legal Breakfast Seminars

We now have dates for the 2018 legal seminar programme run by Geraldine Fleming of HKA. The first is rather short notice, so please let Jemma Carmody know asap if any of your colleagues would like to attend. They are all breakfast seminars, with an 08.30 start, apart from the NEC4 half day.

All at HKA's offices, Daresbury Park, Warrington, apart from those marked; all free for CECA NW members apart from the NEC4 half day. To book, please email: jemma.carmody@ceca-yorks.co.uk

- Tuesday 18 September - Forms of Contract and Contract Formation
- Tuesday 9 October - Limitation of liability clauses
- Tuesday 6 November - Legal update PRESTON tbc

NW Contractors' Training Group - free for all CECA NW members

The Group provides access to CITB funding to support training, and its members receive free or substantially discounted training. If you are interested in joining the Group, please let Gill Steele know: mgtpsteele@hotmail.co.uk Please could CECA NW members advise their Training Managers of this opportunity. **The next meeting is on Thursday 27 September 2018 at Golborne.** Please contact Gill to book your place.

CECA Employment Law and Taxation seminar, 29 November 2018

A seminar with Liz Bridge and Gerry Lean is planned for the autumn.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wales/event/employment-law-and-taxation-issues-2/>

Merseyside and Cheshire Construction Safety Group 2017-18 programme

<https://mccsgonline.wordpress.com/programme-2017-2018/>

These events are run by MCCSG, so you would need to book places with them, rather than via CECA NW.

A New Standard for Collaborative Business Relationships for Engineering & Construction Companies

Would members be interested in a workshop on ISO 44001? Please let me know if it would be something you would like CECA NW to arrange.

Looking to recruit ex-services personnel? <http://www.forward-assist.com/>

Fairness, Inclusion and Respect Programme (FIR) update

More introduction to FIR workshops are being run, plus Ambassador training session, and Ambassador coaching sessions. If any of this is of interest and you want your organisation to get involved or build on its existing activity then please do get in touch: Tolu Oke, T: 020 7697 1985; M: 07469 159 788

FIR Training and Project Manager, E: Tolu@supplychainschool.co.uk

FIR Toolkit: <https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/default/fairness-inclusion-and-respect/fir-toolkit.aspx>

GoConstruct

A new campaign by CITB to attract more entrants to the industry: <https://www.goconstruct.org/en/>

GoConstruct has also produced a new infrastructure video which can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98rc8Ac-mF4>

Policy & Industry Affairs

CBI report on Government's Brexit White Paper: Construction

While trade in construction products has been addressed, future access to people is a top priority for firms. The White Paper sets out a vision for how the UK and EU can continue to benefit from frictionless, tariff-free trade for manufactured goods, recognising the complexity of long-established supply chains across the continent. Achieving this vision will be especially vital for the construction sector reliant on significant import volumes of the materials and products that underpin virtually every construction project in the UK. But with approximately 9% of the UK's construction sector workforce comprised of EU nationals, there remains a lack of clarity on the ability for firms to access EU national workers once the UK leaves the EU. The commitment to supporting business in moving people between states is welcome, and new arrangements must avoid placing new administrative and costly burdens on businesses - particularly smaller firms. These are issues central to the government's ability to deliver its ambitious housing and infrastructure.

<http://www.cbi.org.uk/news/the-cbi-responds-to-the-government-s-brexit-white-paper/>

Consultation: National Policy Statement for nuclear power

The consultation on the siting criteria and process for a new National Policy Statement for nuclear power with single reactor capacity over 1 gigawatt beyond 2025 was the first step to designating a new National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power between 2026-2035. The consultation was published on 7 December 2017 and closed on 15 March 2018.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727628/NPS_Siting_Criteria_Consultation_-_Government_Response.pdf

Government to back NIC recommendations on infrastructure data collection and use

National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) chair Sir John Armitt welcomed plans from ministers to adopt recommendations from the NIC to use data to improve the condition and running of the nation's infrastructure network. The government is to adopt three of the NIC's recommendations from last year's report, Data for the Public Good, to set common standards for data relating to infrastructure across the fields of energy, transport, water and telecommunications. This information can then be used to improve the performance for users. Armitt also encouraged ministers to look again at the fourth recommendation, to back industry-led innovations and support the development of a "digital twin" - a digital model of the network spanning transport, energy, water and telecommunications, with predictive capability which could improve how infrastructure is managed, maintained and planned.

Start date set for £780m East Coast Main Line upgrade

Work will take place over the next few years and will see significant improvements to platforms, tracks, signals and junctions across the route. The government said: 'Together with new Intercity Express Trains on the East Coast Main Line, this will mean passengers travelling on long distance journeys between northern towns and cities will benefit from more seats and faster, more frequent journeys between Doncaster, Leeds and Newcastle.' Upgrade work will start next year and be completed in the early 2020s.

Update on Southampton to London pipeline project announced

Esso Petroleum Company Limited has announced that it will publish and consult on its preferred route for the proposed Southampton to London Pipeline Project in the autumn. The project proposals are to replace 90km of Esso's 105km aviation fuel pipeline that runs between the Fawley Refinery and Esso's terminal storage facility in Hounslow, London. The project meets the threshold for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) set out in the Planning Act 2008 and will require development consent to authorise its construction and operation. Esso has published a project development timeline for the project which was initially launched in late 2017.

<https://www.slpproject.co.uk/project-timeline/>

Midlands Connect launches ‘Our Routes to Growth’ report

Midlands Connect is partnering with government to help future-proof our roads and railways for the needs of tomorrow and many generations to come.

https://www.midlandsconnect.uk/media/1176/midlands-connect-ar-v18_final_web.pdf

Winners named on £500m Midlands highways framework

Balfour Beatty, Eurovia, Galliford Try and Morgan Sindall were chosen for the Midlands Highways Alliance MSF3 framework, which will cover highways improvements, maintenance and infrastructure works for the next four years.

The MSF3 framework replaces the Midlands Highways Alliance’s MSF2 framework, which ran for four years to June 2018.

Balfour Beatty and a Galliford Try / Aggregate Industries JV were among the firms on MSF2’s highest-value lot for projects up to £25m, alongside a JV between Tarmac and collapsed contractor Carillion. Aggregate Industries, Balfour Beatty, Eurovia, Galliford Try and Tarmac / Carillion were all on MSF2’s lower-value lot for projects up to £5m.

HS2 civils start delayed another three months

HS2 has pushed back the start date for its civils work, with construction now expected to commence more than seven months later than originally planned.

The Department for Transport confirmed that the notice to proceed for the £6.6bn civils deals had been moved from the start of March to June to give contractors more time to finalise their designs.

This is HS2’s second change to the notice to proceed, with work having originally been scheduled to begin in November this year.

More than 100 potential partners express interest in Heathrow's third runway

On 25 June 2018, MPs cleared the way for the £14bn expansion of Heathrow and now the airport is ramping up its search for partners to accelerate innovation.

Airport bosses say they have received more than 100 expressions of interest from companies looking to share ideas with Heathrow around sustainability, service innovation, building design, cost efficiencies and commercial concepts after it launched the invitation to businesses in April.

It’s all part of efforts by Heathrow to ensure that the construction of the north-west runway is “more efficient, sustainable and affordable”. The list of proposals being taken forward will be announced in late August, while the remaining potential innovation partners will be invited to submit a business case and implementation plan to demonstrate the feasibility of their ideas.

National Infrastructure Assessment 2018

This first-ever National Infrastructure Assessment for the United Kingdom makes recommendations for how the identified infrastructure needs and priorities of the country should be addressed. Government will be required to formally respond to the recommendations made.

Key recommendations:

- Low carbon energy
- Digital technology
- The future for the nation’s roads
- Encouraging growth of cities
- Tackling floods
- Cutting waste

<https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/national-infrastructure-assessment-2018/>

Cost of industry skills cards set to rise in September

The cost of skills card issued by the Construction Skills Certification Scheme is set to rise to £36 from September. The 20% rise from the current rate of £30 is the first increase for eight years and applies to all cards administered directly by CSCS.

IPA: more major projects to be delayed or scrapped

The Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) has released its report which highlights how the number of planned projects which appear to be unachievable and given a red warning has doubled from the four recorded last time. Including those with amber/red warnings for projects deemed to be at risk then the figure rises to 46 - 8 more than last year.

Furthermore, statistics show that only 18 new projects were added to the portfolio in 2017-18, which is the lowest number since the IPA started publishing its annual report six years ago - 50% less than the number added in 2016-17.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721978/IPA_Annual_Report_2018_2_.pdf

Government launches Construction Sector Deal

Key points:

- new joint government-industry Sector Deal worth £420 million to transform construction through innovative technologies to increase productivity and build new homes quicker with less disruption
- 'bytes and mortar' revolution to use digital design and offsite manufacturing to transform building construction
- landmark deal will boost the delivery of government's ambition to deliver 1.5 million new homes by 2022
- deal will support Clean Growth Grand Challenge mission to halve the energy use of new builds by 2030, helping families reduce their utility bills

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/construction-sector-deal/construction-sector-deal>

...and new Sector Deal to secure UK Civil Nuclear Future

- New £200 million Nuclear Sector Deal to secure the UK's diverse energy mix and drive down the costs of nuclear energy meaning cheaper energy bills for customers
- Includes £32 million boost from Government and industry to kick-start new advanced manufacturing programme including R&D investment to develop potential world-leading nuclear technologies like Advanced Modular Reactors
- A commitment to increasing gender diversity in the civil nuclear workforce with a target of 40% women in nuclear by 2030

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-sector-deal>

NEC4 Alliance Contract opens door to increased collaboration

The much-anticipated NEC4 Alliance Contract has now been published, allowing parties to construction projects to collaborate more closely and equally share in that project's risks and rewards. The Alliance Contract is the last outstanding piece from the fourth edition of standard form New Engineering Contracts produced by the Institution of Civil Engineers, following the publication of the rest of the NEC4 suite in June 2017.

<https://www.neccontract.com/NEC4-Products/NEC4-Contracts/NEC4-Alliance-Contract>

Magnox Limited to become a Nuclear Decommissioning Authority subsidiary

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has announced that Magnox Ltd will become a subsidiary of the NDA from 1 September 2019. The decision follows the announcement, made in March 2017, of the NDA's intention to terminate its contract with Cavendish Fluor Partnership to decommission the Magnox sites. In line with a recent change to the way Sellafield (the NDA's largest and most complex site) is managed, expertise from the private sector will be engaged through multiple smaller contracts, rather than through a single large Parent Body Organisation (PBO).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/magnox-limited-to-become-a-nuclear-decommissioning-authority-subsiidiary>

Crossrail's Sir Terry Morgan to lead HS2

Crossrail chief Sir Terry Morgan is to replace Sir David Higgins as chairman of HS2 next month.

Major investors cite political turbulence as obstacle in infrastructure project progress

Scores of major infrastructure investors believe that massive projects such as Heathrow expansion have become too politicised and have called for the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) to be granted more powers.

The study which was been carried out by the global law firm DLA Piper examines the challenges and opportunities for the industry over the next five to 10 years through the eyes of infrastructure investors. DLA Piper commissioned the poll of 56 investors with over £1bn invested in infrastructure projects in order to gain a specialised insight into the industry.

Results showed the overwhelming majority (84% of respondents) believed that infrastructure projects had become too politicised, citing Heathrow's third runway debate as perfect example of how decisions can often take too long and leave the UK behind their European competitors.

The report entitled *UK Infrastructure: Defining the Future* also found that more than half (55%) think that over-politicisation has a direct effect on the value of proposed projects and seven out of 10 had been deterred from investing due to political concerns.

<https://www.dlapiper.com/-/media/files/insights/publications/2018/07/dla-piper---uk-infrastructure-report---defining-the-future-0718.pdf>

Decision making on fracking planning guidance must remain at local level

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee's report into planning guidance on fracking warns the Government against its proposed move to bring applications under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime.

The Committee concludes that Mineral Planning Authorities are best placed to understand the local area and how fracking can best take place.

Moving decision making on fracking planning applications to a national level contradicts the principles of localism and would likely exacerbate existing mistrust between communities and the fracking industry.

Northern transport spending 'outdo the South' - DfT

Transport spending in the North will be higher than in London and the South over the next three years, according to new figures. The Department for Transport's analysis of future investment show that between 2018 and 2021, it will be investing £831 per head on road and rail upgrades in the North East, North West and Yorkshire - more than £30 more per head extra than London and the South at £799.

B&CE seeks firms to join occupational health panel

B&CE are creating a simple digital occupational health scheme that helps to keep construction employers compliant, save time and money by giving fast-track access to comprehensive health surveillance and cost-effective management tools. We believe everyone has the right to a healthy future and we are working hard to bring this goal to life and our new occupational health scheme to market.

As part of this development we are looking for companies both large and small who would be willing to become part of a feedback panel. Panel companies will work with us by sharing industry experience, sharing and informing the scheme by asking/answering questions around current ways of working relating to specific aspects of our proposition e.g. occupational health costs, user experience, etc. This is an opportunity for companies, particularly SMEs to become involved in the development of our occupational health solution. The time commitment for panel companies will be limited and will normally involve a number of telephone conversations as well as interaction via e mail.

For more details, please contact Andrew Percy: andrewpercy@bandce.co.uk

B&CE's new occupational health website: <https://bandce.co.uk/occupational-health/>

HS2 Economic Growth Conference 2018, 7 November 2018, Birmingham

<https://www.built-environment-networking.com/event/hs2-economic-growth-conference-2018/>

Bibby Financial Services: Subcontracting Growth Report

Key findings

- Subcontractors take on an average of 45 new contracts each year.
- The average contract value is £205,077.
- 56% say they have no bargaining power and have to accept contract terms stipulated by main contractors or risk losing business.
- 47% say that the collapse of Carillion has made them wary of working with large main contractors.
- 82% say they support mandatory payment terms for all public sector suppliers and 69% say there should be better public reporting of supply chains.
- Subcontractors have an average of 26 weeks' work in the pipeline, compared with 22 in 2016.

<https://www.bibbyfinancialservices.com/about-us/news-and-insights/reports/2018/subcontracting-growth-report>

ORR PR18 period review in advance of CP6

The 2018 periodic review (PR18) is the process through which we determine what Network Rail should deliver in respect of its role in operating, maintaining and renewing its network in control period 6 and how the funding available should be best used to support this.

http://orr.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/27757/pr18-draft-determination-overview-june-2018.pdf

Construction Skills Network forecasts 2017-21 - Growing to meet the infrastructure challenge

<http://www.citb.co.uk/research/construction-skills-network/construction-growing-to-meet-the-infrastructure-challenge/>

National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage

The National Minimum Wage (NMW) is the minimum pay per hour most workers under the age of 25 are entitled to by law. The government's National Living Wage (NLW) is the minimum pay per hour most workers aged 25 and over are entitled to by law. The rate will depend on a worker's age and if they are an apprentice. HMRC (HM Revenue & Customs) can take employers to court for not paying the MW/NLW.

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1902&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NTL%20March%202018&utm_content=NTL%20March%202018+Version+A+CID_fed9b250666c70026529d3b2116dc872&utm_source=Acas%20National%20Email%20Marketing%20Live&utm_term=View%20April%20changes

Chartered ICES newsletter

<http://mailshot.cices.org/Chartered%20ICES%20Newsletter%20may18.html>

News from ACAS - Suspension & Overtime

<https://acasnational.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/1CA0C1EA9E981A572540EF23F30FEDED/95C6B101F7B4DEA14BD7C9066BE4161D>

North West - and the North

Cash injection for Northern Powerhouse as Cabinet visits North East

- £780m investment in East Coast Main Line to be confirmed - giving passengers more seats and faster, more frequent journeys
- Government will lay legislation to make £600m North of Tyne Devolution Deal a reality - giving people of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland a real say in their future

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-injection-for-northern-powerhouse-as-cabinet-visits-north-east>

Rochdale flood defence scheme secures £5m funding

A £46m project to protect up to 1,000 homes in Rochdale and Littleborough is set to start next summer after the Government confirmed a £5m funding package.

The scheme, supported by the Environment Agency and Rochdale Council, will see storage reservoirs built along the River Roch and its tributaries from Littleborough to Rochdale town centre.

It also includes other flood alleviation measures, such as raised walls, and improvements to bridges and culverts, across Green Vale Brook, Town House Brook, and Buckley Brook

Balfour Beatty starts on £11m Birchwood Park road improvements

Work has started on an £11m package of road improvements around Birchwood Park in Warrington, due to complete in December 2019.

Skelmersdale town centre regeneration secures funding

West Lancashire Borough Council, St Modwen, and Homes England have agreed a funding deal to deliver the £19m first phase of the regeneration of Skelmersdale town centre.

At a council meeting on 18 July, the council agreed to invest in the scheme to enable delivery of the first phase, which is expected to start in early 2019 with an 18 month build programme.

This will include a 20,800 sq ft Lidl store, and a 20,000 sq ft B&M, as well as further units, for a total of 50,000 sq ft of retail space.

The first phase is expected to cost £19m and is being funded by the council, along with a contribution from Homes England, while St Modwen will act as designer and developer.

Royal Mail takes largest unit at next phase of Omega

Royal Mail has agreed a pre-let for a 346,000 sq ft unit at the next phase of Omega Warrington, due to complete construction later this year, at a new headline rent understood to be £6.25/sq ft.

Mountpark Logistics is forward-funding the development at Omega South, which features 750,000 sq ft of warehouses across three units, and Royal Mail is understood to have signed a deal to take the largest, totalling 346,000 sq ft.

Two other units of 137,000 sq ft and 97,000 sq ft are also being delivered, with construction due to complete in November 2018. A fourth unit, totalling 184,000 sq ft, also has planning consent and will follow as a second phase.

Planners appointed to shape Liverpool gateway masterplan for £2bn scheme

A 'super team' of planners has been appointed to develop a masterplan for the regeneration of the gateway site to a £2bn flagship scheme in Liverpool. After a major tendering exercise, Liverpool City Council has chosen a consortium of three companies to independently develop a Spatial Regeneration Framework (SRF) for the Knowledge Quarter Gateway (KQG), which covers more than 56 acres within the city centre.

Plans submitted for job-creating rail-connected hub

Harworth Group has submitted plans for the transformation of a former Yorkshire colliery site into a major rail-connected hub that will incorporate two million sq ft of employment space and support up to 2,000 new jobs. The land regeneration and property investment specialist has submitted an outline planning application to Selby District Council to transform its Gascoigne Wood site in Sherburn-in-Elmet, North Yorkshire.

Steel works redevelopment set for green light

A hybrid planning application for the major redevelopment of a former steel works in Sheffield has been recommended for conditional approval. The application concerns part of the former Outokumpu works, an almost 50-acre brownfield site on land off Shepcote Lane which closed in 2005 and was cleared in 2011. Peel Logistics Property intends to develop a new flagship prime logistics park at the location. It is proposed that there will be two phases of development for the construction of up to about 838,000 sq ft of industrial, distribution and office uses.

Government announces new Northern Powerhouse body - NP11

Local Enterprise Partnerships in the North of England will form an influential new body to support the government's ambitions for the Northern Powerhouse across the region. The Chairs of each of the 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will sit on a newly formed, government-funded board called the 'NP11'.

The board will act as one voice representing each of their regions as a modern day 'Council for the North' to work with and advise the government on issues such as how to increase productivity, overcome regional disparities in economic growth and tackle the historic north-south divide.

Extra funding freedoms for Liverpool City Region

A new funding agreement that will benefit residents, businesses and the local economy in the Liverpool City Region has been announced. The agreement will see over £120 million moved into the City Region's revenue budget, from its capital budget, over the next 27 years. The move will boost the City Region's investment programme, launched following the £900 million devolution deal in 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-funding-freedoms-for-liverpool-city-region>

New body launched to spearhead rail leadership in the north

Northern Rail Industry Leaders (NRIL) brings together businesses to help develop and support the rail industry in the region. By providing leadership and industry expertise, the group is defining, shaping and delivering a journey of success for the North.

<http://www.northernrailleaders.com/>

TransPennine rail upgrade in jeopardy

The northern powerhouse faces another hammer blow as ministers prepare to ditch plans to electrify the railway between Manchester and Leeds. In a move that will spark outrage across Yorkshire and Lancashire, Whitehall officials are understood to have ruled that upgrading the trans-Pennine route to run electric trains, rather than diesel, is poor value for money.

The conclusion is understood to have come from a Network Rail study. The decision last summer by Chris Grayling, the transport secretary, to order hybrid electric and diesel trains for other routes in Wales, the north and the Midlands, had stoked fears that the TransPennine project was also doomed.

Insiders said the huge cost of fixing electric cables to the rock of the Pennines, along with raising bridges, has sent the project soaring well above its £290m estimate in 2011.

Business and civic leaders across the north have united in recent months to demand more investment in transport, with upgrading the TransPennine line a priority.

....but Grayling seeks to allay fears

Transport secretary Chris Grayling has said the £3bn upgrade of the TransPennine route will include electrification, following fears that plans to electrify the route could be scrapped by the government. Last month it was reported that the government was planning to ditch TransPennine electrification in favour of alternative upgrades due to cost concerns.

However, Mr Grayling (pictured) has now assured the industry that electrification will be a key part of the enhancements planned for the TransPennine route during the CP6 spending cycle.

First step for multi million pound Cumbrian coastal railway upgrade

The first steps have been taken to begin a multi-million-pound upgrade of the under-pressure Cumbrian coastal railway line. An initial business case has been submitted to the Department for Transport to improve the line, which connects Barrow to Carlisle. The Cumbrian Rail Programme Board - a group of businesses and organisations - says pressure on the line will significantly increase over the next 10 years.

£85m Stockport Interchange clears first hurdle

Plans to build a bus station below a new park in Stockport have been cleared by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. As well as a two-acre public park above the interchange, the proposals include a 15-storey private rented block of flats and upgrading a section of the Trans Pennine Trail alongside the River Mersey. Details of the project are now out to consultation ahead of a planning application being submitted to Stockport Council later this year.

If approved, enabling works are set to start by autumn next year with a main construction contract awarded in early 2020. Around £45m has been earmarked for the interchange, with the residential block expected to cost a further £40m.

Option for underground station at Manchester Piccadilly

An underground station accommodating high-speed rail services as well as Northern Powerhouse services could be built at Manchester Piccadilly. Rail Minister Jo Johnson said in a Commons Written Reply to Mike Kane (Labour, Wythenshawe and Sale East): "The Department is working with Transport for the North, Manchester City Council and Transport for Greater Manchester to explore ways to integrate Northern Powerhouse Rail into an HS2 station at Manchester Piccadilly."

East Lancs railway extension back on the table

Network Rail is to draw up a feasibility study to extend the East Lancashire Heritage Railway from Heywood to Castleton, nearly 10 years after the proposals were first put forward. The proposals to extend the railway between Heywood and Castleton were first mooted by the East Lancashire Railway Trust in 2009, as part of a plan for the railway's future to 2020.

Greater Manchester to create UK's biggest cycling and walking network

Greater Manchester's cycling and walking commissioner Chris Boardman has unveiled plans for 1,000 miles of interlinked bike and walking lanes across Greater Manchester. The 'Beelines' network will see £1.5bn invested over ten years and will include 75 miles of segregated cycle lanes like those found in Holland and Denmark

Beelines will be the largest joined-up system of walking and cycling routes in the UK and has been developed with all ten Greater Manchester local authorities. Once built, the network will better connect every community in Greater Manchester, benefitting 2.7 million people and making cycling and walking a real alternative to the car. The proposals also include plans for 1,400 safer road crossings on the majority of routes and 25 'filtered neighbourhoods', where priority will be given to the movement of people and where more public spaces to sit, play and socialise will be created.

<https://www.tfgm.com/made-to-move/beelines>

Graham wins £90m Congleton link road

Cheshire East Council has appointed Graham Construction to deliver the Congleton Link Road scheme - which could begin construction later this year. The 5.5km road will unlock key sites for housing and employment and provide an economic boost to Congleton, relieving traffic congestion in the town centre and improving east-west connectivity. The Jacobs designed single carriageway road will run to the north of Congleton between the A534 Sandbach Road in the west and the A536 Macclesfield Road in the north east.

Plant hire pressure in NW as smart motorway schemes ramp up

Contractors are facing rising plant hire rates across the north west as four smart motorways worth around £500m are due to start within the next 18 months.

8th NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, 1 November 2018, Manchester

The biggest networking event in Europe for nuclear decommissioning

<https://decommsupplyevent.co.uk/>

Cumbria LEP names new chairman

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership has appointed Lord Inglewood to chair its board. Lord Inglewood currently chairs training provider Gen2. He has previously chaired Cumbrian businesses Carr's Milling Industries and CN Group and has served twice as an MEP, also serving as a Conservative whip in the Lords for a spell in the 1990s, after inheriting the title from his father in 1989.

Northern urged to reinstate dropped Lakes service

Transport for North is urging rail firm to reinstate the Lakes Line services as soon as possible. The decision to drop the line that runs to and from Preston, Lancaster, Oxenholme and Windermere has been met with widespread anger from business leaders and tourism organisations.

Recruiting

Graduate opportunity

A CECA NW member and SME is seeking to recruit a civil engineering graduate (or possibly a QS graduate with civils experience). Most works will take place within the North West.

Interested parties should send CVs to Guy Lawson: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk

Apprenticeships

I have received details from a 16 year old seeking a civil engineering apprenticeship in the Warrington/Wigan/St Helens area from summer 2018, when he leaves school. His profile is below:

I am currently in my final year of high school studying towards 8 GCSEs and a BTEC Sport qualification. I am a motivated individual with good communication skills which I have always used to my advantage in school. Whilst at Junior School I was head of the school council and worked with other students to introduce a range of benefits for the school including a fair trade tuck shop and was recently appointed into the role of Deputy Head of House at my high school where I have taken on a number of leadership roles in supporting other students in the school as well as organising fundraising initiatives to support the schools associated charities.

Key Skills

- Good communication and people skills
- Trustworthy and reliable
- Self-motivated
- Able to use initiative
- Self-confident and Resilient
- Empathetic & a good listener

If you are able to offer an apprenticeship, or would like further details, please let me know.

Tenders

Access Enhancements at Millerground, Windermere, Cumbria

Expressions of interest close on 15/08/2018.

Contact: Pam Moffatt, South Lakeland District Council, Email: p.moffatt@southlakeland.gov.uk

Register via The Chest: <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

Drainage Improvement/Repair Works

Expressions of interest close on 20/08/2018.

Contact: Stephen Polese, Manchester City Council, Email: s.polese@manchester.gov.uk

Register via The Chest: <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

Keswick to Threlkeld Multi User Path

Expressions of interest close on 07/09/2018.

Contact: Richard Webber Lake District National Park, Email: richardwebber@lakedistrict.gov.uk

Register via The Chest: <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

Road Marking and Surfacing

Expressions of interest close on 09/10/2018.

Contact: Kath Johnson, YPO, Email: kath.johnson@ypo.co.uk

Register via YOR tender: <https://www.yortender.co.uk/>

Viewing Platforms on Hatfield Moors

Expressions of interest close on 30/07/2018.

Contact: Paul Schofield, North Lincolnshire Council, Email: paul.schofield@northlincs.gov.uk

Register via YOR tender: <https://www.yortender.co.uk/>

Extension to Car Park at Newark

Expressions of interest close on 03/08/2018.

Contact: Darren Wardale, Newark & Sherwood District Council

Email: darren.wardale@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

Register via East Mids tenders: <https://www.eastmidstenders.org/>

Drain Relining Framework 2018

Expressions of interest close on 10/08/2018.

Contact: Barbara Hunter, Leicestershire County Council, Email: barbara.hunter@leics.gov.uk

Register via East Mids tenders: <https://www.eastmidstenders.org/>

....and finally

Belt and Road Initiative

China is creating a network of ambitious land- and sea-based transport links to connect its booming economy with those of Europe and Africa. And it's wasting no time - designing incredible bespoke construction machines to get the job done fast.

President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013, aims to connect two-thirds of the world's population across 70 countries through a network of land links (the "belt") and sea routes (the "road").

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-41206772>