

14 November 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Moorside/NuGen announcement**

<https://www.lep.co.uk/news/business/fylde-mp-says-battle-for-new-nuclear-plant-will-go-on-1-9434922>

<https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/news/local-leaders-vow-to-fight-on-as-toshiba-quits-moorside/>

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/contractors-demand-answers-about-moorside-nuclear-plant/10037017.article>

<http://www.infrastructure-intelligence.com/article/nov-2018/plans-new-cumbrian-nuclear-power-station-dealt-potentially-fatal-blow>

<http://www.constructionenquirer.com/2018/11/08/toshiba-scraps-15bn-moorside-nuclear-station-plan/>

### **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 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, Manchester, 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.

### **Three early dates for your diary:**

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

CECA NW Annual Golf Day, Leigh Golf Club, Thursday 27 June 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

### Legal Breakfast Seminars

We are now planning the 2019 programme of legal breakfast seminars with Geraldine Fleming. I would like to finalise this in the next few weeks, so please let me know as soon as possible if there are any topics you would like us to include.

### 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](mailto: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.azure.send.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](mailto:Tolu@supplychainschool.co.uk)

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

### 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

### CECA: Retentions

In 2013, following consultation with members, CECA signed up to support the delivery of Construction 2025. This included delivering on a commitment to the complete abolition of cash retentions by 2025. CECA is now working with other industry representatives to deliver these objectives and we would like to form a short working group to generate updated evidence to feed into this workstream. If you would like to be part of this then please email [marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk](mailto:marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk)

### CECA H&S Forum meeting - 28th November 2018, IMechE, London

All CECA members are welcome to attend - please advise Peter Crosland for details:  
[petercrosland@ceca.co.uk](mailto:petercrosland@ceca.co.uk)

### John Woodcock challenges government over Moorside nuclear deal collapse

John Woodcock, MP for Barrow and Furness, has demanded a government response to the collapse of a deal which would have led to the construction of a new nuclear power station in Cumbria.

His urgent question follows an announcement by Japanese firm Toshiba, that they would be liquidating their UK energy arm, NuGen, having failed to find a buyer for the Moorside project.

The question was responded to by Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who stated that Toshiba's decision to pull out of the nuclear project was purely commercial. He also reiterated the Government's commitment to nuclear energy.

John Woodcock followed up on his question, claiming that the people of Cumbria had been "thrown under a bus". He criticised the Secretary of State for not being more proactive in giving a statement to the Commons and his failure to commit to a new nuclear power plant in the Cumbrian area.

### Jesse Norman: new Transport Minister

Conservative Member of Parliament for Hereford and South Herefordshire, Jesse Norman has been appointed as the new transport minister.

### Andrew Jones: new Rail Minister

Andrew Jones has been announced as the new rail minister following Jo Johnson's resignation. Mr Jones, who was elected as MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough in 2010, served as the parliamentary private secretary to former transport secretary Justine Greening from May 2015 to June 2017. He subsequently served as exchequer secretary to the Treasury until January this year.

### Thurston: it may have been better to start building HS2 from north to south

On the issue of time and the ability for HS2 to stay at the forefront of technology with the final northern stage not projected to be built until 2033, HS2 CEO, Mark Thurston conceded there was an argument that the network should have been built from the north down.

### ....but HS2 reveals HS2 Crewe Link £1.6bn civils procurement

HS2 has outlined plans to split the proposed West Midlands to Crewe section of the high speed railway into two civils contract packages. Procurement chiefs said they are still keeping procurement options open with the possibility of running a competition between its four existing phase one joint venture contractors instead of prequalifying a fresh field of bidders.

A current market testing exercise will help to inform the decision about which procurement route to take later next year.

The 39km southern section of the HS2a route is expected to cost up to £870m while the shorter 28km northern section including two short tunnels is estimated to cost up to £750m to build.

The procurement process could start by the third quarter of next year, with bids being invited in the first quarter of 2020, and the winning bidder announced by spring 2021. Design work for phase 2a is expected to begin next year, with construction scheduled to start as early as 2021.

### **MoD £15bn defence estate pipeline**

The Ministry of Defence plans to spend £4bn optimising its defence estate as part of its latest £15bn five-year procurement pipeline. The MoD's estates management arm the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has announced schemes covering the next five financial years.

Among these is the defence estate optimisation programme, which aims to help deliver a 30 per cent reduction in the MoD's built estate by 2040. The programme will also release surplus land to support wider government targets, and see £1bn of capital disposals by 2021.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/748581/20180808-Procurement\\_Plan\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748581/20180808-Procurement_Plan_FINAL.pdf)

### **Urban Transport Group report, About towns: How transport can help towns thrive**

Key findings from the report include:

- Long term leadership and planning is needed to transform towns but with space for bottom-up community initiatives.
- Restoring historic transport infrastructure and building new high quality interchanges in towns can provide destinations in their own right, becoming a welcoming gateway for visitors and investors, and a celebration of history and heritage.
- The transport sector is a major employer in towns and can be both an anchor institution (reinvesting in local businesses) and an exemplary employer (by investing in skills and people, and by paying decent wages).
- Hard and soft (capital and revenue) transport measures can play a vital role in widening access to employment, education and skills, enhancing quality of life, and enabling access to leisure, recreation and physical activity for the residents of towns.
- Transport is key to opening up new sites for housing and commercial development in and around towns.

The report also cites Altrincham Interchange as an example of where transport has helped or is helping towns to succeed:

The creation of a new multi-modal transport interchange in Altrincham, Greater Manchester, which (alongside other investment) has led to a 19% increase in town centre footfall and a 20% reduction in vacancy rates.

<http://www.urbantransportgroup.org/resources/types/reports/about-towns-how-transport-can-help-towns-thrive>

### **ONS: Construction output accelerates in 'encouraging' Q3**

Construction activity rose by 2.1 per cent in the three months to September according to the Office for National Statistics, having built momentum after a poor start to the year. The acceleration in output follows the slight increase of 0.8 per cent recorded for Q2, coming after a 1.6 per cent decline in Q1. Q3's growth was driven by new work, which increased by 2.8 per cent, with repair and maintenance work rising by 1 per cent. According to the ONS, the level of all work for September 2018 reached £13.9bn - the highest monthly figure since the series began in 2010.

Within this, new work stood at £9.2bn while repair and maintenance accounted for the remaining £4.7bn. For the three months to September, private new housing output rose by 5.7 per cent to £3.1bn, infrastructure grew 3.8 per cent to £1.8bn and new public housing increased by 12.1 per cent to £596m.

### **Costain CEO is new ICE president**

It is essential for civil engineers to embrace the use of technology and to deliver greater value for money for customers, Costain chief executive Andrew Wyllie said in his inaugural address as he assumed the 2018-19 presidency of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).

## Highways England reveals Routes to Market Regional Delivery Partnership

Highways England has confirmed its 15 partner contractors to deliver up to £8.7bn worth of work on England's motorways and major A roads.

Delivery Integration Partners:

Projects up to £100m

- South West & Midlands - £200m - Geoffrey Osborne; Griffiths/Farrans JV
- South East & East - £350m - John Graham Construction; Volker Fitzpatrick
- North West, North East, Yorkshire & Humber - £200m - Amey Sir Robert McAlpine JV; North Midland Construction

Projects above £100m

- South West - £800m - Galliford Try Infrastructure; Taylor Woodrow
- Midlands - £1,250m - BAM Nuttall; Skanska Construction UK
- South East - £1,100m - BAM Nuttall; Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering
- East - £2,800m - Costain; Galliford Try Infrastructure; Skanska Construction UK
- North West, North East, Yorkshire & Humber - £2,000m - Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering; Costain; and Kier Highways

## CECA: Civils skills shortage worst on record

Civils contractors are warning they now face a serious skills gap with dissatisfaction about finding sufficiently skilled staff in England running at record levels. According to the sector's latest quarterly workload trends survey, which dates back to 2005, it has never been harder for civils contractors to recruit skilled staff. The survey of Civil Engineering Contractors Association members revealed the future supply of skilled operatives was the largest concern for firms in all parts of the UK.

CECA Director of External Affairs Marie-Claude Hemming said: "There are now serious concerns as to the ability to attract skilled staff to cope with a growing market. There is a substantial pipeline of work to be delivered in the coming years. Industry and Government need to work together through the Construction Sector Deal to respond to these challenges."

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,696</b>	<b>31,025</b>	<b>3,672</b>

### **Scrapping the Levy: Community Infrastructure Levy and local infrastructure spending**

The Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE) has released a report entitled "Scrapping the levy" which analyses local councils infrastructure spending. The report sets out ACE's findings on how local authorities spend the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the consequences, in addition to outlining recommendations for future action. The report concludes that issues associated with the implementation and collection of the Levy have "prevented local infrastructure needs being met". Consequently, in ACE's view, and "without intervention, local infrastructure spending will continue to fall below the level required to deliver positive outcomes for local residents". In response, ACE has recommended that the UK government retain section 106 agreements under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as a "means of mitigating specific development issues". Also, ACE has concluded that the government should "reassess how the CIL is implemented and charged at an authority and local level" and issue new guidance on best practice for CIL spending "including developing a transparent pipeline of work". The government should also "start charging a new property sales levy to replace the CIL over the medium to long term", according to the ACE report.

<https://www.acenet.co.uk/media/2514/scrapping-the-levy.pdf>

### **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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752686/Homes_England_Strategic_Plan_AW_REV_150dpi_REV.pdf)

### **New study into UK infrastructure resilience**

Following the announcement made in the Budget 2018, the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has confirmed that it will conduct a study to examine the resilience of the UK's infrastructure. The study will analyse the action the "government should take to ensure that infrastructure can cope with future changes, disruptions, shocks and accidents".

The NIC will publish its final report and recommendations in spring 2020.

According to the NIC, "services like utilities, transport and telecommunications are becoming increasingly sophisticated and interdependent. While this has enabled efficiency improvements and better delivery, infrastructure systems are now more vulnerable and if disrupted can have a very significant impact on people's lives".

<https://www.nic.org.uk/news/new-resilience-study-to-examine-how-infrastructure-can-withstand-future-challenges/>

### **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

### **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.

### **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

### **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/>

### **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>

### **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>

### **Court of Appeal: entitlement to a second adjudication for clients**

The Court of Appeal has confirmed, in S&T (UK) Ltd v Grove Developments Ltd, an employer is entitled to run a second adjudication to determine the 'true' value of an interim application for payment, even if the employer's payment notice and payless notice were invalid.

### **News from ACAS**

Avoiding workplace stress:

<https://acasnational.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/7F1B89CF8703F6682540EF23F30FEDED/911750276213B8F046778398EADC2510>

## North West - and the North

### CECA North West calls for certainty over Moorside

CECA North West today asked for clarity from Government regarding plans for a new nuclear power station at Moorside in Cumbria, after Toshiba's decision to wind up its nuclear arm NuGen threw plans for the scheme into doubt.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-north-west-calls-for-certainty-over-moorside/>

### West Cumbria Mining announces date for end of year update event

West Cumbria Mining will be hosting its end of year update event at its Haig Office on **Thursday 13th December** between 12:00 and 19:00 hrs.

### .... and Ian Rae appointed Head of Programme at West Cumbria Mining

WCM is delighted to announce the appointment of Ian Rae as Head of Programme, who joins from NuGen

### New £500m fund to transform Liverpool City Region's economy announced

A £500 million fund to help transform the city region's economy has been announced. Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Strategic Investment Fund is aimed at creating high-quality jobs and boosting living standards. Around £100 million will be available in the first year of the fund, rising to £500 million over four years. The Combined Authority has already identified projects which can receive support from the fund including:

- Ultra-fast broadband for every borough
- A new smart ticketing system to replace the Walrus card
- Help for high streets
- A new generation of Mersey Ferries

### Transport Infrastructure: The catalyst for powerhouse growth, York, 30 November 2018

This includes an address from Andrew Haines, newly appointed CEO of Network Rail.

There's a good line-up of speakers and it is being held in a venue adjacent to York Station, timed to ease attendance by public transport. **Please state if you are a CECA member, as there is a potential discount from the organisers.**

<https://www.themetclub.co.uk/event/the-catalyst-for-powerhouse-growth-30th-november/>

### M65 motorway 'could be extended from Lancashire into Yorkshire'

The M65 motorway could be extended across the Pennines into Yorkshire under plans being considered by transport officials. Strategic body Transport for the North (TfN) has confirmed that it is working on an appraisal of possible dual carriageway routes between the Lancashire town of Colne, where the M65 currently ends, and the A1(M) in Yorkshire.

### Launch of Investing in the Future report

The launch of a new report by Metro-Dynamics "Investing in the Future" to promote investment in infrastructure in UK regions.

When: **26 November 2018**, 2:30pm - 4:30pm, refreshments served from 2:00pm

Where: The Park Royal Hotel, Stretton Road, Stretton, Warrington WA4 4NS

Keynote speeches and presentations will be given by:

- Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
- Steve Rotheram, Mayor of Liverpool City Region
- Ben Lucas, Managing Director, Metro-Dynamics
- Neil Lees, Deputy Chairman, The Peel Group.

Places are limited so please reply to [corporateaffairs@peel.co.uk](mailto:corporateaffairs@peel.co.uk) as soon as possible.

## **Progress report: Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy, October 2018**

This progress statement sets out plans for delivering a Strategy by **March 2019**, and highlights emerging priorities for Greater Manchester's Local Industrial Strategy.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/752671/beis-local-industrial-strategy-progress-update-greater-manchester.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752671/beis-local-industrial-strategy-progress-update-greater-manchester.pdf)

### **Government's 'cast-iron' commitment to Cumbria's roads**

Major investment to make better journeys in Cumbria and consultation regarding congestion and safety on the A595 link near Whitehaven launched.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/governments-cast-iron-commitment-to-cumbrias-roads>

### **Liverpool launches £30m roads framework**

Liverpool City Council has launched a four-year framework for the delivery of reactive highway works. Subject to both the consent of the framework manager and to entering into an access agreement with the employer, the Liverpool city region's other local authorities, namely Halton, St Helens, Knowsley, Sefton and Wirral will also be permitted to procure works and services under the framework, along with subsidiaries, affiliated or joint venture bodies the councils are involved in.

The framework comprises ten lots:

Lot 1: General civil engineering: 6 applicants progressing to invitation-to-tender stage, 3 to contract award,

Lot 2: Bridges and other structures: 5 to ITT stage, 3 to contract award

Lot 3: Drainage including gullies: 5 to ITT stage, 3 to contract award

Lot 4: Fencing and barriers: 5 to ITT stage, 3 to contract award

Lot 5: Road markings: 5 to ITT stage, 3 to contract award,

Lot 6: Street lighting and electrical works: 6 to ITT stage, 3 to contract award

Lot 7: Site investigation, surveys: 5 to ITT stage, 3 to contract award

Lot 8: Specialist surfacing: 5 to ITT stage, 3 to contract award

Lot 9: Traffic signs: 5 to ITT stage, 3 to contract award

Lot 10: Watercourses: 5 to ITT stage, 3 to contract award.

The framework will effectively replace the council's previous contract with Amey, which was cancelled by mutual consent earlier this year.

### **'Build east-west HS3 across the North before HS2', says Labour ex-Minister Caroline Flint**

A former Minister called for new cross-Pennine rail links to be built before HS2 as the scale of rail passenger anger in the North was laid bare by official figures. There were 63 per cent more complaints from Northern rail passengers between April and June this year and 21 per cent more on TransPennine Express compared with the same period last year, Office of Rail and Road (ORR) data shows Northern had services crippled on many routes when new timetables were introduced on May 20, with the number of daily trains cancelled reaching 310 and there was also a knock-on effect which caused widespread problems for TPE.

### **Runcorn Station Quarter set for council sign-off**

Halton Borough Council is set to endorse an "aspirational and transformational" masterplan for a development area focussed around Runcorn's railway station.

The masterplan's aim is to provide a new gateway into Runcorn and the wider Liverpool City Region by regenerating an area around the town's station, with a mix of land uses proposed.

Key to the masterplan is a series of infrastructure works: these include revised access on to the Silver Jubilee Bridge; delinking and demolition of the structures carrying traffic from the bridge to the Weston Point Expressway; construction of a new roundabout to link the Daresbury Expressway and Weston Point; and the permanent stopping-up of highways that are no longer needed.

### **DCO submitted for Preston Western Distributor**

Robertson Group and the Tom Barron Pension Fund have submitted a development consent order for Preston's £190m Western Distributor link road directly to the Secretary of State after discussions with Lancashire County Council broke down.

Lancashire County Council approved a planning application for the road, which is due to link the M55 with the A583 Riversway to the west of the city, in October last year, and a business case was signed off in January this year, despite costs on the project rising by around £60m.

The compulsory purchase order and land assembly process was signed off in February this year.

### **Funding search starts for £25m Preston tram**

Snowball Alternative Finance has been appointed to secure funding for a £25m project to bring trams back to Preston, although the scheme is already running behind schedule. In January this year, Eric Wright Civil Engineering was appointed as main contractor; at the time, the scheme's developer Preston Trampower aimed to have the first phase under way by March 2018, subject to planning. Although works are yet to start on site, Preston Trampower has now appointed Snowball to drum up interest from funders to get the scheme under way. An updated start date has not yet been set.

### **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.

### **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/>

### **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.**

### **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/>

**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](mailto:steve.mellor@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

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

Oldham - Construction and Highways Works & Services Framework

Expressions of interest close on 26/11/2018.

Contact: Jay Thind, Oldham Council, Email: [jay.thind@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:jay.thind@oldham.gov.uk)

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

Town Hall Car Park Works

Expressions of interest close on 16/11/2018.

Contact: Ben McCabe, Fylde Borough Council, Email: [benm@fylde.gov.uk](mailto:benm@fylde.gov.uk)

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

Liverpool: Highways Reactive (Core) Works Framework

Expressions of interest close on 04/12/2018.

Contact: Phil Gardener, Liverpool City Council, Email: [phil.gardener@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:phil.gardener@liverpool.gov.uk)

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

Structural and Civil Engineering Services for the Rochdale Town Hall HLF project

Expressions of interest close on 26/11/2018.

Contact: Robin Gwilym, Rochdale MBC, Email: [robyn.gwilym@star-procurement.gov.uk](mailto:robyn.gwilym@star-procurement.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](mailto: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](mailto:Chloe.Brownlee-Chapman@cumbria.gov.uk)

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

## ....and finally

### Commercial nuclear reprocessing ends at Sellafield site

Reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from around the world has ended at Sellafield.

The last batch of waste has gone through its Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (Thorp), which opened in 1994. It has generated an estimated £9bn by extracting new nuclear fuel from 9,000 tonnes of used rods from 30 customers in countries as far afield as Japan. Thorp will operate until the 2070s as a storehouse for spent fuel as the site around it in Cumbria is cleaned up.