



23 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](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 - 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/>

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

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

[http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event\\_id=138](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](mailto:events@falcongolf.co.uk)

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

[http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event\\_id=136](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 PQOs 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.azureseend.com/m/023a3170cc3440b2b5de2b317aba2411/610813C4/A6E289F7/102018n>

### **Tackling the Construction Skills Gap in Lancashire - Employer Event - 5th February - 8am to 10am**

Lancashire Employment & Skills Hub and CITB are interested in hearing from all construction employers in Lancashire about the skills issues they're currently facing.

Are you finding it difficult to recruit people with the right skills? Is it hard to find the right training course locally? Do you want to do work with schools but find it difficult to know where to start?

On Tuesday 5th February between 8am and 10am, the Tackling the Construction Skills Gap in Lancashire event wants to find out the answer to these and other questions that are holding back employers and their workforce. This is your opportunity to come and tell us what issues your business is facing and find out potential solutions, meet other construction businesses from across the county, and hear about the positive work that's already been started to reduce the skills gap. Breakfast will be provided.

You can find out more information and book your free place by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tackling-the-construction-skills-gap-in-lancashire-employer-group-tickets-54848947679>

### **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 and Growth Company.

### **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. 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.



## Policy & Industry Affairs

### **CECA: the current position on the development of Moorside and Wylfa**

Hard on the heels of Toshiba's decision to pull out of Moorside, west Cumbria, the cancellation of a new nuclear power station at Wylfa in Wales is to a serious blow to the UK's future energy security. Not only that, west Cumbria has the UK's greatest concentration of nuclear expertise and, if Moorside does not go ahead, we risk losing both our skills and nuclear capacity nationally, as well as jobs in the region.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/PRESS-RELEASE-CECA-Wylfa-Cancellation-A-Serious-Blow-To-The-UKs-Future-Energy-Security-Immed.-17-January-2019.pdf>

### **CECA: Collaborative Working Vital for UK Rail**

Civil engineering contractors have called on Government to promote a more collaborative rail sector in order to deliver a world-class railway. In its response to the Williams Rail Review, established to recommend the best way to organise the UK's rail network and operations, CECA called for the principles of collaboration to extend to those carrying out rail construction. Looking at railway projects carried out on the mainline, the most successful of these are generally supported by a collaborative relationship between operators, Network Rail and contractors.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-collaborative-working-vital-for-uk-rail/>

### **CECA: Retentions**

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

### **Debbie Abrahams MP: late payment bill includes calls for project bank accounts**

Debbie Abrahams MP has put forward a bill calling for payments on government and public authority contracts to be made through project bank account. The Public Sector Supply Chains (Project Bank Accounts) Bill will get its second reading in March.

<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/publicsectorsupplychainsprojectbankaccounts.html>

### **CP6 awards for Scotland and North East**

Scotland and North East are operating two frameworks in CP6:

FRAMEWORK 1: RENEWALS AND ENHANCEMENTS

Lot 1: SNE - value £320m BAM Nuttall Limited

Lot 2: SCO - value £135m - awarded to Story Contracting

Lot 3: LNE - value £190m - awarded to AmcoGiffen (Amalgamated Construction Ltd)

FRAMEWORK 2: GEOTECH

Lot 1: LNE - value £47m Story Contracting

Lot 2: SCO - value £100m QTS

### **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.

### **.... but CPA forecasts 2019 construction growth to sink to 0.3%**

Just six months ago, the Construction Products Association forecast 2019 construction output would rise by 2.3%. This was revised to 0.6% three months ago and now been cut in half again to just 0.3%. The latest CPA forecast follows Experian, which also predicted a weak 0.4% rise in activity this year, after downgrading its outlook for construction.

### **Construction fails to make LGBT ranking for 11th successive year**

Not a single construction company has made the Stonewall top 100 LGBT+ inclusive employers for the 11th year in a row. The index measures workplace inclusivity for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people from across the public, private and charity sector and has been released on an annual basis since 2005.

### **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.

<https://www.pagabo.co.uk/frameworks/national-framework-for-medium-construction-works>

### **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.

<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/](http://www.cpa.uk.net/sfpsgdumpers/)

### 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>

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

### Skills and Training Fund - up to £10k grant for members with less than 100 employees

CITB established an annual fund of £3m to support small businesses with their training and development needs. Few CECA members have applied for this funding which is worth £10k a year to a business with 99 employees - there's a sliding scale. According to the records, more than half CECA members would be entitled to apply. The closing date is: **March 2019**. To be eligible for funding companies must:

- Have fewer than 100 PAYE staff
- Be up to date with CITB Levy payments and Levy Returns
- Be CITB registered

<https://www.citb.co.uk/funding/types-of-funding/skills-and-training/>

### ...and launches new £5m fund

CITB will welcome applications from organisations that work with one or more of these groups, to help them find work in construction:

- Young people not in education, training or work, particularly where existing networks are already in place
- Long-term unemployed
- Service Leavers who left the military at least 12 months ago
- Women wishing to join construction
- Full-time learners (focussed on CBE diploma students)

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

### 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**

### **Plan for £300m Lincolnshire power station**

Plans have been submitted to build a £300m energy from waste power station in North East Lincolnshire. The proposed plant would be located next to the existing South Humber Bank power station near Stallingborough and produce electricity for around 500,000 homes. Developer EP UK Investments hopes to receive a planning decision by the end of March from North East Lincolnshire Council.

### **Strategy & Programme Director joins Transport for the North**

Transport for the North has appointed an industry expert as its strategy and programme director. Jeremy Bloom is set to join the statutory body from Highways England, where for the last 13 years he has led network strategies, programme delivery and investment planning, most recently as network planning director.

### **Jake Berry: North could set own taxes as part of new government department for region**

Plans for the North of England to set its own tax rates are being considered by the Government, according to reports. A proposed new department for the North would drive forward the region's transport, education and devolution agendas using funds generated by northern taxpayers, the Northern Powerhouse minister Jake Berry said, according to The Sunday Times.

### **£150m M6 smart motorway contract delayed**

The start of a £150m smart motorway contract along the M6 has been delayed again. The smart motorway upgrade along a 16km stretch of motorway between Wigan and Warrington was originally due to get underway in October. Costain was awarded the deal for work between junctions 21a and 26 last June.

### **Friends of the Earth lose Lancashire fracking permit challenge**

Campaigners have lost the latest High Court challenge against fracking at a site in Lancashire. Friends of the Earth claimed the Environment Agency (EA) failed to consider techniques which could reduce the environmental impact of fracking at Cuadrilla's site in Little Plumpton.

### **Chris Jackson of CECA NW to speak at Cumbria Event, 28 February 2019**

For more details: <https://mailchi.mp/placenorthwest/lancashire-update-327721?e=8a4807ebf1>

### **Newton-le-Willows station revamp completes**

Newton-le-Willows station has reopened following the completion of a £19m upgrade by Galliford Try and Network Rail. The revamp of the station includes a new 400-space car park, a bus interchange, step-free access via a new subway and lifts, improved waiting areas, and new toilets.

### **Serious Fraud Office launches probe into North West sites**

The Serious Fraud Office has opened an investigation into a suspected fraud concerning three property developments across the North West.

Search warrants were executed at a number of addresses across the UK in conjunction with Merseyside Police as part of a joint investigation with North West Regional Organised Crime Unit.

The three developments being investigated are:

- Angelgate, Dantzic Street, Manchester - the development company being Pinnacle (Angelgate) Ltd;
- North Point Pall Mall, 70-90 Pall Mall, Liverpool - the development company being North Point (Pall Mall) Ltd; and
- New Chinatown, Great George Street, Liverpool - the development company being China Town Development Company Ltd

### **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 Peter's Way (A666), Bank Street, Manor Street and Folds Road, the under-used site is set to be transformed.

### **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.

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/greater-manchester-leaders-reveal-bold-plans-for-city-region-s-future/>

### **GMSF: consultation underway**

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 until **Monday 18 March**. You can give your views here:

[www.gmconsult.org](http://www.gmconsult.org)

### Plans lodged for high speed rail facility

The University of Leeds' plans for a new engineering and technology campus, including facilities specialising in high speed rail, have taken a step forward with plans lodged for the development. The campus would house the new £39m Institute for High Speed Rail and System Integration.

### 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

### 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. 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/>

### 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>

### **Preston in the running for major transport funding**

Commuters around Preston will benefit from faster and easier journeys thanks to a share of a £2.5bn 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>

### **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. planning application to Manchester council for the building.

### **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.

### **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.

## 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

Oldham: Construction and Highways Works & Services Framework

Expressions of interest close on 27/02/2019.

Contact: Dan Cheetham, Oldham Council, Email: [dan.cheetham@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:dan.cheetham@oldham.gov.uk)

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

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](mailto:lorraine.cross@liverpool.gov.uk)

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

A562 Upper Parliament Street Improvement Works

Expressions of interest close on 04/02/2019.

Contact: Craig Garsed, Liverpool City Council, Email: [craig.garsed@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:c.bayfield@bury.gov.uk)

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

Leicester: Highway Maintenance and Construction Framework Contract

Expressions of interest close on 18/02/2019.

Contact: Jigna Dhorajia, Leicester City Council, Email: [jigna.dhorajia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:jigna.dhorajia@leicester.gov.uk)

Register via EastMids Tenders: <https://www.eastmidstenders.org/>

Hard Ings Road Improvement Works

Expressions of interest close on 30/01/2019.

Contact: Richard Bruce, Bradford MDC, Email: [richard.bruce@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:richard.bruce@bradford.gov.uk)

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

## ....and finally

### UK potholes down 27% in two years

The number of potholes on local roads in the UK has fallen by 27% since 2016, according to recently released statistics.