



Press Release

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CECA: Collaborative Working Vital For UK Rail

Civil engineering contractors have today 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 and contractors. Recent examples of this include Waterloo Station Redevelopment, Nottingham Station Remodelling and Derby Station Remodelling. Earlier similar projects include Evergreen 1 & 2 which upgraded the Chiltern Route. In these cases, a rational balance between disrupting users and improving the infrastructure was achieved. In parallel, information campaigns were used to explain to users what will happen and how things will improve.

Commenting, Rail Director for the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) Bill Free said: "CECA welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Rail Review, and is in favour of the principles outlined in its scope.

"The current siloed railway structure between track, train and project delivery has driven inefficient delivery of railway projects - leading to higher costs for rail users and taxpayers.

"Some projects break this mould and are delivered successfully. We commend the recent Rail Sector Deal and plans to roll out Digital Railway on the East Coast Mainline - which point the way to a true collaboration across all parties in the railway.

"Such collaborative working must also go hand in hand with Early Contractor Involvement in order to prioritise the interests of passengers and taxpayers and deliver our much needed world-class railway."

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Notes to editors

1. The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) represents over 300 contractors of all sizes, covering approximately 80% of the civil engineering market in Great Britain. Our members build infrastructure that provides the basis for economic sustainability and quality of life in communities across the country.

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