

28 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 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.

Story Contracting Rail England joins CECA

I am delighted to welcome Story Contracting Rail England into membership of CECA.

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.

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

CECA NW/Driver Trett Legal Seminars

Please find the topics we are planning to cover in our 2019 seminar programme (venues will be Warrington, Preston and Penrith - confirmation and dates tbc):

- Brexit
- Payment update
- Collateral warranties
- NEC compensation events
- NEC (Un)Popular Z clauses
- Liquidated and delay damages
- Retention update (possible - depends on the progress of the legislation)
- Common subcontract clauses
- Legal update

They will be presented, as usual, by the excellent Geraldine Fleming (who has now moved from HKA to Driver Trett). Interested parties should contact me to book places (they are free for CECA NW members) - further details in due course.

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.

Skills Gap Bridging Opportunity for Ex-offenders: Ground Worker Leading to Plant Operative

CPUK Civils & Remediation has set up a session to interview pre-trained candidates on 5 December 2018, at HMP Wigan. Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson or CPUK.

CECA Employment Law and Taxation seminar, 29 November 2018

A seminar with Liz Bridge and Gerry Lean is taking place:

<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>

Looking to recruit ex-services personnel? <http://www.forward-assist.com/>

Also, please find details of a networking event for ex-services personnel in Manchester on 6 December: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/project-recce-networking-event-construction-careers-ex-military-tickets-52900023394?aff=eivtefrnd>

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>

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: Creating a responsible payment culture - ending late payments for small businesses

CECA welcomed the opportunity to respond to the above-named call for evidence. CECA member survey on late payments, key findings include:

- 26 per cent of respondents said 76-99 per cent of payments received were late. Another 26 per cent said 51-75 per cent of payments received were late and a final 26 per cent said that 26-50 per cent of payments received were late.
- 53 per cent said that the proportion of payments made late to their businesses had increased over the past three years.
- All respondents said that they contacted the late paying business. None contacted the Small Business Commissioner, or their trade sector body.
- 65 per cent indicated that typical payment terms they received for completed work was 31-60 days
- 55 per cent said that the typical payment terms they offered their suppliers was 31-60 days. 25 per cent said they offered 11-30 days.
- 45 per cent felt that the reasons for long payment terms is the imbalance of power between businesses. 20 per cent cited complex invoicing procedures.
- 45 per cent said that long payment periods resulted in them paying their own suppliers late. 50 per cent said they were unable to invest in new equipment and /or staff as a result of this. 25 per cent said that they relied on their bank overdraft in these cases, while 15 per cent took out loans to cover shortfalls. Long payment periods meant some (10 per cent) struggled to pay their staff on time, with a further 5 per cent indicating that their staff had had to reduce their salaries.

So, what's to be done?

Contacting late payers

All survey respondents indicated that they contacted the late paying business, with many using legal services to chase payment. While some felt that they were able to negotiate/and or challenge their payment terms, some acknowledged that they felt it was very difficult to have impact. Yet respondents did not often remain with unpaid invoices. This because invoices were always pursued and at times some un-invoiced work was needed to reach an amicable settlement.

Proposed action when payment is beyond agreed terms

It was noted that contracts often already allowed for interest to be added to late payments with limited success. But a situation could be created where late/overdue payments automatically attracted interest or a higher fee or enforcement charge in the same way as a credit card bill. Others went further and suggested that all contracts have a clause inserted whereby if the customer does not pay to the agreed payment terms then a Damages Clause applies with the monies calculated and accruing on a daily basis. Others suggested the use of mandatory payless notices. There was also some support for the use of project bank accounts for all public sector contracts. As an alternative, some suggested an enforceable discount for prompt payment. Or standardising the length of a payment period and ensuring a speedy valuation process.

10-year government pledge sets out £600bn of infrastructure investment by 2028

Ministers have reiterated their commitment to developing major infrastructure projects with £600bn worth of investment over the next decade. The mass investment programme within national infrastructure and construction pipeline include the £28 billion national roads fund, as well as other flagship projects like East West Rail, upgrading the M6 to a smart motorway and Hornsea Project One - the world's largest offshore wind. Planned projects in the north include: Up to £37m additional development funding for Northern Powerhouse Rail; Transforming Cities Fund additional funding including £16.5m for Tees Valley transport projects, £38.5m for Liverpool, and £69.5m for Greater Manchester; A5036 Princess Way - Access to Port of Liverpool (part of Liverpool Local Growth Deal).

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759222/CCS207_CCS1118987248-

[001_National_Infrastructure_and_Construction_Pipeline_2018_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759222/CCS207_CCS1118987248-001_National_Infrastructure_and_Construction_Pipeline_2018_Accessible.pdf)

Standardised components plan for £600bn public works

The Government is pressing for greater use of digital manufacturing techniques to deliver its £600bn project pipeline over the next decade. The government has set out plans to promote a standardisation approach to building infrastructure, which it has called a Platform Approach to Design for Manufacture and Assembly (P-DfMA). This will see five central departments commit to using standardised and inter-operable components or systems from suppliers across different building types. The IPA is calling for feedback on the plan. The call for evidence will run for 12 weeks, closing on **17 February**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposal-for-a-new-approach-to-building-call-for-evidence>

Industry unites for largest ever poll on skills shortages

Companies from across the UK construction sector are being invited to take part in the largest ever research project on skills shortages. As the UK prepares for the departure from the EU next year, construction's leading trade and professional bodies have joined forces to build a picture of those occupations that are in greatest demand. The survey - which will go out to more than 20,000 companies nationwide - will ask respondents to indicate which roles they are finding it difficult to recruit now, and which they expect to be challenging post-Brexit.

The survey is supported by:

- Association for Consultancy & Engineering
- Build UK and member trade bodies
- Chartered Institute of Building
- Civil Engineering Contractors Association
- Construction Plant-hire Association
- Construction Products Association and member trade bodies
- Federation of Master Builders
- Highways Term Maintenance Association
- National Federation of Builders

In order to ensure that the survey has as wide reach as possible, companies that are not members are also invited to take part in the survey, which can be found at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/shortoccupations>

Safe use of forward tipping dumpers

Please find details of the current Construction Plant-hire Association consultation on forward tipping dumper guidance. A link for the guidance can be found at: www.cpa.uk.net/sfpsgdumpers/

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

A46 Stage One Corridor Study

This summary outlines Midlands Connect's 20-year improvement plan for the A46 - one of the country's most important trade routes. Midlands Connect has released the first ever improvement plan for the entire A46 corridor, with a 20-year vision to future-proof the route and boost the national economy. The A46 corridor stretches for 155 miles from Gloucestershire to Lincolnshire, is home to 5.5 million people and 2.9 million jobs, with an economic output of £115 billion a year, equivalent to 9% of the English economy.

https://www.midlandsconnect.uk/publications/a46-stage-one-corridor-study-summary-report/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=November%20Newsletter&utm_content=November%20Newsletter+CID_d7274f507aa28a7033b20c2aaab5a899&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=here

CECA: Too many frameworks don't work

Contractors are being hit as too many frameworks are failing to deliver expected work, while putting firms through unneeded extra bids to secure projects. That is the key finding of CECA's year-long study into the use of frameworks. Members told CECA that, for their frameworks:

- 71 % frequently reported less than anticipated workloads.
- 64% indicated a regular lack of workload visibility.
- 56% reported it is common for frameworks to have unnecessary second competitions.
- 54% said frameworks frequently favoured lowest cost over quality.

In order to start the drive forward towards best practice, CECA worked with its members and others in industry to develop a series of recommendations for infrastructure clients:

- Frameworks to be based around a clear valued work bank with a commitment to deliver work in the framework.
- Once established, frameworks must be used by customers.
- Frameworks to deliver a specified minimum value of work for all participants with subsequent work distributed on quality of tender performance and delivery.
- The number of companies on a framework should be proportionate and balanced in relation to the framework's value and the number and type of projects available.
- Customers should refrain from using multiple frameworks for greater flexibility which comes at the expense of increased uncertainty for the supply chain.
- More use should be made of limited requests for tenders from a select number of suppliers, contractors or service providers in order to reduce the time and cost of the selection process.
- Framework operators should only consider the use of mini competitions if there is a clear commercial reason for doing so.
- Frameworks must recognise SME specialisms and expertise.
- PQQs for frameworks should adopt proposals being developed by industry for a single industry standard approach.

HS2 opens race for £435m Birmingham Curzon St station

HS2 has begun the search for a construction team to deliver the design-and-build package for Birmingham's Curzon Street station worth up to £435m. The contract has an estimated value of between £355m and £435m. Early works contractors are on site in the centre of Birmingham preparing for main construction works. The new Curzon Street station is described as the first new intercity station built in the UK since the 19th century. Featuring 400 m-long platforms to accommodate the high-speed services, the station will include seven platforms in 2026 when the first phase of HS2 is expected to open.

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.

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

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

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://elinku.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.

North West - and the North

Q&A from the GM Streetscene Alliance, Civil Engineering Supplier Engagement Event, 12 November

Question:	Answer:
1. How many Councils are on board/committed?	There are currently 8 Greater Manchester authorities engaged in this procurement and we will have a better understanding of full commitment by January 2019.
2. What is the difference between the Streetscene Alliance contract and the Manchester City Council Framework?	<p>The primary differences are:</p> <p>The scope of works for the Streetscene Alliance are focused on Streetscene type activities broken down into the individual disciplines (Surfacing, Civils, Structures, Street Lighting etc.), in addition to other works not specified within the Manchester Council Framework Agreement.</p> <p>Manchester Council have procured a 4 year Framework Agreement where most contracts are subject to mini competition across all suppliers on each lot, whereas The GM Streetscene is proposed to be for a 5+5 year contract with a reduced number of suppliers to help build long term relationships and the value that brings.</p>
3. Will there be a drainage maintenance lot?	Yes, there will be a lot covered for CCTV/Jetting and Drainage Maintenance
4. How will work be allocated?	This is yet to be determined, but the provisions of the current Streetscene Alliance are that work is allocated to the current partners based on the discipline required and the applicable schedule of rates rather than mini competition due to the nature of the work. This is currently being developed and further information will be available by January 2019.
5. What efficiencies can the provider expect in terms of planned works with more than 1 authority involved?	The structure of the Alliance is yet to be determined, however we are currently considering sub-geographical lots (ie two Councils working together under a contract) and also opportunity for all partners to then work with suppliers across each sub-geographical lot to improve programming, provide more capacity and resilience and to change working practices to make things more efficient and cost effective.
6. How many contractors will be awarded to each lot?	This is yet to be decided. We are currently assessing all options to ensure we meet as many of our objectives as possible whilst ensuring continued value for money. We are exploring sub-geographical lots and restrictions to the number of lots suppliers can bid for to ensure capacity is met but with specific focus on the discipline required.
7. Does Surface Dressing cover Micro-Asphalt?	Yes it does.
8. BIM Level 2 Progression	The Councils are looking to align themselves with the Alliance Contractors in terms of common data environment (payment systems and data format/transfer). The tender will include questions around the contractors' proposals for integration/collaboration with the Client and their Systems as part of the quality information/assessment.

A presentation from the meeting is available upon request.

Chris Boardman's £13.4m vision unveiled for Manchester

Plans for a 5km cycle route through Greater Manchester are being hailed as one of the UK's most ambitious cycling and walking schemes as a British Olympian attempts to ensure drivers make way for cyclists and pedestrians.

Chris Boardman, who won gold for Great Britain at the 1992 summer Olympics, is now the region's cycling and walking commissioner, and is central to now putting greener, more sustainable methods at the heart of Greater Manchester's future transport decisions.

The latest proposals are integral to the cycling advisor's 1,000-mile cycling infrastructure plan with the 5km cycle route to run from Manchester to Chorlton, giving cyclists and pedestrians priority over cars at key junctions along the route, if given the go ahead.

Back in June, Boardman and Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham revealed plans to invest £150m in walking and cycling infrastructure for the region. This £13.4m route is just one of the 'Beelines' - interlinked bike and walking lanes - that was proposed earlier this year.

GMCA identifies station development opportunities

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority has earmarked areas around a number of the region's railway stations for development with 87 acres of land potentially up for grabs. As part of the combined authority's station partnership programme, the GMCA alongside its Rail Station Alliance partners - Network Rail, Transport for Greater Manchester, London Continental Railway, Northern Rail, and Transpennine Express - has identified development opportunities around railway stations across Greater Manchester. So far, 87 acres of potential development land has been identified, with 14 stations singled out as having significant opportunities with an average site size of around 5 acres. These stations are:

- Ashton-under-Lyne
- Atherton
- Bredbury
- Cheadle Hulme
- Hale
- Hazel Grove
- Heald Green
- Lostock
- Marple
- Mills Hill
- Navigation Road
- Rochdale
- Rose Hill Marple
- Stalybridge

The Rail Station Alliance will look to work alongside local authorities to deliver feasibility studies for each of these sites in 2019, which will identify "potentially investable opportunities" including homes and job-creation.

Graham wins first phase of £47m roads overhaul in Liverpool

Graham will start on a major overhaul of roads in the centre of Liverpool in January, including the addition of a bus hub at Old Haymarket and improved routes into the Knowledge Quarter. Graham's deal is for the first package of Liverpool City Council's City Centre Connectivity project, which focusses on re-engineering routes in and out of the city's commercial and retail districts. Works will begin in January next year with the widening of pavements, removal of bus layovers, and public realm improvements along Victoria Street, from North John Street to the Queensway Tunnel. This will complete in October. Other elements of this first package of works include a new city centre bus hub on Old Haymarket, which will go before the city council's planning committee on **Tuesday 8 January**.

Department of Transport to invest £53m in North West roads

The Department of Transport have revealed that some £53m is set to be invested in the North West's roads, with Lancashire to receive the fourth-highest amount of funding per 1,000 people in the region. Following the announcement of the Budget, drivers and cyclists will be encouraged to see that the extra £53m from the DfT will be committed to road repairs across the North West counties of Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire, and Lancashire, with the Roads Minister keen to "keep drivers and cyclists safe."

Transport spending in London still twice northern England's

The “northern powerhouse” was the Conservatives’ big idea for closing the north-south divide and winning over sceptical voters in the north of England. But an analysis of government figures shows that in the four and a half years since the northern powerhouse agenda was set by the then chancellor, George Osborne, transport spending per person has gone up twice as much in London as in the north.

Transport for The North to launch Smart on Rail project

Transport for the North is set to launch the first phase of its Smart on Rail project, beginning on lines in Yorkshire. The initial phase, in partnership with Northern and TransPennine Express, will be run on rail lines between Hull, Scarborough and Malton, before being rolled out across the network.

New platform to be delivered at Leeds Station as part of £161m investment

A new platform is set to be developed at Leeds Station as part of a £161m investment programme. Network Rail announced that ‘platform zero’ will form part of the major investment in the station’s rail infrastructure that will also see improvements to the track alignment for more efficient journeys into platforms 1-6, as well as an upgrade to the signalling across the entire station, in a boost to train service reliability. Platforms 1-6 will also be lengthened to cater for longer trains with more seats.

New TalkTalk company to build broadband network in north of England

TalkTalk has created a new company to invest in expanding its full fibre network despite an agreement with financial investor Infracapital falling through. The broadband company has formed a new company called FibreNation that will own its full fibre network in York. It will expand that network to nearby towns Harrogate, Ripon and Knaresborough to grow its footprint to 100,000 houses within 18 months.

Cumbria local government shake-up talks planned

Council leaders have agreed to start talks with the government about Cumbria becoming a unitary authority. A restructure could see seven existing authorities replaced by either one or two new councils. The county council was told that having just one authority could save an estimated £24.6m a year.

£12.4m cash injection for pothole repairs in Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester will get an extra £12.4m cash injection to tackle potholes after a freezing winter and scorching summer have left many roads in a crumbling state. The funding will come from the £420m announced by the Chancellor in the Autumn budget, with Manchester, Stockport and Bolton to benefit from the biggest shares.

Sefton loses judicial review on A5036 route

Sefton Council has lost its legal fight to order Highways England to re-consult on proposals to ease traffic on the A5036 Dunning’s Bridge Road by building a dual carriageway through Rimrose Valley country park. Dunning’s Bridge Road is the main route from the motorway network through South Sefton to the Port of Liverpool, and its congestion has long been a point of contention. But when consulting on its port access project, HE only considered two options, the £250m Rimrose route and a revamped Dunning’s Bridge Road. Following a High Court hearing in Manchester on October 23, a judgement has been issued dismissing the application, with Mr Justice Kerr ruling that he would not order Highways England to re-open consultation.

Oxford Road Corridor plan identifies four development sites

Manchester City Council’s executive has endorsed plans to bring forward a strategic regeneration framework for the Oxford Road Corridor, set to see more than 4m sq ft of development by 2025, focussed on four sites offering commercial space for science, health, and technology. The draft framework, which looks to take advantage of the growing commercial, health, science, and education clusters in the area, is split into four key sites: Upper Brook Street, the former Elizabeth Gaskell Campus, Willmott Street, and Birchall Way.

Green light for Surf Snowdonia expansion

Plans for an activity centre and 106-bedroom hotel at the Surf Snowdonia Adventure Parc can proceed after Conwy Council's planning committee gave a "minded to approve" verdict.

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. **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/>

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.

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

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

Work Experience

A 17 years old student, currently studying Architectural Engineering at Cronton College, is seeking work experience. His course includes an Industry Placement module on which requires him to complete 45-60 days of work experience, working Thursdays and Fridays every week. In his GCSEs, he achieved an A in Level 2 Design Engineer Construct and he is continuing with Level 3 as part of the course. He also achieved an A* in ICT.

If you are able to offer a placement in the Halton, Warrington and Frodsham areas, please let me know.

Tenders

Spital Park & Ride Design & Build Contract

Expressions of interest close on 06/12/2018.

Contact: Merseytravel, Email: tender@merseytravel.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

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

Mossley Road East Retaining Wall

Expressions of interest close on 04/01/2019.

Contact: Michael Fanning, Tameside MBC, Email: michael.fanning@star-procurement.gov.uk

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

Hard Ings Road Improvement Works

Expressions of interest close on 16/01/2019.

Contact: Richard Bruce, Bradford MDC, Email: richard.bruce@bradford.gov.uk

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

...and finally

World's largest crane heading for Hinkley

The world's largest crane will start work at the Hinkley nuclear site next year for the BYLOR joint venture of Bouygues and Laing O'Rourke. The SGC-250 (Sarens Giant Crane-250) can lift 5,000 tonnes and operate at a height of 250 metres and radius of 275 metres.

<http://www.sarens.com/en/news/sarens-launches-the-largest-crane-in-the-world-the-sgc-250.aspx>