



16 January 2019

CECA North West

NEWS DIGEST FROM CECA NORTH WEST

Welcome to this round up of news from CECA North West. If there are any items you wish to include, please let me know. If you would like to contact me, or wish to arrange a meeting, I can be reached via email: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk or mobile 07703 585027.

Civil Engineering Contractors' Association North West news

Contact details

The office address is: CECA North West, The White House, Wilderspool Business Park, Greenalls Avenue, Warrington WA4 6HL Email: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk; Tel: 07703 585027. Although the office is not manned full time, I can be contacted on the above email and mobile number. We are also on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CECANW>

Free and discounted services for members - what can we do for you?

CECA NW always wants to make sure it delivers the services that members want. So, please tell us what your priorities are. We are always looking for ways to enhance the services CECA NW offers to members, which currently include:

- Legal services (see below)
- Training
- Tendering support
- Market intelligence
- Lobbying

But, please contact Guy Lawson if there are any specific areas where we can be of assistance.

CECA NW Legal Advice Service

Willow Contracts has provided very high quality advice to CECA NW members over the last year - and their support and expertise for legal and contractual matters is highly recommended. The email address exclusively for members is CECAsupport@willowcontracts.co.uk and this will automatically contact Chris Hutchinson and his colleague. For the telephone service, the dedicated number is 01924 919392. In the event that the call cannot be taken any voicemail left is automatically routed to Chris's mobile phone. Call costs I am advised are at standard rates.

Tendering workshops

Members are invited to contact Guy Lawson for 1-2-1 tendering workshops, where he will advise on PQQs and ITTs, eg on how to present socio-economic and CSR data as effectively as possible. This is a free service to CECA NW members. Please contact him at the above number or email.

CECA NW - your contributions needed

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>

We will be producing a new video in 2019, so please send any video footage that you would be willing to let us include. Also, please send any case studies to appear in the annual flyer. Please see the attached which shows the format needed: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-north-west-flyer-2018/>

CECA NW in the news:

Coverage on CECA's response to the Immigration White Paper

<https://www.businessupnorth.co.uk/government-must-continue-to-work-with-industry-on-eu-migrant-challenge-says-civil-engineering-contractors-association/>

Three early dates for your diary:

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

http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=138

CECA NW Annual Golf Day, Leigh Golf Club, Thursday 27 June 2019: events@falcongolf.co.uk

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

http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=136

What did CECA NW do over the last year?

- Arranged the Annual Awards dinner in October, attended by over 300 people. The awards went to: Project up to £1 million winner: CT Construction; Project between £1-5 million winner: PP O'Connor; Project over £5 million winner: A E Yates; Young Professional of the Year winner: Toby Hensman of Chartrange; Woman in Civil Engineering winner: Stephanie Curran of ACS; Collaborative Partnership winner: D Morgan; Social Value winner: Eric Wright; and Lifetime Achievement winner: Brian Goodacre of Harry Fairclough.
- Assisted the development of CECA North by NW to provide more activity for members north of Preston (including an inaugural dinner), and two half day seminars for CECA NW Foundations, the group for people new to the industry.
- Assisted six SME members with PQQs and tenders
- Arranged client liaison meetings with: West Cumbria Mining, Transport for Greater Manchester, Sellafield, Environment Agency, Homes England, Inovyn, Network Rail, Cumbria County Council and United Utilities.
- Arranged a Supply Chain Conference, focusing on rail.
- Arranged eight legal breakfast seminars, plus a half-day session on NEC4, and seminars on GDPR and HR & Taxation.
- Put on the Management Development Programme for engineers and supervisors in the NW.
- Produced the annual flyer, featuring the work of CECA NW members, plus a new careers video.
- Promoted a number of industry role models in the media to encourage young people to choose civil engineering.
- Lobbied for margins, fair payment, zero value frameworks, and all risk contracts to be treated as first priorities for CECA as a whole - with a Payment Summit due to take place later this year.

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.

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>

Training & Development

CECA NW 2019 legal and commercial seminars (free for CECA members)**

Breakfast seminars: 8.30am - 10.30am

Payment update 5 March, Preston <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-payment-update-tickets-53681861894>

Collateral warranties 30 April, Warrington <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-breakfast-seminar-collateral-warranties-tickets-53682038422>

NEC compensation events 11 June, Penrith <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-breakfast-seminar-nec-compensation-events-tickets-53682207929>

Half day seminar: 9.00am - 12.30pm

NEC update - the changes between NEC3 and NEC4 26 February, Preston

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-half-day-seminar-nec-update-tickets-53682305220>

CECA Training & Development Survey 2018

Key messages from the CECA Training & Development Survey, carried out between May and October.

- The approach taken was both online and telephone survey. Now in its third year, the response rate is regrettably again lower in 2018 (56 responses compared to 70 in 2017).
- In total, 21% of CECA member companies responded to the survey, with over 15,000 employees represented (2017: 27,000). Year on year, members report static employment levels between 2016 and 2017.
- In part due to the Apprenticeship Levy, large firms are forecasting a significant increase in apprenticeship recruitment in 2018, with a corresponding decrease in the number of graduate roles.
- While CECA members continue to report that their ability to access affordable high-quality training locally is valued, feedback on CITB's grant reforms show high levels of frustration with the system, but more importantly, an actual or expected reduction in the level of grant members will be able to claim. This is very likely to lead to reduced levels of training activity, especially in hitherto high take up areas such as short duration seminars where reduced number of courses will be grant eligible. This year, 45% report not being able to find or claim for this type of course.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CECA-Training-Survey-Report-2018-1.pdf>

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. Please contact Gill to book your place at the next meeting: **31 January 2019**.

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>

CITB events explaining how to access CITB grant and funding: Demolition

How to Access CITB Funding & Grants event for Demolition, 30 January 2019

Location in Speke, Liverpool TBC, contact Sharon Brown to book a place: sharon.brown@citb.co.uk

CITB events explaining how to access CITB grant and funding: Civil Engineering

Thursday 28 March 2019 - Venue Salford-TBC. To book a place:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grants-and-funding-civil-engineering-tickets-54646325631>

CITB Employer Update

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

Two Construction Skills Fund projects announced in Greater Manchester

CITB and the Department for Education recently announced the award of £1.4 million of Construction Skills Fund spend was allocated to two projects in GM. The projects are set to train 1,075 people in construction, 875 participants will be job ready at the end of the training. 45% of total learners will be from non-traditional backgrounds and 15% will come from other industries (where automation puts low skilled jobs at risk). The two projects are:

Procure Plus

The hub will be delivered in two sections, non-trade and trade.

The non-trade training is in many local community group facilities around the region. The trade based sections of the training will be offered in the mobile facility. Once candidates have completed the appropriate training, they will be supported in to employment with contractors on local sites.

Growth Company

The University of Manchester has a ten-year plan to create a world class single campus for students, staff and visitors. The Works, an existing hub, was established 8 years ago by the University of Manchester, working in partnership with The Growth Company and other partners. The aim of the centre is to engage with local unemployed people before providing them with information, advice and guidance on local education, training and job opportunities.

Liverpool Construction Skills Fund project announced

A new skills hub for the development of onsite skills in Liverpool has been announced. The Hub is funded through the £20 million Construction Skills Fund. The Liverpool Waters Construction Hub, based on-site within the Contractors' Village, will provide a branded single shop front doorway for all contractors and sub-contractors on site.

The hub will supply semi and skilled labour at the right time to help bring balance to the demand and supply of construction skills within the project while at the same time maximising the job opportunities for local people. The successful project is led by the City of Liverpool College.

To read more about the successful project click here:

<https://www.citb.co.uk/funding/types-of-funding/structured-fund/construction-skills-fund/on-site-training-hub/>

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. Here are the 26th (Willaston) SW Cheshire Cubs with their badges.



Brexit

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy on action for business if a no deal Brexit

HMRC Partnership Pack

HMRC has published a revised Partnership Pack which has specific advice to businesses on what planning is needed now to carry on importing and exporting in the event of a no deal. The bulk of the pack promotes the following actions/online guides:

- Get a UK EORI number to trade within the EU:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-a-uk-eori-number-to-trade-within-the-eu>

- Ensure that your contracts and International Terms and Conditions of Service (INCOTERMS) with EU suppliers and customers can be amended reflect that you would be an importer/exporter
- Import and export procedure step-by-step process guides and related guidance, including checking the type of goods and associated tariffs, using the correct codes, getting licences if needed, providing the right paperwork
- Moving goods to and from the EU through roll-on roll-off road freight, including Eurotunnel
- Changes to business VAT
- Moving goods currently regulated at EU level, such as those with CE markings
- Guidance for controlled goods and materials requiring import/export licences, including certain categories of chemicals (see 'Specialist Traders' section at pages 78-99)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/767811/Partnership_pack_prepare_for_no_deal_changes_at_border_Third_edition_.pdf

Do you intend to process your own customs declarations and/or need changes to your IT systems to comply with customs processes?

If so, you may wish to apply for funding to help you train staff or update systems. Further details are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/grants-for-businesses-that-complete-customs-declarations>

Does your business use chemicals?

If your business uses chemicals (even if you do not make them or trade in them), you will need to take action to prepare for the possibility of the UK leaving the EU without a deal. You may take on new regulatory responsibility you did not previously have, for example if you import chemicals from the EU you may need to become the registrant for UK REACH.

- Visit the HSE Brexit webpage for information on how each of the chemicals regimes will be affected. The web page includes guidance on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), Plant Protection Products (PPPs, pesticides), Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR), Classifying, labelling and packaging (CLP) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC).
- Refer to the Additional Guidance for specific information on REACH, including actions for businesses using but not producing chemicals. Actions for different types of businesses to take are summarised in this Summary Table.
- Check contingency plans across your supply chain to understand what information you may need to supply to UK agencies, logistics providers, suppliers and customers.

Immigration White Paper

The Home Office has published the future skills-based immigration system white paper which sets out the Government's plans to introduce a new single immigration system, ending free movement.

Business Readiness Tool

The Government has published a tool to help you find out what your business will need to do to prepare for the UK leaving the EU. It asks you to answer some simple questions which will then produce a list of Technical Notices which should be of interest to your company.

<https://www.gov.uk/business-uk-leaving-eu>

Information for Businesses on Data Protection

In the event of a no deal, UK businesses will need to ensure they continue to be compliant with data protection law. For UK businesses that operate only within the UK there will be no immediate change. For UK businesses that operate internationally or exchange personal data with partners in other countries there may be changes that need to be made ahead of the UK leaving the EU to ensure minimal risk of disruption. It is important for businesses to review whether they would be affected. For those that would be affected, early action is advised as changes may take some time to implement. You can find further information on data protection in the context of a 'No Deal' in the Governments Technical Notice. A policy statement on these issues giving further detail has also been published recently. We recommend that all businesses read over these documents carefully and follow the guidance on these issues that has been published by the Information Commissioners Office. Detailed guidance on international transfers, including information on the US Privacy Shield has recently been published and can be found here:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-and-brexit/data-protection-if-there-s-no-brexit-deal/the-gdpr/international-data-transfers/?q=United>

Policy & Industry Affairs

Construction output surges in November

Activity in the civil engineering market ended 2018 at its fastest expansion since May 2017 according to new PMI data. Respondents to the CIPS / IHS Markit PMI survey expect activity in the sector to continue to grow strongly in 2019. Confidence among construction firms rose to a nine-month high in December. Output of all construction work for the three months to November increased 2.1 per cent, and output of new work increased by 3.4 per cent. This was the highest three-month on three-month increase since the first quarter of 2017.

Infrastructure work reported the largest increase at 6.5 per cent, with the housing sector also performing well, shaking off Brexit uncertainty to increase 5.2 per cent.

Project bank account bill

A bill proposing project bank accounts be used for all public sector contracts will get its first hearing in parliament. Labour MP Debbie Abrahams has proposed the bill to help ensure small businesses are paid promptly and protected from losses as a result of contractor insolvencies. If the House of Commons votes in favour of Ms Abraham's bill it will get a second reading at a later date when it will be properly debated.

Pagabo picks 46 firms for £1bn medium projects deal

Procurement specialist Pagabo has selected 46 firms for its new countrywide framework for projects ranging from £250,000 to £10m.

Running for three years with an expected spend of anywhere between £50m and £1bn, the medium works framework has been set up to be used by any public sector body including schools, NHS organisations, housing associations, leisure providers, libraries and museums.

The three-year framework has been split into value bands of £250,000-£1m, £1m-£5m and £5m-£10m.

North

Conlon Construction	Hobson & Porter	Seddon Construction
ENGIE Regeneration	Interserve	Sewell Construction
Esh Construction	John Graham Construction	Shaylor Group
G F Tomlinson Building		Simons Construction
Henry Boot Construction	Morgan Sindall	The Casey Group
Henry Brothers	Robertson	VINCI Construction UK

Government misses own prompt payment target

The Cabinet Office has slowed its payment of invoices since June 2017 and has not hit its own prompt payment target for over a year. In 2015, the government pledged to pay 80 per cent of its invoices in five days and the remaining 20 per cent within 30 days. New data shows the Cabinet Office has not come close to meeting this target since June 2017 and the proportion being paid on time has been on a downward trend since then.

More than half a million potholes reported to councils in 2017

More than half a million potholes were reported by members of the public to local authorities in Britain for repair in 2017, an increase of 44% on two years earlier, according to data obtained by the RAC.

A freedom of information request made to the 212 councils in England, Scotland and Wales responsible for roads revealed that 512,270 potholes were reported last year to 161 authorities compared to 356,432 from 152 councils in 2015.

But when extrapolating the numbers to take account of the likely reports from the authorities who were unable to provide the RAC with data, the total is probably nearer 674,229 in 2017. The 2015 equivalent is 508,651 which represents a smaller increase of 33%.

English authorities, not including London, saw the worst rise in the number of pothole reports between 2015 and 2017 with a 55% jump from 269,486 to 417,881.

Mini robots plan to fix underground pipes

New micro robots will be built to repair the country's underground pipe network and cut the disruption caused by road excavations. Scientists from four British universities will use a £26.6m government investment to develop 1 cm long robotic devices that use sensors and navigation systems to find and mend cracks in pipes. The traffic closures and disruption to businesses of these roadworks is estimated to amount to more than £5 billion. Robots will also be developed to be sent to hazardous work places such as offshore wind-farms and nuclear decommissioning facilities.

Rail Sector deal announced

Rail Sector Deal between the government and the rail industry has also been announced and is focussed on an increased use of technology in order to innovate and reduce the costs of infrastructure.

It is hoped that rail reform will begin to be delivered from 2020 and over the next five years £48 billion of investment will go to the railway industry. The deal includes commitments such as establishing a common data-sharing platform; establishing a 'shared apprenticeship' programme; and a plan to significantly reduce digital signalling costs by 2025.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rail-sector-deal>

Aerospace Sector deal announced

A multi-million pound 'government-industry' Aerospace Sector Deal aimed at developing the future of flight was announced on 6 December 2018. According to Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Business, the deal represents "our modern Industrial Strategy in action, combining the forces of government and industry to boost a sector that is vital to our future economy, export capabilities and will place the UK at the forefront of the next generation of air travel".

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aerospace-sector-deal>

Gove launches landmark government blueprint for resources and waste

Businesses and manufacturers will pay the full cost of recycling or disposing of their packaging waste, under a major new government strategy unveiled by environment secretary Michael Gove.

The move will overhaul England's waste system, putting a legal onus on those responsible for producing damaging waste to take greater responsibility and foot the bill. The announcement forms part of the government's new Resources and Waste Strategy, the first comprehensive update in more than a decade. It will eliminate avoidable plastic waste and aims to leave the environment in a better state for future generations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england>

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/

Immigration White Paper

The much-delayed White Paper is expected to include:

- Scrapping the current cap on the number of skilled workers such as doctors or engineers from the EU and elsewhere
- A consultation on a minimum salary requirement of £30,000 for skilled migrants seeking five-year visas
- Low-skilled workers may be able to apply for short-term visas of up to a year
- Plans to phase in the new system from 2021

Calls for clarity on future of £20bn Wylfa Newydd

Reports in Japan have raised questions over the future of the £20bn Wylfa Newydd nuclear plant on Anglesey with claims that the project's main backer Hitachi could be set to back out.

In a second major blow to the North West's new nuclear programme, after fellow Japanese company Toshiba pulled out of Moorside in Cumbria, reports in the Japanese press claim Hitachi is set to scrap its investment in Wylfa Newydd. Negotiations between the UK Government and Hitachi are still ongoing and business secretary Greg Clark signalled his backing for the proposals in June this year.

Doing business with Sellafield (LINC and CTM update)

LINC with Sellafield Ltd has now transitioned over to the CTM system. In order to qualify for LINC in CTM please either login with your existing details or if you are new to CTM register as a 'new supplier' and navigate to RFQ 10536 - LINC Qualification.

<https://sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=SELLAFIELD>

CITB sells CPCS

CITB has confirmed it is selling its Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) to awarding organisation NOCN Group. The move is part of CITB's Vision 2020 programme to "take on a more strategic and influential role focusing on securing the right training mix, high standards and quality assurance building employer confidence in the market." The programme has already seen CITB announce plans to exit direct training.

Hunt for smart motorway trio to deliver £7bn plan

Highways England is advancing plans to deliver all the smart motorway programme through a single alliance arrangement. Radical plans to adopt a full alliance model for all smart motorway work are now underway with bids being invited to find three tier one contractors, two designers and a new production manager specialist to create a production hub. This promises a major shake-up in the motorway industry where around eight contractors are presently engaged. The entire 10-year spend is expected to be around £7bn with the new 'on-site assembly partners' sharing out £5.95bn across three new operating regions in the north, midlands and south. The arrangement will also include two design partners allocated to the north or south and a single production management partner, accountable for the programme-wide management activities within the production hub. Further documents will soon be available on the website, with submissions due back on **18 January**:

<https://highways.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>

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

New consultation on the draft NPS for Water Resources Infrastructure begins

Defra has published its consultation on the draft National Policy Statement (NPS) for Water Resources Infrastructure. The deadline for responses is **31 January 2019**. Defra has said that it is looking for views and responses on "whether the draft NPS provides an appropriate and effective framework for the examining authority (the Planning Inspectorate) and the Secretary of State to examine and make decisions on development consent order applications for nationally significant water resources infrastructure projects in England".

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/draft-national-policy-statement/>

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

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

[5dc525a607fc4285a3030f4aecca751/1/99/e9e62d1f-0534-4dc5-83cc-83b9be75c79b](http://elinkeu.clickdimensions.com/m/1/84168655/p1-b18302-5dc525a607fc4285a3030f4aecca751/1/99/e9e62d1f-0534-4dc5-83cc-83b9be75c79b)

News from ACAS

<https://acasnational.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/52E1F735F9A46A722540EF23F30FEDED/57DA8B0B41948B5AB4B1B1F623478121>

and events:

<https://northwest.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/9BB998F0DFE85F132540EF23F30FEDED/4D13A39492764922907C5D7C792C0FF8>

North West - and the North

Lack of provision for freight in Trans-Pennine rail upgrade a serious mistake

Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling has again been rapped, for reportedly failing to provide for freight traffic on a proposed upgrade to the Trans-Pennine rail corridor. A report in The Guardian claims £3bn will be spent upgrading 76 miles of track. which includes adding tunnels that are too small for modern freight trains.

Metrolink heads to Stalybridge and Middleton in 2040 expansion

Metrolink extensions to Stalybridge, Port Salford, and Middleton along with tram-train services to Wigan, Wilmslow, Hazel Grove, and Marple will all be considered within the next five years as part of Greater Manchester's wider transport strategy through to 2040.

Green light for £42m flood defence scheme

A £42m scheme designed to protect thousands of homes and businesses in Hull from flooding has been given the go-ahead. Led by the Environment Agency, the Humber Hull Frontage Improvement Scheme will upgrade tidal flood defences at eight locations along the estuary foreshore, including at St Andrew's Quay and Victoria Dock Village.

Consultation launched on £150m plans for new Bolton town centre

Muse Developments has launched a consultation on plans to create a new £150m neighbourhood at Church Wharf in Bolton town centre. Set alongside the River Croal and between St Peters Way (A666), Bank Street, Manor Street and Folds Road, the under-used site is set to be transformed.

GMSF: consultation set to begin

The consultation into the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework is now open, after the 10 council leaders and Mayor Andy Burnham approved the rewritten statutory document at a Combined Authority meeting. The consultation will be open from Monday 14 January until **Monday 18 March**. You can give your views here: www.gmconsult.org

Government set for clash with local authorities as Andy Burnham blocks fracking

The Government is set for a showdown with local councils over fracking. Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham said that the 10 local authorities will implement planning measures introducing a "presumption" against fracking, as part of a plan to make the area carbon neutral by 2038.

Winners of £1.5bn North West Construction Hub high value framework announced

Projects: £35m+

- Balfour Beatty Construction
- BAM Construction
- Bouygues UK
- John Graham Construction
- Kier Construction
- VINCI Construction UK
- Wates Construction

Projects: £15m - £35m

- Balfour Beatty Construction
- Bouygues UK
- Bowmer and Kirkland
- Eric Wright Construction
- ISG Construction
- John Graham Construction
- Kier Construction
- Seddon Construction
- VINCI Construction UK

Projects: £8m - £15m

- Bowmer and Kirkland
- Conlon Construction
- Eric Wright Construction
- ISG Construction
- John Graham Construction
- Kier Construction
- Laing O'Rourke
- Seddon Construction
- Wates Construction

GMSF: Greater Manchester to complete 65 new transport projects in next five years

Andy Burnham, alongside deputy mayors Sir Richard Leese and Bev Hughes, and the leaders of Greater Manchester councils, set out a series of bold and far-reaching new housing and transport proposals. The host of leaders were in attendance to reveal Greater Manchester's Plan for Jobs, Homes and the Environment - the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF).

A central aim of the radically rewritten document is the bold vision of building a minimum of 201,000 new homes by 2037, mainly focused in Manchester, Salford, Trafford and Oldham, alongside 6.5m sq ft of employment space.

The plan focuses on making the most of Greater Manchester's brownfield sites, prioritising redevelopment of town centres and other sustainable locations. It will also help to address the housing crisis with a minimum target of 50,000 additional affordable homes - 30,000 of which will be social housing.

Elsewhere, the announcement also included more details on Greater Manchester's 2040 Transport Strategy Delivery Plan which sets out all the transport improvements to be implemented by 2025, as well as longer-term plans.

The transport plan identifies more than 65 projects that will be completed within the next five years, including: Metrolink's Trafford Park Line; the purchase of 27 new trams; an upgrade of Salford Central railway station; a £160m new walking and cycling infrastructure across all 10 districts; expanding the city-region's electric vehicle charging network; and new interchanges in Tameside and Stockport.

Tender date for A66 northern trans-Pennine dualling

Highways England is aiming to invite tenders for the A66 northern trans-Pennine dualling in October 2019. The agency set out its provisional timetable as it invited contractors to take part in market testing for the 50-mile strategic transport corridor between the M6 and A1(M) motorways.

Single carriageway sections total 21 miles with plans to also enhance capacity at the junctions at Scotch Corner on the A1 and M6 J40 at Penrith. Consultant Arcadis is presently working up designs and economic and environmental assessments for the route. Costings have still not been finalised but the project is expected to come in at over £800m.

Summer start for £25m Carlisle flood defence plan

The Environment Agency has committed to start work next summer on improving flood defences in Carlisle. Detail of a flood risk management scheme for the town will be revealed in January with the Government having set aside £25m for the project. Since flooding in early December 2015 caused by storm Desmond, the Environment Agency has been exploring ways to protect the area in the future.

Contractor search starts for M55 link road

Lancashire County Council has opened the tender for a main contractor as it seeks to deliver the Heyhouses link road. One of a raft of projects given support in October 2017 by the Department for Transport, which pledged £5m to the scheme, the £16.8m contract is for a link road to be built, improving access from Lytham St Annes and Blackpool to the M55. The proposed link road is to open up development sites close to junction 4 of the M55. It would connect the existing roundabout at Whitehills Road to the north with Heyhouses Lane near the Cypress Point development site to the south.

The deadline for those wishing to tender to express their interest is **25 January**.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/business/tenders-and-procurement/tenders/>

Preston in the running for major transport funding

Commuters around Bournemouth and Preston will benefit from faster and easier journeys thanks to a share of a £2.5 billion government fund. Preston will look to develop plans to upgrade the South Fylde and East Lancashire rail lines, a parkway station at Cottam and interchanges for intra-urban buses, cycling and walking.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bournemouth-and-preston-in-the-running-for-major-transport-funding>

Northern Powerhouse Rail Survey

Please find a link to a survey, seeking the views of business on Northern Powerhouse Rail and the impact an improved rail infrastructure will have on your business now. The survey will inform a report that will be presented to the Secretary of State for Transport highlighting the urgent need for investment in our transport infrastructure in the North of England, with a view to launching a bespoke campaign 'We Back Northern Powerhouse Rail': <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/nprail>

Eden Project North secures council cash

The Eden Project North is set to start work on a planning application for its Morecambe Bay vision after four local partners agreed to provide a £1m funding pot. Lancaster City Council is one of four groups along with the Local Enterprise Partnership, Lancaster University, and Lancashire County Council which are each providing £250,000 towards developing plans for the scheme, which will be built on the former Dome entertainment centre and Bubbles swimming pool in Morecambe. The £1m pot will build on the £100,000 already secured from the Chancellor's Autumn Budget, with a feasibility study having completed in September.

Lancashire bypass clears planning hurdle

The building of a dual carriageway between Windy Harbour and Skippool near Poulton-le-Fylde has edged closer, after the Planning Inspectorate agreed to examine Highways England's plans. HE's £100m proposal, to bypass the existing A585, has been put forward as part of the Government's £15bn Road Investment Strategy. The Planning Inspectorate will now scrutinise the idea and invite formal public responses before letting the Secretary of State decide if the new road can be built.

Plans revealed for latest Airport City development

Icon Industrial has revealed plans to build a new industrial unit at its £100m Manchester Airport site. The proposed 102,500 sq ft development will include a single 95,000 sq ft industrial/warehouse building and 7,500 sq ft of integrated office accommodation, with 141 car parking spaces. Icon Industrial, a strategic joint venture by Stoford Developments and TPG Real Estate, has submitted a reserved matters planning application to Manchester council for the building.

Langtree sets out Parkside plans

The group has increased its focus on local authority joint ventures in recent years, with projects including Sci-Tech Daresbury - a joint venture with Halton Council - and at Hollinwood, where the company has partnered with Oldham Council. Other large projects include the Parkside Colliery regeneration in St Helens, which is again being delivered in a joint venture with the council. A link road to connect this site with the M6 has recently secured £24m of funding. Plans are already in for the first phase, totalling 1m sq ft of logistics space, while Langtree said an application for the second phase is expected in the second quarter of next year.

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."

£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.

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.

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.

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

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

Jobs

Manchester contractor seeks Quantity Surveyor

Roles & responsibilities:

- Managing multiple projects at once including pre-tender involvement
- Assist with client accounts including applications for payment, invoices, variations and final accounts
- Implement weekly CVR and monthly management project reviews
- Administer sub-contract accounts including assessing liabilities, making payments, issuing notices and agreeing final accounts
- Ensuring that the financial aspects and impact of a contract are clear to management
- Providing detailed financial reports i.e. budget monitoring, cost & value
- Ensure the maintenance of auditable records relating to all relevant aspects of the company's operations, including those pertinent to specific projects
- Have clear responsibility for the management of all physical works
- Provide accurate progress reporting for site works
- Ensure the effective management of all projects under your control is carried out in accordance with client requirements, current legislation and industry standards.
- Performing risk and value management
- Identifying, analysing and developing responses including commercial risks
- Devise accurate, efficient commercial systems in a bid to support and improve current structure.
- Meet all deadlines in a proactive and forthcoming manner to include all internal weekly/monthly commercial reporting meetings.
- Weekly report meetings with senior management on current tenders, projects won to ensure an accurate project forecast is in place

Qualifications & experience required

Academic Qualifications Required:

- Relevant degree level qualification
- CSCS Competency
- Full UK Driving Licence

System Element Responsibility:

- Update relevant sections of management systems
- Ensure accurate and live commercial information/files/reports/software associated with the tasks outlined in this job description are in the management system

Experience Level(s) Required:

- Five years' experience in the performance of duties outlined within this job description
- Proficient in all Microsoft office excel, word, project
- Experience working in contracting commercial department

Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson in the first instance.

Work Experience

A 17 year 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

Princes Park Lake Infrastructure Improvements

Expressions of interest close on 25/01/2019.

Contact: Lorraine Cross, Liverpool City Council, Email: lorraine.cross@liverpool.gov.uk

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

A59 County Road Walton Road Improvement Works

Expressions of interest close on 21/01/2019.

Contact: Craig Garsed, Liverpool City Council, Email: craig.garsed@liverpool.gov.uk

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

Non-Strategic Road Repair Works Package

Expressions of interest close on 14/02/2019.

Contact: Craig Garsed, Liverpool City Council, Email: craig.garsed@liverpool.gov.uk

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

Bolton Street - Market Street, Bury

Expressions of interest close on 25/01/2019.

Contact: Chris Bayfield, Bury Council, Email: c.bayfield@bury.gov.uk

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

Hard Ings Road Improvement Works

Expressions of interest close on 30/01/2019.

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

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

....and finally

UK's first automatic braking system for trams

The UK's first automatic braking system for trams will be introduced this year, following an investigation into the 2016 Croydon tram crash. London's tram network will be the first in the UK to adopt the system after the Croydon crash resulted in seven deaths and 61 injuries. Once completed, the system will automatically bring a moving tram to a controlled stop if it exceeds the speed limit.