



# Press Release

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## **CECA Applaud Chancellor's 2018 Budget As "Good For Industry And Taxpayer Alike"**

Civils contractors today welcomed measures announced by Chancellor Philip Hammond that signal an increase in transport investment, but said that schemes needed to be brought forward to market rapidly to secure the UK's economy.

The Budget announced the biggest ever strategic roads investment package and a range of spending measures that will mean the Government will be investing £9 billion a year more in infrastructure than in 2015.

Further measures announced include:

- Over £950 million of new funding for the Scottish Government, including £150 million for a Tay Cities Deal;
- Over £550 million of new funding for the Welsh Government, a review of Welsh Government borrowing powers to support the M4 relief road, and £120 million for a North Wales Growth Deal;
- £420 million to local authorities in 2018-19 to tackle potholes, repair damaged roads, and invest in keeping bridges open and safe;
- An extra £240 million to the six metro mayors for transport investment in their area: £21 million for Cambridge and Peterborough, £69.5 million for Greater Manchester, £38.5 million for Liverpool City Region, £23 million for West of England, £71.5 million for the West Midlands, and £16.5 million for Tees Valley;
- An increase to the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) from £31 billion to £37 billion;
- Support for apprenticeships for SMEs, with a cut from 10 per cent to 5 per cent contribution to the Apprenticeship Levy.

Commenting, Director of External Affairs for the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) Marie-Claude Hemming said: "We welcome the Chancellor's recognition of the importance of infrastructure investment in all parts of the UK, and there are a number of measures announced today that will be good both for industry, the taxpayer, and the economy as a whole.

"In his last Budget before the UK leaves the European Union, the Chancellor has sensibly sought to bolster the economy by targeted investment in transport infrastructure and support for apprenticeships.

"Industry and Government at all levels must now work together to ensure these investments are brought forward to market expeditiously, so that the economic growth they will create can support businesses and communities in all parts of the UK."

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### Notes to editors

1. The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) represents over 300 contractors of all sizes, covering approximately 80% of the civil engineering market in Great Britain. Our members build infrastructure that provides the basis for economic sustainability and quality of life in communities across the country.

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