

10 October 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

Hard copies or a pdf version 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 Annual Awards Dinner, Friday 12 October 2018

Quentin Willson will be the guest speaker at the CECA NW Annual Awards Dinner, Midland Hotel, Manchester. There are still some tables left. To book your tickets for the awards dinner: http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=125

CECA NW meeting with Homes England, Tuesday 30 October, 14.00-15.00

A meeting for CECA NW members has been arranged with Jon Sandford, National Infrastructure Planning Lead for Homes England, Manchester Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester. Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson.

CECA NW meeting with Inovyn, Thursday 1 November 2018, 13.00-15.00

A meeting for CECA NW members has been arranged with Inovyn at Daresbury Park Hotel, Warrington. Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson.

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/>

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 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 29 November at Bamber Bridge. 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

Late payers threatened with government investigation

Minister for small business Kelly Tolhurst has told MPs that Prompt Payment Code signatories who do not adhere to its terms will be investigated.

Ms Tolhurst told the business, energy and industrial strategy select committee that the move had been introduced last week. 'We will now investigate all complaints against signatories of the code and there will be regular reviews of signatories to the code,' she said.

PPC signatories are meant to pay all suppliers in 60 days and work towards paying them in 30 days.

....and Government pledges five day payment for small firms

Small to medium-sized firms are being promised five-day payment terms from Government as part of a fresh push to stamp out late payment. The move to pay 90% of undisputed invoices from SMEs within five days, comes as the Government tries to reboot its late payment measures with a call for evidence on the best way to tackle the scourge once and for all. Among the latest measures being looked at are forcing company boards to have a non-executive director responsible for prompt payment performance and empowering trade bodies to highlight the best and worst practices in payment behaviour. The Government call for evidence will be open until **29 November** and the government is encouraging interested parties to contribute their views to it.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-responsible-payment-culture-a-call-for-evidence-on-tackling-late-payment>

What CECA wants from the Budget

- Commitment to the National Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Development of a clear long-term pipeline of work
- Supporting the development of the Sub-National Transport Bodies
- Reform of the Apprenticeship Levy in England

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CECA-Budget-Submission-28-September-2018.pdf>

What the Rail Industries Association wants from the Budget

- Provide match-funding for rolling stock R&D in Control Period 6
- Commit to ending 'boom and bust' rail funding and ensure a visible pipeline of enhancements that provides confidence for rail suppliers
- Ensure electrification remains an option for decarbonising the rail network, subject to costs being reduced as per RIA's Electrification Cost Challenge
- Ensure the Rail Review does not result in a stalling of investment in the rail network.

Bank of England economist to lead new Industrial Strategy Council

The government has announced the appointment of the Bank of England chief economist Andy Haldane to head up a new body responsible for scrutinising the progress of the Industrial Strategy.

Haldane will chair the Industrial Strategy Council - an independent commission that will provide regular policy advice and recommendations to government, with its first meeting planned for November.

The council will meet three or four times a year and publish a regular report on the government's progress on implementing its Industrial Strategy. The new chair is responsible for research and statistics as well as being a member of the Monetary Policy Committee at the Bank of England. November's inaugural meeting will involve senior individuals from business, academia and civil society from all corners of the UK.

New route linking the M54 to the M6 announced

Highways England has announced that "commuters travelling through the Midlands are set to benefit from a new multi-million-pound route linking the M54 to the M6".

The preferred route for the proposed M54 to M6/M6 (Toll) Link Road is based on "option B" and a statutory consultation on the proposals is expected to take place in 2019 prior to Highways England submitting its application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 to authorise its plans in 2020.

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m54-to-m6m6-toll-link-road/>

Network Rail: £4bn Western and Wales framework

Network Rail has launched an eight-year £4bn framework for projects on its Western and Welsh routes. Contractors are being invited to bid on construction work covering bridges, tunnels, shafts and subways.

The rail client is seeking companies for repair, refurbishment and life-extension projects.

The framework falls under Control Period 6 and will be split into six lots, with bidders allowed to apply for - and win places on - up to five each.

<https://ted.europa.eu/TED/notice/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:430622-2018:TEXT:EN:HTML&src=0>

PM announces ten cities shortlisted for major transport funding across England

Communities across the UK will benefit from £840 million to upgrade public transport links, the Prime Minister has announced.

The shortlist of ten city regions marks the next stage of the £1.7 billion Transforming Cities Fund which under the government's modern Industrial Strategy is supporting cities to make it easier, safer and quicker for people to travel and get to work by funding improved transport connections. Local authorities in Derby & Nottingham, Leicester City, the North East, Norwich, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Sheffield, Stoke-on-Trent and West Yorkshire will bid for a share of the funding.

The Transforming Cities Fund is already delivering major improvements for people across England. Six Mayoral Combined Authorities have already received a share of £840 million to deliver schemes such as the Brierley Hill tram lines extension in the West Midlands and **£160 million towards the Beeline Cycle Network in Greater Manchester**. Set to be the largest network of its kind in the UK, the proposal for 1,000 miles of interlinked bike and pedestrian lanes will connect communities across its 10 boroughs and help make cycling and walking a safer option for people living in the region.

HSE launches construction dust blitz

Construction firms across the country will be targeted on their health standards in an HSE campaign to tackle the dangers of site dust. It is the first time the regulator has targeted the industry with a specific focus on respiratory risks and occupational lung disease.

Inspectors will be focusing on measures firms have in place to protect their workers' lungs from the likes of asbestos, silica and wood dust. The inspection blitz will last throughout October.

NIC Roads for the Future winners announced

The National Infrastructure Commission's (NIC) Roads for the Future competition has selected entries which focus on how smart traffic lights and hi-tech public transport could become an everyday part of people's journeys. The winners - City Science and Leeds City Council - will each receive £25,000 from a dedicated £50,000 prize fund after beating off competition from the original 81 entrants. The judging panel's chair believes the announcement is "just the beginning" with more innovators expected to be attracted to exploring the area. Leeds City Council looked at how cars of the future may be able to talk to one another to improve traffic light sequencing and in turn allow highway authorities to better manage congestion and reduce tailbacks. City Science, based in Exeter, focused their entry on how sections of roads in urban areas could initially be dedicated to driverless vehicles, as a key step in kick-starting their take-up.

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/>

Pressure on chancellor to deliver Midlands Rail Hub

The transport body for the Midlands is piling pressure on the chancellor Philip Hammond to commit to a Midlands Rail Hub which could inject £649m into the economy. Midlands Connect is seeking a long-term investment commitment by the government ahead of the Conservative Party conference in the city this week. The project is the body's flagship scheme to introduce faster, more frequent rail services for passengers and freight, bringing cities and towns in the East and West Midlands closer together. Those behind the calls want to see an extra 24 passenger trains per hour delivered, benefiting cities including Birmingham, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Coventry, Hereford and Worcester. Midlands Connect is also calling for additional funding to develop the business case for reinstating direct rail services between Coventry and Leicester, with plans to introduce 2 trains per hour and a journey time of less than 40 minutes.

CECA: MAC Recommendations Will Drive 'Brain Drain' To London

The committee has decided not to make construction a special case when it comes to relaxing rules to keep up a steady stream of lower-skilled workers. CECA Director of External Affairs, Marie-Claude Hemming said: "CECA is concerned that if adopted by Government, the MAC's recommendations have the potential to slow down the development of infrastructure across the UK."

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-mac-recommendations-will-drive-brain-drain-to-london/>

National Infrastructure Commission gives evidence to Lords EU Committee

The House of Lords EU Financial Affairs Parliamentary Sub-Committee has asked the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) a selection of questions on the public financing of infrastructure. The Committee explored how much money a UK infrastructure finance institution would need to replace the current support of the European Investment Bank (EIB) post Brexit? In addition, the Committee also raised questions that touched upon the current state of UK infrastructure and the recent recommendation made by the NIC for continued access to EIB support post Brexit. The possible expansion of the British Business Bank (BBB) was also raised.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/media-centre/house-of-lords-media-notices/house-of-lords-media-notices---2018/september-2018/national-infrastructure-commission-to-give-evidence-to-lords-eu-committee/>

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 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>

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.

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.

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.

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>

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

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

Chartered ICES newsletter

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

News from Lockton

Data breaches, legal privilege rulings and professional indemnity:

<http://emailcc.com/rv/ff00411644f36c6122e5135abd43b56d8e5b151c>

News from ACAS

Mock Employment Tribunal, Thursday, 15th November, From 10:00 until 16:00, Hallmark Hotel, Chester:

<https://northwest.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/042F04468C6798FF2540EF23F30FEDED/690519DB59B65153BA4AF9908B8D85ED>

Mental Health guidance:

<https://acasnational.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/FAB53243B63C66982540EF23F30FEDED/775DDA388CCA819016FB8100885F948E>

North West - and the North

Diane Bourne, MD of Eric Wright Civil Engineering appointed to CITB's Nations Council for England
CITB have announced the new members of its Nations Councils for England, Scotland and Wales and we are delighted to confirm that Diane Bourne, Managing Director of Eric Wright Civil Engineering, has been appointed onto the Nations Council for England.

The councils will play a key role in helping to shape the future of construction across Great Britain and provide strategic advice to the Board to better meet industry's skills needs. Their formation delivers on a significant call by industry and government for CITB's governance to be more representative in last year's Consensus consultation and the Government's ITB Review.

Seamus Keogh, CEO of Clancy Docwra Ltd, Tony Elliott, Group HR Director of Robertson Group, and Leigh Hughes, Business Development & Social Value Director at Bouygues UK, took up their respective roles as Chair of the Nation Councils in England, Scotland and Wales in July. They will now be joined by nine council members. Each Council represents a diverse cross-section of the industry with a presence for both SMEs and large contractors.

Liverpool launches £280m roads tender

Liverpool City Council is looking for contractors to work on a four-year highways framework worth up to £280m. The framework, one of four platforms the council is creating to invest in roads and new housing, is divided into three lots with projects ranging from £250,000 to £12m for planned highways works including patching and potholes, ground investigation, piling, remedial works, trail pits, bridges and tunnels. There will be 12 places in total on the framework, across the three lots, with up to 24 suppliers invited to tender. Interested parties must complete the selection questionnaire by **Wednesday 17 October** at the Pro Contract website. **See Tenders section for contact details etc.**

Amey wins £325 million Area 10 contract

Amey has won a £325m 15-year contract from Highways England to service the road network around Liverpool and Manchester.

The contract for the Area 10 network serves routes connecting Manchester, Liverpool and surrounding areas and will see Amey take responsibility for all routine and cyclical maintenance on the trunk road and motorway network. The deal covers Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and South Lancashire and will begin in April 2019.

A joint venture between Balfour Beatty and Mott McDonald has overseen maintenance of the network since 2012 and had secured a £115m extension to March 2019 earlier this year.

Amey currently maintains Highways England Area 7, which covers a 787 km network, and is responsible for designing maintenance and improvement schemes for nearly 658 km of roads in Areas 13 and 14.

Cuadrilla to start fracking in Lancashire

After securing consent from Government this summer, energy company Cuadrilla will start hydraulic fracturing at its Preston New Road site in Lancashire in the next week.

The company is to spend the next three months carrying out fracking at its two wells on the site. This will allow it to make an initial assessment of how much gas will be recoverable from the site, and the project's commercial viability. Cuadrilla expects to complete this work by the first quarter of next year. The first horizontal shale gas well was completed by Cuadrilla in April 2018 through the Lower Bowland shale rock, at approximately 2,300m below surface and extends laterally for some 800m. The second horizontal shale gas well was completed in July and has been drilled through the Upper Bowland shale at an approximate depth of 2,100m below the surface, extending laterally for some 750m through the shale. These are the first two horizontal shale exploration wells to be drilled onshore in the UK; the first well secured consent from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy in July this year, while the second was given the go-ahead in September.

A6 airport relief road to open this month

The A6 to Manchester Airport relief road will open to traffic on Monday 15 October after a series of delays, although the project is set to complete within its allotted budget of £290m.

The two-lane dual carriageway stretches from Hazel Grove to Manchester Airport, via four kilometres of the existing A555 and a link road to the M56.

Works have included the delivery of seven new road junctions, 11 bridges, 10km of single and dual carriageway, a shared cycle and pedestrian path running parallel to the road, and more than 9.6m sq ft of grassland, hedgerows and woodland.

The road has been more than 17 years in the planning having been adopted as transport policy by local government in 2001. A joint venture of Morgan Sindall and Carillion has delivered the road.

Green light for Wirral Waters One

Plans for the £90m Wirral Waters One development - which is part of the wider Wirral Waters scheme - have been given the go-ahead. The proposals are for a 500-apartment new-build on the borough's largest brownfield site. Of this total, 20 per cent would be available at affordable rents. The development - which was backed by Wirral Council's ruling cabinet - will include a building near the junction of Dock Road and Duke Street with commercial premises to provide services and amenities. There would also be parking, landscaping and a pedestrian route.

Consultation launched for £18m Rhyl sea defences

Denbighshire Council has appointed Balfour Beatty and JBA Consulting to draw up plans for an £18m sea defence programme along Rhyl's promenade between Splash Point and the Rhyl Golf Club.

The plans include increasing the height of the existing sea wall and installing rock armour over an 18-month period, set to begin in 2019 subject to planning permission and a funding agreement.

The scheme will be designed with rock armour to dissipate the impact of storm waves and extend the design life of the sea wall; the defences will be designed to significantly reduce the risk of flooding to the town over the next 100 years. Existing inshore walls and flood gates, as well as storm water storage, will all be retained as part of the proposals.

MPs back West Cumbria Mining - and coast rail line upgrade

A cross party group of Cumbria's MPs have come together to demand support from the Government for the upgrade of the Cumbrian Coastal Line in order to benefit from £60bn of future investment for the area. The Cumbrian MPs say a number of impending projects including West Cumbria Mining, which will create 500 jobs and the construction of the £15 billion Moorside project will require the railway to be brought up to modern day standards.

Developers to consult on Six56 Warrington

Langtree and First Panattoni are seeking to bring forward up to 3m sq ft of development at junction 20 of the M6 and junction 9 of the M56, an area it said could deliver up to 4,900 jobs.

Six 56 Warrington sits at Bradley Hall Farm between Grappenhall Lane and is proposed as a major logistics and manufacturing development. Up to 625,000 sq ft of the space is currently earmarked for industrial development.

Liverpool flyovers closed over structural safety fears

The Churchill Way flyovers in Liverpool city centre have been closed after a routine inspection found design and construction flaws. The two-lane concrete flyovers were opened in 1970 as part of a £2.4m Mersey Tunnel relief scheme. A Post Tension Site Investigation (PTSI) began in 2016 to assess the northern and southern sections, both of which are more than 240 metres in length.

This found several design and construction flaws, including drainage, internal support, barriers and bearings and recommended further intrusive investigations be carried out which requires a full closure.

Construction Skills Network comes to the North West, 18th October 2018

The Autumn Construction Skills Network presentation for the North West of England to be held at Media City on 18th October 2018 from 12.15pm to 2pm at the Holiday Inn Media City - lunch will be provided. CITB and its partner, Experian, will share the 2019 - 2023 construction forecast. Your views and feedback will influence the forecast's development and we'd greatly value your contribution. Included with this invitation is a brief factsheet on the CSN which may be of interest, while copies of previous forecasts can be found on CITB's website: www.citb.co.uk/research/construction-skills-network/

Full steam ahead for Doncaster station upgrade

Plans developed by Doncaster Council and London North Eastern Railway (LNER) to improve Doncaster Railway Station are well underway with work on the next phase of redevelopment starting. Work has begun on creating a new canopy on front of the station building. The existing canopy will be demolished to make room for a new contemporary glass canopy which will provide a covered walkway to the front of the station and eventually on to the new taxi rank and new car park on West Street.

HIMOR granted approval for 200,000 sq ft Carrington development

Regeneration and property group HIMOR will begin work on the first phase of its major Future Carrington regeneration scheme in November after winning approval for a 212,129 sq ft speculative industrial development. Trafford Council has approved a reserved matters application for Carrington Gateway, the first phase of the project, which will return employment use to a 19-acre site fronting Manchester Road.

Eggborough gas-fired power station gains consent

The Government has granted development consent to develop a 2.5GW gas-fired power station on the site of an existing coal-fired power station near Selby in North Yorkshire. The Eggborough coal-fired power station, which closed in March, will now be demolished to pave the way for construction to start as early as mid-2019, creating up to 1,200 construction jobs. Central European energy group EPH is developing the new power station.

Preparation set to begin on waterfront car park demolition

Detailed logistical plans have been drawn up to demolish the fire-damaged 1,400-space car park at Liverpool's Kings Dock, which still contains 1,100 burnt-out cars inside that have been unable to be removed due to concerns over the strength of the building. The car park was engulfed in a blaze on New Year's Eve, while 1,191 vehicles were parked inside it.

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.

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

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>

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.

£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.

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/719876/SME_TRADE_MISSION_June_18.pdf

Construction Live, 14 November 2018

On Wednesday, 14th November at 10:30am Balfour Beatty will be hosting another Construction Live event with the University of Manchester. Please register and join free of charge using the link below and find out about the exciting technology and careers available in Construction and Engineering.

<https://learnliveuk.com/construction-live2/>

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/>

Tenders

Liverpool City Council - Highways Planned Works Framework

Expressions of interest close on 17/10/2018.

Contact: Phil Gardener, Liverpool City Council, Email: phil.gardener@liverpool.gov.uk

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

Oldham - Construction and Highways Works & Services Framework

Expressions of interest close on 16/10/2018.

Contact: Jay Thind, Oldham Council, Email: jay.thind@oldham.gov.uk

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

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/>

Small Works Construction Framework 2019 to 2023

Expressions of interest close on 12/11/2018.

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

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

Lincolnshire County Council- Highways 2020

Expressions of interest close on 09/11/2018.

Contact: Jonathan Evans, Lincolnshire County Council, Email: Highways2020@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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

....and finally

Belt and road power line project completed in Laos

A major power transmission line project in Laos that forms part of China's belt and road initiative has been completed. The \$200 million power transmission and transformation line project will enable electricity transfer from production sites to the northern and central provinces in Laos.

It was made possible by the Chinese government's preferential loan project and has been financed by the China Export-Import Bank. Engineering contractor NORINCO International Cooperation carried out the work under a \$199m engineering, procurement and construction contract for the 345kV line