



7 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 Tomorrow's Engineers Week**

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/is-university-the-only-way-into-civil-engineering-teweek18/>

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/is-a-career-in-civil-engineering-for-you-teweek18/>

### **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/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](mailto: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.

### **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

### Armitt: Implement the NIC's £900bn infrastructure plan

The chairman of the National Infrastructure Commission today welcomed Budget measures announced this week, aimed at improving key parts of the UK's infrastructure - but warned that the "real test" will be the Government's proposed National Infrastructure Strategy. Sir John Armitte said the UK's first-ever National Infrastructure Assessment offers a clear path for meeting the country's future needs, and urged the Chancellor to use his Spending Review and the planned new strategy to implement them.

Alongside his Budget statement, the Chancellor announced plans for a National Infrastructure Strategy in 2019, alongside infrastructure measures including:

- £28.8 billion towards improving the UK's motorways and major local roads from 2020-2025
- £420 million towards tackling potholes next year
- £200 million towards pilot projects for extending access to full fibre broadband services to rural and remote communities;
- A further £500 million towards the Housing Infrastructure Fund - taking the total to £5.5 billion - to help support the delivery of 650,000 homes;
- An increase in the Transforming Cities Fund to £2.5 billion; including £90 million to support the trial of smart transport including on-demand buses;
- £37 million additional development funding for Northern Powerhouse Rail; and
- £20 million development funding for the central section of East-West Rail

Sir John welcomed them, but highlighted the need for the National Infrastructure Strategy to set out an ambitious long-term and cross-sectoral agenda, addressing the UK's needs in energy and water as well as transport and digital communications.

### 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."

### Impact of PF2 upon Highways England

In Monday's Budget Philip Hammond said no further schemes would be funded through PFI or PF2. Highways England, which was handed a £30bn budget for 2020-25 as part of the Budget, had identified two of its major projects for PF2 funding: the £1.6bn A303 Stonehenge tunnel and the £6bn Lower Thames Crossing scheme. In response to the chancellor's statement, a Highways England spokesperson said the Treasury had "made it very clear they are still committed to these schemes and that their financing is not a determining factor in deciding whether they get delivered".

### 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>

### 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>

### 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 (see above), 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/>

### **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](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

### **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.

### **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/>

### **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/>

### **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://elinku.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>

### **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.

### **Chartered ICES newsletter**

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

### **News from ACAS**

<https://northwest.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/19924BB823D6632B2540EF23F30FEDED/B2ED75BBE7D3585D05263A35EB2CBB57>

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

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



## North West - and the North

### 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 needs firmer grip on Sellafield nuclear challenges

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has been accused of failing to properly review significant cost and programme overruns at Sellafield, as MPs condemned the oversight of its sites as "not fit for purpose". A report by the public accounts committee on risk reduction at Sellafield also found that the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy had failed in its role of holding the NDA to account. The PAC criticised BEIS for failing to make a decision on whether to place Sellafield's plutonium stock in long-term storage or reuse it as fuel in new nuclear power stations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/news-parliament-2017/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-17-19/>

### 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.

### Stobart set for approval on Warrington green belt

A 630,000 sq ft logistics project on green belt land, brought forward by Eddie Stobart Logistics and developer Liberty Properties, has been backed by Warrington Council planners. The scheme, designed by architect RGP and supported by planner GVA How, will add to Eddie Stobart's existing facilities just off Junction 9 of the M56, which currently covers 145,000 sq ft of logistics space. It features a warehouse of around 600,000 sq ft along with circa 30,000 sq ft of office and ancillary space.

### **Transport secretary concedes that HS2 northern leg is “not in the bag”**

In a remarkable admission, Chris Grayling speaking to rail industry leaders has admitted that the second phase northern extension of HS2 could possibly not be constructed if it does not receive the necessary support. In a report published by the Sunday Telegraph, on Grayling addressing a rail industry conference in London, the transport secretary acknowledged the government's battle to “make the case” for the project, despite previous pledges by the government to bring the vital rail project to northern towns and cities.

But the latest comments will do only add to the arguments of HS2 sceptics who are increasingly concerned about the likelihood of the £56bn second phase (Birmingham to Leeds) being built.

While the first phase from London to Birmingham has been approved and funded, plans to extend the line further north are still very much in the beginning stages and nothing much more known than a proposed route.

Speaking to industry leaders, Grayling is reported to have said: “This industry has got to help make the case for HS2. We have got to continue making that case for it. It will be a fantastic railway, one of the best in Europe but it still needs support if it is to definitely go to Leeds and connect to the Northern Powerhouse Rail.”

### **Northern MPs tell Labour: change your mind on HS2**

Labour's leadership is under pressure this weekend to reconsider its support for the £56bn HS2 high-speed rail link, as concern grows among northern MPs that the plan fails to address their areas' economic needs. Several senior Labour MPs have told the Observer that the huge sum of money earmarked for the project, which will connect London to Leeds and Manchester via Birmingham in the first and second phases, would be better spent on connecting northern cities to one another.

### **'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.

### **Plans in for Stockport Interchange**

Following a public consultation this summer, Transport for Greater Manchester has submitted a planning application for its mixed-use redevelopment of Stockport's bus station. Stockport Council and TfGM's plans for the site feature a 196-home apartment block, a transport interchange covered with a green roof, and two acres of public realm focussed opening up the river Mersey.

### **Greater Manchester's spatial framework could be delayed... for the fifth time**

Greater Manchester's long-term vision for new homes and businesses could be delayed yet again, after the government issued its latest guidance on how many houses the region needs. The conurbation's spatial framework had already been put back four times before the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government sent out its latest update to local authorities.

### **Plan for 3.5m sq ft logistics hub at Doncaster airport**

Peel Land has submitted plans for a 3.5m sq ft logistics and advanced manufacturing hub on land adjacent to Doncaster Sheffield Airport. The development will be delivered in phases and be fully occupied by 2025, creating 230 construction jobs during the £300m infrastructure and build programme Peel said the site has the potential to make a major contribution towards the growth ambitions of Doncaster and the wider Sheffield City Region.

### **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 PQOs 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/>

### **Himor shortlists three as Future Carrington start nears**

Caddick, Eric Wright Group, and Seddon have all been shortlisted to deliver Himor's Carrington Gateway as the developer paves the way for a mixed scheme of 725 homes and 1m sq ft of commercial space, said to be one of the largest projects of its type in the North West. Work has now started on site on preparing the 1,680-acre estate for redevelopment, formerly home to the Shell petrochemical works in Carrington.

### **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/>

### **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/>

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](mailto: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](mailto:s.polese@manchester.gov.uk)

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

Kensington - Prescot A57 Design & Construct

Expressions of interest close on 12/11/2018.

Contact: Roger Ruffles, Liverpool City Council, Email: [roger.ruffles@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:roger.ruffles@liverpool.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/>

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:joanne.kirk@rotherham.gov.uk)

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

....and finally

**Tomorrow's Engineers Week 2018 returns!**

Returning for the sixth year Tomorrow's Engineers Week (#TEWeek18) takes place from **5-9 November 2018** and aims to change perceptions of engineering among young people, their parents and teachers and to inspire future engineers. This year the campaign forms part of the Year of Engineering and engineers featured will focus on topics young people care about including saving the environment, animal welfare, staying safe, health and entertainment.

<https://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/tomorrows-engineers-week-2018/>