

31 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 NW in the news:

Comment on the Budget

<https://www.lancashirebusinessview.co.uk/businesses-react-autumn-budget-2018-108166/>

<https://www.insidermedia.com/insider/northwest/north-west-leaders-react-to-budget-2018>

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/business/budget-2018-business-reaction-brexit-15346126>

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 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, 08.30 for 09.00 - 12.30

A seminar is being arranged, primarily for smaller regional and SME members who are not currently working on rail projects, but all welcome - free for CECA NW members. It will take place at Preston International Hotel, Marsh Lane, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 2YF - interested parties should contact Guy Lawson: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk

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>

CIHT, CECA + ACE joint Young Professional's Christmas Social, Friday 30 November 2018

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ciht-ceca-ace-pn-nw-young-professionals-christmas-party-tickets-51436232155>

CECA Annual Conference, Tuesday 4 December 2018

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

CECA NW meeting with Cumbria County Council, Wednesday 12 December, 14.00-16.00

A meeting for CECA NW members has been arranged with Stephen Hall and the council's Highways & Transport team, North Lakes Hotel, Penrith. Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson.

Two early dates for your diary:

CECA North by NW Dinner, Penrith, Thursday 23 May 2019

CECA NW annual awards dinner, Manchester, Friday 11 October 2019

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, Brockholes, Preston New Rd, Preston PR5 0AG**

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/>

CITB Employer Update

<http://elink-eu.azureend.com/m/023a3170cc3440b2b5de2b317aba2411/610813C4/A6E289F7/102018n>

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

ORR approves Network Rail's £35bn plans to boost UK railways

The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) has given the green light to £35bn plans to make the UK's rail network more reliable and more focused on passengers' needs. Control Period 6 (CP6) is set to commence on 1 April and the ORR has backed plans for increased investment in research & development (R&D) with a GB-wide fund of £245m to be spent on projects with £26m funded by the Scotland route settlement. The final determination documents state how the UK rail network has supported more than a doubling of passenger journeys over the last 20 years, while franchised passenger revenues have risen by 135% in real terms. This means funding needs to be set aside to ensure ongoing maintenance and renewal is kept at the forefront.

A total of £4bn is ring-fenced for Scotland's railways and the regulator has set out what Network Rail will be expected to deliver in Scotland. Specific measures include delivering journey time improvements for both passenger and freight operators and achieve a punctuality target of 92.5%.

CP6 total, £m (2017-18 prices)	GB	England & Wales	Scotland
Operations	3,426	3,186	239
Support	2,609	2,314	295
Maintenance	7,692	6,977	715
Renewals	16,642	14,581	2,061
Other	4,328	3,966	362
Total	34,696	31,025	3,672

Councils sitting on £431m as local infrastructure suffers

New analysis by the Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE) reveals that nearly two fifths (39%) of the receipts from a levy on property developers meant for local infrastructure improvements remains unspent by councils in England and Wales. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced in 2010 to help local councils secure the revenue needed to meet the impact of new property developments, for example improving local transport links or helping to build new schools or GP surgeries. Freedom of information requests undertaken by ACE show that despite raising more than £1.1bn for councils across England and Wales between 2014 and July 2018, £431m remains unspent and is currently sitting in council bank accounts. ACE's research also shows that across the board, take-up of the levy remains poor, with only 43% of councils in England and Wales (149 out of 348) choosing to implement it. A new ACE report, *Scrapping the Levy*, also highlights a number of regional disparities. More than two-fifths (43%) of unspent CIL is with councils in Greater London, while Birmingham and Newcastle have, to date, not spent any of the collected levy.

http://www.infrastructure-intelligence.com/sites/default/files/article_uploads/Community%20Infrastructure%20Levy%20spend%20Report%20-%202018%20-%20FINAL.pdf

CBI: Apprenticeship Levy reform

The government has now publicly accepted the need for reform, announcing three CBI recommendations as policy changes:

- Increasing the proportion of funds employers can transfer from 10% to 25%, which will allow more firms and apprentices in supply chains to benefit
- Properly resourcing the Institute for Apprenticeships to speed up the approval of apprenticeship standards and better regulate the 20% off-the-job requirement
- A commitment to start discussing what a more flexible 'skills levy' could look like post-2020 to support the development of the skilled workforce business needs

Homes England launches Strategic Plan 2018/19 - 2022/23

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752686/Homes_England_Strategic_Plan_AW_REV_150dpi_REV.pdf

Andy Mitchell: CLC Chairman says industry must work better together to implement sector deal

Incoming co-chair of the Construction Leadership Council, Andy Mitchell, has made an impassioned plea for the industry to overcome its fragmented structure and work better together to improve outputs and project delivery. "There are many different groups in the industry with different ways of doing things and this is a big issue," said Mitchell. "We have a lot of fragmentation and as an industry we have chased the lowest cost. There has been a progress-stopping lack of coherence in what we do and that has to stop," Mitchell said. Addressing the challenge of implementing the Construction Sector Deal, one of only four industry strategy sector deals that have been approved by government, Mitchell said that success would only be achieved if the industry works together and does things differently. "We have to have the backing of the whole industry and we also need to look at the role of the Construction Leadership Council and how we work," said Mitchell.

Crossrail given extra £350m loan

Crossrail has been handed an extra £350m by the government to support construction and testing work on the delayed £15.4bn line. Rail minister Jo Johnson confirmed the government would be providing a £350m loan to Crossrail to finance the final fit-out of the tunnels, work on stations and systems testing. Transport for London said the money would be used for work until a full financing agreement between the mayor and Department for Transport was agreed. The full financing agreement could see further funds injected to the project on top of its current £15.4bn funding package.

Application for Rail Central SRFI declined

The application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to authorise the development and operation of the proposed Rail Central 'Strategic Rail Freight Interchange' has "not been accepted for examination". To date this is only the second application not accepted for examination.

According to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), the "reasons for non-acceptance" are set out in the letter issued on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. The developers have said that they will "respond to the points made" and anticipate that they will "re-submit in October".

Government seeks global investment for £2bn portfolio

The government is seeking UK and global investment for seven major construction projects worth around £2bn. Projects will include a 2,000-home development in Liverpool's Festival Park, a 12,500-seater stadium in Gateshead, and a new science and technology park in Burgess Hill, Sussex.

The list of schemes has been put together by the DIT's capital investment team, which leads the government's drive to attract investment into large-scale property, regeneration and infrastructure projects across the country.

The seven projects will be added to the list of 60 government-supported schemes available for overseas investors to fund and finance.

Gatwick Airport sets out £500m runway upgrade

The UK's second-busiest airport has revealed plans to move and upgrade its standby runway into routine use for departing flights by the mid-2020s. The plan to bring the runway into routine use for short haul flights has been set out in Gatwick Airport's new masterplan setting out new growth plans.

Under its current planning agreement, Gatwick's existing standby runway is only used when the main runway is closed for maintenance or emergencies. This 40-year planning agreement will come to an end in 2019. And the draft masterplan sets out for the first time how Gatwick could potentially bring its existing standby runway into routine use for departing flights, alongside its main runway, by the mid-2020s. The plan would see the existing standby runway moved 12m north to take it further away from the main runway.

Ofgem open tender for Beatrice windfarm transmission link

Ofgem has opened tender for the transmission link from Beatrice Offshore Windfarm to shore. The transmission link will go to tender at the end of October. Since 2009, Ofgem and the Government have raised £3 billion worth of investment for similar tenders of connecting links to offshore wind farms.

<https://www.energyvoice.com/otherenergy/183547/ofgem-open-tender-for-beatrice-windfarm-transmission-link/>

Balfour Beatty appointed as sole contractor to £2 billion Scape Infrastructure frameworks

Balfour Beatty has been appointed as the sole contractor to Scape Group's second generation civil engineering frameworks, valued at a combined total of up to £2.1 billion revenue.

The two new frameworks, open to all public sector bodies in the UK, will run for a period of four years from October 2018, with schemes due to be awarded from early 2019. The Scape National Civil Engineering framework, which is valued at £1.6 billion, covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland, while the Scape Civil Engineering - Scotland framework, valued at £500 million, covers Scotland.

Highways England £8.7bn framework announced

Successful bidders for Highways England's £8.7bn framework are:

- North West/North East/Yorks/Humber: Costain, Balfour Beatty, Kier
- South West: Vinci, Galliford Try
- East & West Midlands: BAM Nuttall, Skanska
- South East: BAM Nuttall, Balfour Beatty
- East: Skanska, Galliford Try, Costain

The Crown Estate confirms progress on proposed offshore wind farm extensions

The Crown Estate has announced that after initial assessments of a number of offshore wind farm extension applications, eight proposed projects have satisfied the application criteria.

These projects have been named as: Sheringham Shoal offshore wind farm (up to 317MW); Dudgeon offshore wind farm (up to 402MW); Race Bank offshore wind farm (up to 573MW), Greater Gabbard offshore wind farm (up to 504MW); Galloper offshore wind farm (up to 353MW); Rampion offshore wind farm (up to 400MW); Gwynt y Môr offshore wind farm (up to 576MW); and Thanet offshore wind farm (up to 300 MW).

<https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/media-and-insights/news/2018-the-crown-estate-completes-initial-assessment-of-offshore-wind-extension-applications/>

Forecasters cancel 2019 construction rebound as orders fall

Forecasters have abandoned hopes of a 2.3% rebound in construction growth in 2019 after getting the jitters about falling order levels and Brexit. Growth for next year has been downgraded to rise by only 0.6% with this year now expected to be flat amid Brexit uncertainty and on-going delays in the delivery of major infrastructure projects. The Construction Products Association's Autumn Forecast predicts that even this growth will depend on the Government extending help to buy and driving ahead with major infrastructure projects to hit the expected output peak of £23bn by 2020.

CPA Autumn 2018 forecast:

- Construction output to remain flat in 2018 (0.1%) and rise by 0.6% in 2019
- Private housing starts to rise 2.0% in 2018 and 2019
- Offices construction to decline 10.0% in 2018 and 20.0% in 2019
- Retail construction to fall 10.0% in 2018 and 2.0% in 2019
- Infrastructure work to rise by 8.7% in 2019 and 7.7% in 2020

Enabling works underway for "world-class" east west rail link

The Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling, has announced enabling works for the East West Rail link that would mean that construction could begin in September 2019.

The 'three phase' project will see the reinstatement of the Varsity Line connection between Oxford and Cambridge which was closed in the 1960s.

The Transport Secretary said that the 'East West Rail Link' would "transform journeys in one of Europe's most vibrant economic regions, providing passengers and businesses with a transport system that unlocks economic opportunity and drives forward new housing and jobs".

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-secretary-welcomes-progress-on-east-west-rail>

New commissioner for shale gas appointed

The UK Government has appointed former Labour MP, Natascha Engel, as the new independent Commissioner for Shale Gas. Engel is to be a "direct communication link between local communities, the shale gas industry and regulators", according to BEIS.

The role of Commissioner will be to operate independently from the shale gas regulatory regime and Engel will be a source of impartial, fact-based information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natascha-engel-appointed-as-commissioner-for-shale-gas>

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>

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/>

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/>

...and launches new £5m fund

CITB will welcome applications from organisations that work with one or more of these groups, to help them find work in construction:

- Young people not in education, training or work, particularly where existing networks are already in place
- Long-term unemployed
- Service Leavers who left the military at least 12 months ago
- Women wishing to join construction
- Full-time learners (focussed on CBE diploma students)

<http://elinkeu.clickdimensions.com/m/1/84168655/p1-b18302-5dc525a607fc4285a3030f4aecca751/1/99/e9e62d1f-0534-4dc5-83cc-83b9be75c79b>

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>

HS2 Economic Growth Conference 2018, 7 November 2018, Birmingham

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

Chartered ICES newsletter

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

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

Northern Powerhouse Rail gets £37m boost

A matter of days after the Government agreed a £350m short-term loan to London's delayed Crossrail project, the Chancellor's Budget has earmarked £37m towards supporting the development of Northern Powerhouse Rail.

.... with construction earmarked for 2020 start

Construction of the Northern Powerhouse Rail line could begin as soon as 2020, it has been revealed. Transport for the North (TfN) is finalising proposals to submit to the government in December. If given the go ahead TfN claims that construction could start in 2020. Dubbed "Crossrail for the North", the rail line will connect Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield with a "metro-style" service. The route will also be integrated with High Speed 2 stations and Manchester Airport.

£24m for Parkside Link Road

A funding boost worth £24m for the Parkside Link Road project - which is expected to lead to the creation of 3,000 new jobs - has been approved.

The 3.3km road will connect the A49 in Newton-le-Willows directly with the M6 at junction 22, and will act as a bypass to divert traffic away from Winwick and Hermitage Green. It has also been designed to unlock significant commercial development and wider economic benefits to the area. The total scheme will cost in the region of £40m, with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority providing £23.8m.

Blackpool Airport - a new way forward?

Airport consultancy York Aviation has made a number of recommendations for investment in infrastructure, operations and management of Blackpool Airport, with the return of commercial services to holiday destinations virtually ruled out.

A summary of the report will be considered on **Monday 5 November** by Blackpool Council, which acquired the airport in 2017 to ensure the Squires Gate operation remained open for business.

Energising the powerhouse

The role the energy sector can play in the future of the Northern Powerhouse was underlined in the route map to productivity unveiled 12 months ago. The Northern Powerhouse Partnership (NPP) placed energy at the heart of its 2050 report. Its call for government investment included £2bn to replace the entire gas network of Leeds with hydrogen, produced in the Tees Valley, which would significantly contribute to the UK's 2050 and Paris Agreement commitments on reducing carbon emissions.

<http://www.northernpowerhousepartnership.co.uk/publications/powerhouse-2050-transforming-the-north/>

HS2 starts contractor consultation for £3.5bn Crewe link

HS2 has started contractor consultations to build the West Midlands to Crewe section of the high speed railway. The 58km route, known as section 2a forms the first part of the western leg of HS2 Phase Two and is expected to cost around £3.5bn to deliver. Phase 2a interfaces with Phase One in the West Midlands and with the existing West Coast Mainline, south of Crewe and will run through largely farmland, but also includes housing areas and towns.

The project will involve boring a 2.1km long tunnel, 8km of viaducts and constructing 61 bridges. Also it will require contractors to create 19m cu m of embankments, 20m cu m of cuttings as well as a new maintenance depot.

Special 400m platforms will be built at Crewe to allow longer HS2 trains to split and join, opening up opportunities to serve more destinations including Stoke-on-Trent.

Contractors wishing to express an interest can register with the HS2 market engagement website:

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Phase2AMarketEngagement/>

United Utilities signs artificial intelligence deal in UK first

United Utilities has become the first water company in the UK to introduce large scale artificial intelligence into its operational systems. The company has signed a framework agreement with Canadian technology firm EMAGIN to roll out AI across its entire water network. EMAGIN's artificial intelligence platform, called HARVI, can assess vast amounts of data on a wide range of factors such as weather, demand for water, pump performance and electricity prices. This is used to help make decisions on the most cost-effective and efficient way to run pumps, detect burst pipes and minimise the risk of discoloured water. In the 12-week trial which took place across Oldham in Greater Manchester, HARVI demonstrated energy savings of 22%. United Utilities now plans to deploy the artificial intelligence platform in phases across the whole north west region by the end of 2019.

Vinci picked for first phase of Chester Northgate

Vinci has been chosen as preferred bidder for the £60m first phase of Chester Northgate, set to start on site next year. The contractor has been named as preferred bidder by the council, although Cheshire West & Chester is still working on final designs for the first phase, which focusses on a new market, cinema, car parking facilities, and leisure.

Buckingham wins £19m Leeds station expansion

Buckingham Group has won a £19m deal to support the expansion of Leeds railway station. Network Rail selected the contractor for the contract, which forms part of Leeds station's £500m revamp. Buckingham deal's includes work on a new platform, extending a number of existing platforms, and carrying out associated works. The station's £500m redevelopment aims to prepare it for additional local and HS2 services.

Bid race for £25m Poynton Relief Road

Cheshire East Council has started the hunt for a design and build contractor to deliver the £25m Poynton relief road. This involves delivery of a new 3km single carriageway linking the A6 Manchester Airport relief road to the A523 London Road.

The project forms part of the South East Manchester Multi-Modal Scheme to improve existing transport links on the south east side of Greater Manchester.

It will encourage the regeneration of Poynton, Macclesfield and the north of the area.

The scheme will require a new road bridge to allow the proposed relief road to pass beneath the existing Chester Road and two additional bridges to allow existing public rights of way to pass over the proposed relief road. Landscaping and environmental mitigation works are proposed for great crested newts, bats and other environmental flora and fauna.

Interested firms must **return PQQs by 23 November** with shortlisted firms invited to tender on 14 January 2019. Work is anticipated to take around 14 months.

See the Tenders section for contact details.

Wylfa update

Three companies have won deals to support the design and construction of the £15bn Wylfa Newydd nuclear plant in north Wales. Atkins, KBR and Wood are the latest companies to be chosen as partners on the proposed Anglesey plant, for which they will support the delivery of the nuclear island. Atkins, which was bought by SNC Lavalin last year, will assist the civil engineering design for the island, KBR will work on project controls, and Wood will support the island's architectural engineering.

Historic area of Manchester city centre to get major revamp

The oldest part of Manchester city centre is to undergo a major transformation as part of a new scheme. A planning application has been submitted for the area around Manchester Cathedral and Chetam's Music School. The plans will include a tree-lined park alongside the river and a network of walkways and tree-lined spaces. The area has been dubbed the Manchester Medieval Quarter. Chetam's is one of the oldest buildings in the city centre and parts of the school date back to the 1420s.

Funding agreed for Burnley's £26m Pioneer Place

Lancashire County Council will provide £3.2m to support the delivery of Burnley's £26m Pioneer Place retail and leisure development, set to include a cinema, restaurants, and a public plaza. The council has signed off the funding package to help deliver road and infrastructure improvements in the Curzon Street area which will help improve access to the site.

Liverpool overhauls SIF as City Region eyes £1.3bn investment

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is relaunching its flagship Single Investment Fund, aiming for an era in which the Combined Authority "provides a steady flow of funding" as it targets £1.3bn investment in the region from Government over the next seven years.

Examination into the proposed Tees CCPP closes

The examination into Sembcorp's proposals for a "gas fired combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station" of up to 1,700 MWe closed on 10 October 2018. The examining authority will now have three months to consider the findings and issue its report of recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy. After this, the Secretary of State will have a further three months to reach a decision of whether or not to grant development consent for the Tees Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP) scheme at the Wilton International site on Teesside, which means that a decision is expected by **10 April 2019**.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/tees-ccpp/>

ONS: construction booming in the North West

The North West has seen construction boom over the last year, according to new figures.

According to the Office of National Statistics, total construction output across the region is up 15% to more than £4.6 billion in the 3 months to August 2018 compared to the same period last year.

Overall construction output in Great Britain for this period is up 1.5% compared to the same period last year meaning the North West's increase is 10 times the national average

The value of construction work on new housing in the North West has increased by £386 million this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2017 and output of new infrastructure projects has also risen during this period.

- Overall construction output in the region up 15%, 10 times the national average
- Total value of construction over the last 3 months is more than £4.6 billion, up more than £600 million when compared to the same 3 months a year ago

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/construction-booming-in-the-north-west?utm_source=469a48ec-588c-4260-bf90-0fb9ee77594f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Liverpool City Council picks development team for £700m Festival Park

Ion Property Developments, in a joint venture with Midia Group, is set to partner with Liverpool City Council to deliver the residential-led regeneration of Festival Park. The council has been searching for a developer or investor for the 90-acre site for a number of years, and exploring different procurement routes. The latest launched in March; Ion and Midia both submitted expressions of interest, and due to similarities in their proposals suggested to the council they work together on the scheme.

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.

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>

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>

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

Design and Construction of Poynton Relief Road

Expressions of interest close on 23/11/2018.

Contact: Steve Mellor, Cheshire East Council, Email: steve.mellor@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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

Stockport: Supplier Engagement Event - Alliance Agreement for Minor Civil Engineering Works

Expressions of interest close on 09/11/2018.

Contact: Jamie Cooper, STaR Shared Procurement Service

Email: jamie.cooper@star-procurement.gov.uk

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

Highways Maintenance Patching Works

Expressions of interest close on 12/11/2018.

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

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

Kensington - Prescott A57 Design & Construct

Expressions of interest close on 06/11/2018.

Contact: Roger Ruffles, Liverpool City Council, Email: roger.ruffles@liverpool.gov.uk

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

Mottram Road Retaining Wall

Expressions of interest close on 21/11/2018.

Contact: Mohammed Abdel Hamid, Tameside MBC, Email: mohammed.abdel-hamid@tameside.gov.uk

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

Provision of Road Marking Works

Expressions of interest close on 16/11/2018.

Contact: Chloe Brownlee-Chapman, Cumbria County Council

Email: Chloe.Brownlee-Chapman@cumbria.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/>

Lorry Park Extension - Great North Road, Newark

Expressions of interest close on 09/11/2018.

Contact: Darren Wardale, Newark & Sherwood District Council

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

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

Highway Temporary Traffic Management

Expressions of interest close on 13/11/2018.

Contact: Joanne Kirk, Rotherham MBC, Email: joanne.kirk@rotherham.gov.uk

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

....and finally

Are hydrogen trains the future of UK travel?

Trains powered by hydrogen could be a reality in the UK by the "early 2020s", according to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling. They're seen as a cleaner - but pricier - alternative to diesel trains, as the exhaust emission is pure water.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-45985510/are-hydrogen-trains-the-future-of-uk-travel>