



19 September 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 - the NEW video!

Please find a link to the 2018 CECA NW video - aimed at promoting careers in the industry. It is now available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/r6ieFJ2LAPQ>

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/>

Working Rule Agreement

Copies of the new edition of the Working Rule Agreement are available to CECA NW members free of charge. Please contact Guy Lawson to order your copy.

CECA NW meeting with Sellafield, Tuesday 2 October 2018

Martin George, Head of Supply Chain Quality for Sellafield Ltd, has kindly agreed to meet CECA NW members at North Lakes Hotel, Penrith. The meeting starts at 10.00 and is due to last until 11/11.30. Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson to book places.

CECA NW Executive Committee, Wednesday 10 October 2018

The next meeting of the CECA NW Executive Committee takes place at 08.30 for 09.00, Daresbury Park Hotel, Warrington. All CECA NW members are welcome to attend, whether members of the committee or not, but should contact Guy Lawson to book places.

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. To book your tickets for the awards dinner: http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=125

CECA NW/Network Rail seminar, Thursday 15 November 2018 (tbc)

A seminar is being arranged for smaller regional and SME members who are not currently working on rail projects. It will probably take place in Preston - interested parties should contact Guy Lawson.

CECA NW Foundations, Seminar and Social event, Friday 16 November 2018

A seminar with sessions on collaborative working and procurement & marketing will take place at the Manchester Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester, starting with lunch at 13.30, until 17.00 - with drinks to follow. All welcome, especially people who are relatively new to the industry. Please confirm whether you plan to attend at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nwfoundations-winter-seminar-drinks-tickets-50433644388>

CECA Annual Conference, Tuesday 4 December 2018

Book your tickets now: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/work-programme/national-conference/>

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>

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 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>

UK Nuclear Skills Awards 2019

Nominations for the UK Nuclear Skills Awards have launched!

Do you employ an individual who is starting out in their career in nuclear, who has made an impact on your department/organisation? Closing date for all applications 5pm on the 26th October 2018.

<http://www.nsan.co.uk/uk-nuclear-skills-awards-2019>

GoConstruct

A 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

Network Rail reveals third-party pipeline

Network Rail has published a comprehensive list of major development opportunities available for third parties to fund, finance or deliver.

The pipeline covers all aspects of rail upgrades that have been deemed open to third parties including station refurbishments, new routes, electrifications, signalling and capacity improvements.

The projects cover all eight route areas including Scotland and Wales, with 13 of these schemes valued at more than £100m - they include a major refurbishment of Leeds station, replacing the roof on London Victoria, creating overtaking capability on the Great Eastern Main Line, service improvements in Ely, a whole-line upgrade on the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne railway, and improvements to the **Cumbrian coast railway**. Many of the project are in the early stages of development and will either be confirmed in CP6 or have third parties come on to further develop schemes during the control period.

<https://cdn.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Open-for-Business-opportunities-for-third-parties.pdf>

Skills and Training Fund - up to £10k grant for members with less than 100 employees

CITB established an annual fund of £3m to support small businesses with their training and development needs. Few CECA members have applied for this funding which is worth £10k a year to a business with 99 employees - there's a sliding scale. According to the records, more than half CECA members would be entitled to apply. The closing date is: **March 2019**. To be eligible for funding companies must:

- Have fewer than 100 PAYE staff
- Be up to date with CITB Levy payments and Levy Returns
- Be CITB registered

<https://www.citb.co.uk/funding/types-of-funding/skills-and-training/>

OJEU to disappear after Brexit?

The Cabinet Office is preparing to set up a new UK tender notice system to replace OJEU tender alerts for public contracts if there is a no-deal Brexit. Contractors wishing to access opportunities from the UK public sector would need to access the new UK e-notification service, which would come online from Exit day on 29 March. Procurement opportunities for below threshold contracts not falling within the scope of the EU procurement directives will continue to be advertised in Contracts Finder, MOD Defence Contracts Online, Public Contracts Scotland, Sell2Wales and eTendersNI.

Contracting authorities and entities that place their contract opportunities directly on to OJEU/TED will be contacted to ensure that they are familiar with the new UK e-notification service. The Cabinet Office said that nearer the time, there would be further guidance on how to deal with ongoing procurement procedures in the handover period between the two systems.

Capital costs and lack of expertise - the main barriers to off-site investment

Despite mounting evidence identifying the benefits for increased implementation of off-site manufacturing (OSM) a survey of the UK's top 50 construction firms has found over half (55%) invested below 2% of revenue in OSM in the last five years. A report from Clyde & Co entitled 'Innovation in Construction Report' has gathered the views of 31 leading executives from major construction firms. 59% of respondents highlighted investment costs as the primary factor in the stalled use of OSM with a lack of relevant expertise within their organisation following shortly behind. Alarming, the vast majority (80%) of construction bosses say organisations only use OSM for between 1-20% of the work they carry out despite the government recently committed to adopting a "presumption in favour of off-site construction" across several key departments, including transport, defence, health and education.

https://www.clydeco.com/uploads/Files/Reports/PC_Off-site_Manufacturing_Report.pdf?utm_source=Innovation%20in%20Construction%20Report&utm_medium=Website&utm_campaign=Innovation%20in%20Construction%20Report&utm_term=Innovation%20in%20Construction%20Report

"Unlock potential of local infrastructure or face two-speed England", says CBI

A new report published by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has set out a number of recommendations for improving decision making to ensure the delivery of much needed infrastructure, having taken into account discussions and input from business and transport organisations across England. "Driving Delivery - Turning Plans into Action on Regional Infrastructure" sets out five recommendations to ensure the successful delivery of necessary infrastructure in the English regions. In summary, the report recommends a "joined-up approach to infrastructure at a national and a regional level, with an inter-departmental group coordinating policy across government" combined with "clear coordination between national and local industrial strategies". The CBI report also recommends that the "wider economic benefits of transport" are reflected in government decision making. This combined with a "strengthened role" for sub national transport bodies and clearer expectations will help to facilitate a "level playing field", ensuring the delivery of transport improvements via devolved frameworks.

http://www.cbi.org.uk/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&fileID=E2264898-5C66-4BDC-B6780CA0924F007F

Six weeks to get security clearance for Hinkley Point

Workers looking to start on the Hinkley Point nuclear power plant are facing a wait of more than six weeks to get security clearance. Contractors are concerned at the delays which they fear are putting off workers from joining the job.

Security checks for site workers are carried out by independent agencies and administered by G4S under an £80m contract awarded by client EDF Energy.

£12 million expansion for Leeds Bradford Airport

Leeds Bradford Airport has announced a multi-million-pound plan for a new terminal building that would transform its international arrivals capabilities.

Bosses want to get the green light for the construction of a new £12m arrivals hall which would facilitate larger aircraft access to the terminal and improve passenger experience with larger departure gates seating areas, shops and restaurants.

The three-storey extension is part of the airport's next redevelopment stage and could be completed by the end of 2019 if plans are approved. Furthermore, once the extension was complete, further redevelopment would occur on the existing terminal and a new two-storey aircraft pier would be built to replace the current one.

West Midlands Interchange accepted for examination

Four Ashes Limited's application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to authorise the construction, operation and maintenance of a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) in South Staffordshire west of Junction 12 of the M6 has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The proposed scheme includes a new rail terminal, rail-served warehousing and also new infrastructure and works to the existing road infrastructure.

Infrastructure skills passport for Heathrow?

The launch of an 'infrastructure skills passport' is just one of the many recommendations put forward by an independent taskforce in a bid to ensure the UK capitalises from Heathrow expansion.

The passport would work as a recognised infrastructure record of achievement developed alongside other major UK infrastructure projects, encouraging future employers to recognise workers' skills and past experiences. It is being proposed by the Heathrow Skills Taskforce to deliver a legacy of skills and shape a stronger workforce.

The report encourages the creation of ambitious programmes and targets, and contains a set of practical actions for Heathrow, its commercial partners and supply chain to implement. The airport will respond to the taskforce's recommendations in early 2019.

FIDIC 2018: Skills shortage & inadequate profitability are main concerns for global industry leaders

Engineers, economists and consultants from across some of the biggest firms in the world believe a lack of skills and marginal profits still beset the industry and keep them awake at night.

Votes undertaken at the annual FIDIC International Infrastructure conference have showed that persistent problems often mentioned still halt progress within engineering and construction.

Around 800 leaders representing companies from across the globe have voiced their concerns while gathering in Berlin to discuss the future challenges facing them and to debate the key infrastructure issues and opportunities facing the planet.

Water firms submit PR19 business plans to Ofwat

All water companies across England and Wales have submitted to Ofwat their business plans for 2020-2025. As part of Ofwat's 2019 price review, all water companies must set out a detailed business plan outlining multi-billion pound investment plans for the AMP 7 spending period. As well as what companies propose to invest, the plan includes what the public water companies propose to charge customers, and how they will ensure the long-term resilience of their infrastructure and operations.

In the North West, United Utilities said it expects capital expenditure to run at around £450m a year, with a strong focus on improving water leakage.

Plans include delivering a major water resilience scheme with estimated construction costs of over £750m in AMP7 and AMP8 to be directly procured for customers in Manchester and the Pennines.

Ofwat will scrutinise all of the business plans with a focus on customer affordability before publishing an initial assessment of each company's plan on 31 January 2019, where it will categorise companies' plans according to the level of quality, ambition and innovation they have demonstrated.

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/water-companies-set-plans-2020-2025/>

Gender pay gap (GPG): construction industry reports highest pay gap

Construction firms caught by the GPG reporting requirements recorded the highest median gender pay gap amongst reporting sectors: 24%; just above the 22.5% gap reported by the finance and insurance sector, and the 21% gap reported in the education sector. Unsurprisingly, those companies that chose to include an explanatory narrative alongside their figures revealed that they were male-dominated at all levels, with a particular lack of female representation in the top, upper and middle pay quartiles. The proportion of women, including women in administrative roles, in the lower-paid quartiles was higher.

HS2 legislation for northern phase of £56bn project to be delayed by a year

Key legislation needed to ensure spades go into ground for construction of the northern link in the HS2 project is to be pushed back by a year, it has been reported.

Transport secretary Chris Grayling said last summer that the tabling of a bill in parliament for phase 2b running from Crewe to Manchester, and Birmingham to Leeds would take place next year.

But according to the Times, the government is set to halt this until at least 2020. While the Department for Transport (DfT) has not attempted to deny it, a spokesperson has said it is important to make sure a full account of the Northern Powerhouse Rail scheme which aims to improve east-west rail connections across the region.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hs2-pushed-back-a-year-as-doubts-grow-gfcm0wb2d>

Transport Scotland's £930m road maintenance contracts

Transport Scotland is inviting tenders for two new maintenance contracts worth over £930 million and covering 3,500km of road. The first tranche of regional deals covers southern Scotland and are split into south east and south west regional deals. The second will comprise of two north regions and is expected to be issued to the market in 2020. Works include integrated network management, routine works, winter and emergency maintenance as well as renewal and improvement works. Each contract will also have a renewed focus on achievement of climate change and sustainability targets.

Councils forced into £240m highways underspend to fund other services

New government statistics have exposed the extent to which local highway departments are being forced to rob their transport budgets by hundreds of millions in order to fund social care.

The Local Authority Expenditure and Financing 2018-19 Budget: England, published by Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, shows that local authorities were forecast to spend £4.24 billion on highways and transport over 2017-2018. Yet, new outturn figures from the Ministry show that they actually spent £3.994 billion. This represents an underspend of over £240 million as councils raid their highway budgets to fund other services.

As the Government continues to reduce core funding, councils are facing significant funding pressures. The Local Government Association report that English councils will have an overall funding gap of almost £8 billion by 2025. Faced with increased social care demands that figure will certainly rise. As will the number of councils reporting severe budget deficits. Northampton Council has a shortfall of £70 million, Lewisham Council has a deficit of £13 million, Surrey, England's richest county, has a shortfall of £100 million. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing-england-2018-to-2019-budget>
<https://www.rsta-uk.org/news/>

Environment Agency: £220 million coastal defence framework unveiled

The Environment Agency has put out a call for contractors to bid for a £220m marine and coastal flood (MCF) defence framework. Its Next Generation Supplier Arrangements are being set up to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of capital project delivery and asset management.

The new framework will develop an incentivisation mechanism, based on newly released NEC4 forms of contract, to encourage an integrated approach to delivering the capital programme outcomes.

Work will be split into two lots on the MCF, one covering major project work valued from £5m-£50m and the other smaller jobs worth less than £5m.

The lot for larger projects will account for a £185m pipeline of work over the four years, with the Environment Agency looking to appoint around five firms.

It aims to appoint around eight firms for the smaller project lot worth £35m over the four-year term, running from April 2019 to March 2023.

For details: <https://defra.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

Green light for bidding for Greenlink's £350m Ireland-Wales subsea interconnector

Firms are being invited to express an interest in bidding for construction of a 200km undersea electricity interconnector between the UK and Ireland. The £350m privately-financed infrastructure project is being developed by Greenlink Interconnector Limited, a subsidiary of Cork-based Element Power, and is due to commence construction in 2020.

Work packages include the design, construction and maintenance of the undersea and underground HVDC cable system as well as the design, construction and maintenance of converter stations in Wexford in Ireland, and Pembrokeshire in Wales.

The procurement process is being run by WSP on behalf of Greenlink Interconnector Limited. Interested firms should contact WSP by email before **12 October**: greenlink.procurement@wsp.com

For more details:

<https://ted.europa.eu/TED/notice/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:371269-2018:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Death of the Phoenix?

Directors who fold their firms to avoid paying workers and suppliers could face hefty fines or be banned from running a business for the first time. The government is to press ahead with new plans to tackle phoenixing of firms in an attempt to safeguard workers, pensions and small suppliers.

Under the shake-up, bosses will face investigation if they try to escape paying a dissolved company's debts to their own staff and creditors.

ONS: UK government spent £18.9bn on infrastructure projects

The latest data shows the government spent £18.9bn on infrastructure projects in 2016 - accounting for 36% of total government investment in the year.

Figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) identify that over 85% of the £18.9bn was on transport infrastructure with almost 40% of the investment funded by local government and the remainder coming from central government.

The 36% of total government investment spent on infrastructure calculated by researchers was up from 25% in 2010, while it has been estimated the market sector of the economy spent £10.3bn on infrastructure in 2016 - with £7bn invested via the energy industry.

UK rail industry puts forward post-Brexit customs proposal

The UK rail industry is calling for a network of new customs checkpoints across the country after the country leaves the EU, rather than relying on a single border checkpoint at the entrance to the Channel Tunnel. Rail currently accounts for a "significantly lower than envisaged" share of freight imports to the UK, and there is spare capacity through the Channel Tunnel for businesses that import goods from Europe, according to a new report commissioned by the Rail Delivery Group, which represents the UK's passenger and freight rail companies as well as Network Rail. The report recommends that the government legislate for the creation of a network of new railway customs areas across the UK, which would offer similar customs facilities as ports and airports.

https://www.raildeliverygroup.com/files/Publications/2018-08_international_rail_freight_brexit.pdf

New 'employer toolkit' to support EU staff

The Home Office have launched an official 'employer toolkit' aimed at helping HR teams support their EU staff. Its purpose is to arm employers with practical information on how EU citizens will be able to apply for 'settled status'. This is so HR teams are better equipped to answer potential questions and directly help their EU employees over the next few years.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit>

Shale gas production projects in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime?

This early stage consultation is to determine which criteria would be appropriate to trigger inclusion of major shale gas production projects in the NSIP regime.

This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 25 October 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/inclusion-of-shale-gas-production-projects-in-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-project-nsip-regime>

Price rise for industry skills cards

The cost of skills card issued by the Construction Skills Certification Scheme rose 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.

<https://www.cscs.uk.com/news/cscs-announce-price-rise/>

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>

HS2 Economic Growth Conference 2018, 7 November 2018, Birmingham

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

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/>

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/>

Chartered ICES newsletter

<http://mailshot.cices.org/Chartered%20ICES%20Newsletter%20JulAug18.html>

News from ACAS

New reference guidance:

<https://acasnational.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/9AD755A51AB845692540EF23F30FEDED/A6A70515E785D87F3FEC1D8A50AFD3BD>

North West - and the North

Manchester faces homes and transport crisis

Manchester could face a homes and transport crisis by 2040 unless the city rethinks its urban policy, a study by the University of Manchester's business school has said.

According to the report, an influx of "misguided" private development over the past 30 years has concentrated efforts disproportionately on building flats in the city centre.

The coincided with less focus on building social infrastructure such as transport and schools, which is likely to coming under strain in coming decades, the analysis added.

<https://www.mbs.ac.uk/news/manchester-faces-homes-and-transport-crisis-by-2040---report/>

A6MARR (the Manchester Airport relief road) set to open

The £290m Manchester Airport bypass is finally set to open next month. Highways bosses say the new A6 relief road will open to traffic in early October, providing a link across Stockport, Manchester and East Cheshire. Stretching from Hazel Grove in the east to the M56 and Manchester Airport in the west, the 10km link road is aimed at boosting connectivity, jobs and business links and easing congestion.

Roll out of 'Oyster card for the North' moves a step closer

An Oyster card-style system covering the entire North is one step closer to becoming a reality. The smart ticket system, which will eventually allow passengers to use all modes of public transport with one pass, has been successfully tested in Yorkshire.

New 'North Wales Connection' to be examined by PINS

An application by National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to authorise its plans for a new 400kV electric line in North Wales has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

National Grid's plans are for a "new, second line of pylons" close to an existing line and a tunnel under the Menai Strait that will connect a new planned nuclear power station and offshore wind in the Irish Sea to the grid.

Gareth Williams, Senior Project Manager at National Grid has said that the "connection will transport low carbon power to homes and businesses across Wales and the rest of the UK. Our application is an important step in unlocking many millions of pounds of local investment and around 9,000 construction jobs that the power station will create".

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/north-wales-connection/>

TfN infrastructure appointment

Transport for the North has announced that Richard George has been appointed by Government to liaise with TfN on both infrastructure and train operations, the body having requested such a role be created this summer. The position was announced at TfN's board meeting by transport minister Jo Johnson. George has served as chairman on the boards of First Group, First Great Western, First Great Eastern and First North Western. He was director of transport at the London Olympics and is currently global head of rail infrastructure at Canadian construction giant SNC Lavalin.

Cuadrilla secures second BEIS fracking consent

Cuadrilla has received hydraulic fracturing permission from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy for its second horizontal shale exploration well at Preston New Road, Lancashire.

Government approves Northgate land plan

Cheshire West & Chester Council has secured Government approval for the site assembly and proposed changes to street layout it requires for the retail and leisure-led Northgate development.

West Lancs releases local plan for Skelmersdale

The proposal is for villages to be developed to the north of the A577 at Dicket's Lane, with 1,500 homes; 2,500 homes east of Lyelake Lane; and north east of the Rainford bypass, with a further 2,000 dwellings. Together with increased employment, it is hoped a business case for a rail link can be made.

<https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/news/cabinet-approves-ambitious-local-plan-preferred-options-for-public-consultation-with-faqs.aspx>

WSP engaged on next stage of Pennine tunnel project

The engineering consultancy has been appointed by Highways England to undertake a technical study to strengthen the strategic and economic argument for a package of transport schemes including a part-tunnel, part-surface route across the Pennines.

The Trans-Pennine Tunnel Study report will also assess the case for capacity improvements to adjacent sections of the strategic road network - as well as new strategic links to the east and west of the route. The tunnel was one of the projects included in Transport for the North's draft Strategic Transport Plan, which was published in late 2017 and went out to public consultation this year.

Plans for new multi-million-pound bridge to connect city centre revealed

Plans for a new bridge which would link Hull's Princes Dock to the marina have been revealed ahead of work commencing in October. It is one of two key projects being outlined as part of a multi-million-pound investment in Hull highways. The new bridge - Princes Quay Bridge - will link the marina with the southern end of Princes Dock to improve access and make it easier for pedestrians, cyclists and disabled users to cross the A63.

Cheshire East picks Ringway Jacobs for £600m highways deal

Ringway Jacobs has renewed a contract with Cheshire East to manage £5bn-worth of highways assets across the borough for the next 15 years, beating two other companies to the £600m deal.

The company has been responsible for managing Cheshire East's highways since 2011, and will continue to asset-manage the borough's roads for the next 15 years under the renewed contract.

Under the deal, the company will be responsible for 1,677 miles of roads; 1,100 miles of footways; 372 miles of cycleways; and other assets including street lighting, bridges, signage, and drainage.

Amazon's Haydock base set for planning consent

Two warehouses in Haydock totalling 900,000 sq ft, one of which is set to be for Amazon, could get under way this year after the project was recommended for approval by St Helens Council.

TfN Strategic Development Corridor briefings

Transport for the North have identified seven strategic development corridors across our region where we will identify multi-modal investment priorities in the short, medium and long term.

A series of briefings have been arranged, with one in Manchester on Wednesday 10 October, linked to a Highways England briefing on the Manchester North West Quadrant Strategic Road Study.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/transport-for-the-north-strategic-development-corridor-briefing-manchester-tickets-49279168319>

These corridors link important economic centres that are currently in need of improved connectivity, to enable transformational economic growth in the North between now and 2050. You can find out more about the corridors and the feasibility studies for them at:

<http://transportfornorth.com/strategic-development-corridors/>

Cruise liner terminal secures £20m grant

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has approved a grant of £20m from the Single Investment Fund to go towards the construction of the city's new cruise liner terminal. McLaughlin & Harvey was confirmed in March as main contractor to deliver the cruise liner terminal project, which is expected to take three years to complete.

£100m regeneration of Blackpool town centre confirmed

The sequence of headline projects that will catalyse the £100m regeneration of Blackpool town centre has been confirmed. With the traditional retail offer under serious threat on high streets throughout the UK, Blackpool Council said it is committed to focusing large-scale investment in a series of major schemes that will breathe new life into the town centre over the next three years.

....and work starts on Blackpool highway plan

BWB Consulting has been appointed to carry out preliminary transport highway assessments as Blackpool Council begins the planning process for its proposed eastern access road and the remodelling of the adjacent Common Edge Road Playing Fields. The firm is tasked with traffic assessments including traffic counts at key junctions, providing initial concept designs for the road layout, and addressing any transport issues, including those around parking, walking and cycling, that might arise from future development. The eastern road is to provide a second access point to the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and help to ease congestion during peak commuter hours in the immediate area and surrounding feeder routes to junction 4 of the M55.

OJEU notices for Yorkshire Water AMP 7 framework

Yorkshire Water is seeking firms to join a multi-supplier framework for a £1bn programme of civils and building work. The programme will cover work not delivered by its two Tier 1 partners in the Yorkshire Alliance integrated delivery team, which is presently out to tender for award in April 2019. The programme is being split into a complex civils framework, worth around £750m over the 2020-2025 AMP7 period, and a minor civil and building works framework expected to account for a pipeline of £290m. Yorkshire Water procurement bosses are aiming to shortlist around six firms to bid for the complex works framework and eight for the minor works race in September.

<https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:354130-2018:TEXT:EN:HTML>

<https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:354129-2018:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Contact Carla Gilley for more information: carly.gilley@yorkshirewater.co.uk

BCEGI to lead £1bn Bolton regeneration

Chinese contractor Beijing Construction and Engineering Group International is joining private investors backing plans for Bolton's ambitious £1bn town centre plan. The development is being led by a private consortium called Bolton Regeneration Limited, which is made up of the Department for International Trade, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and is being led by Midia, an investment and development specialist. BCEGI is expected to confirm it is joining the consortium this autumn.

TfGM opens survey on future plans

The online 'conversation' launched by Transport for Greater Manchester aims to generate feedback which will shape the draft City Centre Transport Strategy to be implemented from 2020.

The survey, conducted by TfGM on behalf of Manchester City Council and Salford City Council, provides those who know the city best with an opportunity to tell transport planners what they think should be done to improve travel in the city for the coming decade. Future plans could include major infrastructure changes such as a transformed Piccadilly station ready for the arrival of HS2, as well as a possible Metrolink tunnel under the city and pedestrian areas.

<https://www.tfgm.com/your-city-centre>

Sellafield Trade Missions

Sellafield Ltd are organising a number of Trade Missions across the county to highlight the diverse capability of SMEs to Tier 2 buyers. If you are prepared to welcome potential clients to your premises, then they want to hear from you. They are looking for a wide variety of business sectors including construction and engineering companies.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/19876/SME_TRADE_MISSION_June_18.pdf

Manchester City Council launches £140m small works programme

Manchester City Council has started the search for contractors to deliver a four-year, £140m small works framework, covering projects across both Greater Manchester and the North West of up to £500,000 in value. Set to be procured across two lots - one covering projects up to £100,000, and the other for projects ranging between £100,000 and £500,000 - the framework will be for an initial three years, starting next year, with the option to extend for another year.

Projects under the framework cover a wide range of sectors and disciplines, including new-build construction, refurbishments, modular buildings, mechanical & electrical, and refurbishments.

https://ted.europa.eu/TED/notice/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:330843-2018:TEXT:EN:HTML&WT.mc_id=RSS-Feed&WT.rss_f=Construction+and+Real+Estate&WT.rss_a=330843-2018&WT.rss_ev=a

CITB takes to the road

CITB is taking a roadshow round the country and is holding a full day conference in **Manchester on Thursday 11 October 2018**. Details of the conference and its content are here:

<http://elink-eu.azure.com/m/a2a34093564b421a950da0307a510060/59678AF0/835743A9/082018n>

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.

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

The biggest networking event in Europe for nuclear decommissioning

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

The Manchester Lecture 2019: Trains, planes & automobiles, 17 January 2019

<https://www.cices.org/news/events/manchester-lecture/>

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

Tenders

North West Construction Hub Medium Value Framework

Expressions of interest close on 15/10/2018.

Contact: Neil Davies, Manchester City Council, Email: n.davies@manchester.gov.uk

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

Chester-le-Street Flood Alleviation Scheme

Expressions of interest close on 24/09/2018.

Contact: Kelly Stewart, Durham County Council, Email: kstew@durham.gov.uk

Register via NEPO: <https://www.nepo.org/>

YORbuild2 and YORcivil2 frameworks - Meet the Buyer event, 26 October 2018, Rotherham

Expressions of interest close on 25/10/2018.

Contact: Derek Prest, Leeds City Council, Email: derek.prest@leeds.gov.uk

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

North Lincolnshire Council - Construction & Highways Framework (Highways Civils works)

Expressions of interest close on 19/10/2018.

Contact: Nadine Byrne, North Lincolnshire Council, Email: nadine.byrne@northlincs.gov.uk

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

Borehole Construction at Croft and Mountsorrel

Expressions of interest close on 28/09/2018.

Contact: Barbara Hunter, Leicestershire County Council, Email: simon.ip@leics.gov.uk

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

....and finally

Mario M. Cuomo Bridge opens in New York

A new landmark bridge, the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge in New York, has just been inaugurated, ready to serve an anticipated 140,000 motorists per day.

The bridge, which opened on time and on budget, is one of the largest single design & build contracts for a transportation project in the United States.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWla_6lcsqc