

13 March 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 Foundations & CIHT Spring Social, Manchester, Thursday 21 March - free for members
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Flight Club, 98 King Street Manchester M2 4WU
<https://www.ceca.co.uk/north-west/event/ciht-ceca-nw-foundations-spring-social/>

Meeting with Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, Tuesday 26 March
Guy Lawson, together with members of the NW Construction & Infrastructure Alliance, will meet Leader of Manchester City Council, Sir Richard Leese

CECA NW AGM & Executive Committee meeting, Wednesday 3 April 2019
Daresbury Park Hotel, Warrington 08.30 for 09.00. All welcome, but please contact Guy Lawson to book your place.

CECA NW Foundations 2019 programme
A meeting of the group for people new to the industry took place to plan the next events for the 2019 programme. Further details will be issued shortly. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Guy Lawson.

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 - all welcome (after dinner speaker is policeman turned stand-up comedian Alfie Moore, star of BBC Radio 4's 'A Fair Cop'):
http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=138
CECA NW Annual Golf Day, Leigh Golf Club, Thursday 4 July 2019 (please note the change of date):
E: cecagolf@btinternet.com ; M: 07740 731445
CECA NW annual awards dinner, Manchester, Friday 11 October 2019:
http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=136

Meetings with Greater Manchester Highways and STAR Procurement
Briefing notes are available from the meetings that took place with Greater Manchester Highways and STAR (Stockport, Tameside, Trafford & Rochdale) Procurement. Please contact Guy Lawson for details.

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

Collateral warranties **23 April (please note the change of date)**, 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>

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: **Thursday 28 March 2019**.

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>

CECA NW - opportunity for Training Managers

David Parkes of Warrington-based Competence Matters is keen to meet CECA NW training managers to discuss the following:

- NVQ/SVQs Craft, supervisory & managerial level
- Funded Level 2 NVQs they offer across England
- The Competence Matters management portal for tracking candidates progress and how training managers/employers can benefit from this
- Training Courses and Competence Matters locations

If a meeting is of interest, please contact Guy Lawson.

-

Mind the Gap employer event Manchester, 8 May, Central Library, Manchester

The Mind the Gap half-day employer event is planned to take place on 8th May Central Library approximately 9am - 12pm/1pm. DWP will also hold a job fair in the afternoon. For details, please contact Dominic Headley: dominic@dominicheadleyassociates.co.uk

Quicker CSCS skills cards as applications move

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) is launching an online service to speed-up the card application process. The cards are used by most contractors and clients to provide proof that individuals working on construction sites have the required training and qualifications for the work they carry out.

https://www.cscs.uk.com/about/faqs/?faq_category=977

Constructing Greater Manchester Together

CITB & The Manchester Construction Skills Group will be holding a joint event (Constructing Greater Manchester Together) on Wednesday 3 April, from 8.30am to 11.30am. The event will be providing the local construction supply chain/SME's with information on business support, grants, funding, careers and insights into leading construction companies supply chain and what is expected of them.

This will be delivered by a five minute presentations from industry experts at each table and rotating around the tables until all tables have seen all presentations.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/constructing-greater-manchester-together-supporting-the-supply-chain-tickets-57491607947?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

CITB Employer Update

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

2019 Inspiring Change Awards

Becoming a finalist or winner in the Inspiring Change Awards is a great way to raise your company profile as they highlight organisations that understand the broad scope of diversity, nurture a culture of fairness, inclusion, and respect, and have taken active steps to ensure equality of opportunity in the workplace and wider community. In 2019, Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- Inspiring Change in The Workplace
- Inspiring Change in The Community
- Inspiring Change in Education
- Inspiring Change: Project Award
- Inspiring Change: SME Award
- Inspiring Change: FIR Inspiration

The project award is in recognition that many of the entries come from projects rather than businesses and the FIR Inspiration Award is to recognise individuals who have initiated positive change.

The Awards are FREE to enter. Entries need to show how initiatives are aligned to company goals, made a sustainable and positive impact on the workforce or community in which it operates and have delivered positive results. The closing date for entry is **Friday 12 April 2019**.

This year the Awards ceremony will be incorporated into a one-day Inspiring Change Conference 2019. This will be held on **Tuesday 21 May 2019** at No 11 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0AN. The conference will bring together a range of inspirational speakers from diverse backgrounds, including politicians, industry stakeholders, and representatives from a range of sectors. The Award Ceremony is sponsored by CITB and the Awards will be sponsored by major clients and other stakeholders.

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: Building After Brexit

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) has warned that the sector must act to avoid “widening the skills gap” in the face of Brexit in a report produced in collaboration with CECA and other industry bodies. The document, ‘Building After Brexit: An Action Plan’, calls for businesses to grow investment in domestic workers and drive up productivity.

<https://www.citb.co.uk/news-events/uk/2019/construction-sector-devises-plan-to-brace-for-brexit/>

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.

Policy & Industry Affairs

CECA Payment Summit, 5 June 2019

An early date for your diary - further details shortly.

Chancellor's spring statement 2019 - what's in there for infrastructure?

Borderlands Growth Deal - Up to £260 million for this innovative deal to strengthen the deep ties that bind these communities within the United Kingdom. On top of the £102 million announced recently for the **Carlisle Southern Link Road** from the Housing Infrastructure Fund, this means up to £362 million of UK government investment into the Borderlands area.

Transforming Cities Fund - £60 million of investment in 10 cities across England, from the fund announced at Budget 2017. This will fund 30 new schemes such as bus station upgrades, new cycle lanes and road improvements, supporting the wider programmes being delivered by city regions as part of the Industrial Strategy. None are in the North West.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spring-statement-2019-written-ministerial-statement>

Plan to extend road repair guarantees to 5 years

The Government has set out new plans to force utility reinstatement and pothole repair contractors to raise the guarantee on road repairs from two to five years. Under new plans to update the code of practice for reinstating a road after street works the Government will also introduce new asphalt standards to keep roads pothole-free for longer. Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has launched a consultation on increasing the guarantee on utility firms' roadworks, so that if a pothole forms as a result within five years, firms must return to bring the road surface back to normal.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reinstating-a-road-after-street-works-new-edition-of-the-code-of-practice>

CITB Apprenticeship grants increase

From 1 April 2019, CITB Attendance Grants will increase to £2,500 per year, to help employers with the costs of providing high-quality apprenticeships. CITB Achievement Grants will rise to £3,500 for employers whose apprentice successfully completes their training. This means construction employers can receive up to £14,500 for each apprentice they take on - an increase of over 30%.

<https://www.citb.co.uk/news-events/uk/2019/03/increase-in-grant-funding-for-apprenticeships/>

Experienced site workers to lose Grandfather Rights to CSCS cards

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) has confirmed it will be phasing out the Grandfather Rights scheme from 2020 and abolishing it completely from 2024.

<https://www.cscs.uk.com/applying-for-cards/industry-accreditation-withdrawal/>

Offshore wind energy to provide a third of all UK electricity by 2030

Offshore wind is set to power more than 30% of British electricity by 2030, energy and clean growth minister Claire Perry announced with the launch of the new joint government-industry offshore wind sector deal. This deal will mean for the first time in UK history there will be more electricity from renewables than fossil fuels, with 70% of British electricity predicted to be from low carbon sources by 2030 and over £40bn of infrastructure investment in the UK.

The deal will also increase the sector target for the amount of UK content in homegrown offshore wind projects to 60%, spearhead a new £250m Offshore Wind Growth Partnership to make sure UK companies continue to be competitive, boost global exports fivefold to £2.6bn per year by 2030 through partnership between the Department of Trade and industry to support smaller supply chain companies, reduce the cost of projects in the 2020s and overall system costs and provide over £4m for British business to share expertise globally and open new markets for UK industry through a technical assistance programme.

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

Highways England awards £2.8m charging point contracts

Highways England has awarded a £2.8m contract to help people take longer journeys in electric vehicles. The roads body is committed to helping improve the nation's air quality and aims to ensure 95% of its motorways and major A roads are within 20 miles of a charge point.

As part of this commitment the company has awarded contracts to BP Chargemaster and Swarco UK, which will see more than 50 electric vehicle charging points being installed across the country within the next nine months.

Places for People: Housing and infrastructure must go hand in hand

David Cowans, Group Chief Executive at Places for People, said: "There needs to be a profound shift to see social housing as a national asset like any other infrastructure... it is the only hope the government has of hitting its 300,000 homes a year target."

<https://www.placesforpeople.co.uk/about-us/news/2019/david-cowans-inside-housing-feature/>

Scottish Infrastructure Commission seeks industry input for 30-year plan

As the Infrastructure Commission for Scotland (ICS) aims to develop a 30-year strategy for improvements across the country, the group is now calling for industry stakeholders to come forward and advise them on priorities for the future. Established by the Scottish Government to provide independent, informed advice on the vision and ambition needed to meet its future economic growth and societal needs, commissioners are now keen to hear views.

The infrastructure sectors about which the ICS is interested in gaining responses include - transport, energy, water, telecoms, digital and the internet as well as housing, education, health, justice, culture and tourism, waste management, flood prevention and public services such as emergency services and resilience. Under the new National Infrastructure Commission, Scottish ministers have committed to steadily increasing annual investment to £1.56 billion more in 2025-26 than in 2019-20, meaning more than £25bn in infrastructure investment through the next parliament.

<https://infrastructurecommission.scot/page/call-for-evidence%20>

CECA: Industry Letter to Theresa May: Avoid No-Deal Brexit

CECA is a co-signatory of a letter to the Prime Minister, alongside the Association for Consultancy and Engineering, Build UK, The Construction Products Association, and the Federation of Master Builders, in which we call on the Prime Minister to ensure the Government and Parliamentarians "do their duty" and agree future trading arrangements with the European Union.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/industry-letter-to-theresa-may-avoid-no-deal-brexit/>

Brexit uncertainty sees UK construction slump into contraction

After 10 months of expansion, construction firms in the UK reported falling activity levels for February with Brexit uncertainty forcing the industry to be more cautious over new projects.

A drop in commercial building and civil engineering activity were the main factors for the poor month's recording according to the latest survey from IHS Markit and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply. Results show that growth fell from a score of 50.6 in January to 49.5 in February, meaning it is the first time construction activity fell below the 50 no-change marker since the 'Beast from the East' gripped the nation and brought ice cold temperatures and storms to the UK. A reading above 50 on the survey indicates growth.

National Apprenticeship Week: constructing career paths

National Apprenticeship Week from 4-8 March is a timely reminder that the foundations of our future built environment need to be supported by the next generation of highly-skilled employees. The skills shortage facing the construction industry is a widely documented concern, as is the need for high-quality technical training programmes to help address it.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/national-apprenticeship-week-2019>

Network Rail to keep retentions ban after restructure

Network Rail will retain its ban on retentions and enforcement of 28-day payments among suppliers after its restructure, the rail body has said.

Chief executive Andrew Haines said that most contractors won't have to duplicate their work five times under the new structure. Last month the company announced that it was dividing up its operations into five regions with separate directors each having their own responsibility for aspects including infrastructure projects.

Reinstating a road after street works: new edition of the code of practice

Consultation has begun on a new edition of the 'Specification for the reinstatement of openings in highways', a statutory code of practice for street works. It closes at **11:45pm on 6 May 2019**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reinstating-a-road-after-street-works-new-edition-of-the-code-of-practice>

£1.6 billion Stronger Towns Fund launched

The Stronger Towns Fund will be targeted at places that have not shared in the proceeds of growth in the same way as more prosperous parts of the country. It will be used to create new jobs, help train local people and boost economic activity - with communities having a say on how the money is spent.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/16-billion-stronger-towns-fund-launched>

Unite: Union demands direct employment on HS2

Unite is calling for all HS2 workers to be directly employed and an end to using payroll and umbrella companies on the project.

NIC: Annual Monitoring Report

Responding to actions taken by the government to implement National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) recommendations, Sir John Armitt has warned ministers to "not take their eye off the ball" when it comes to improving UK infrastructure. Armitt says those in responsible for delivering change have a "real and exciting chance" to ensure the UK benefits from world-class infrastructure but believes ministers to date, are favouring to enact the quickest-to-implement recommendations. He now wants to see progress on the more challenging targets.

NIC's Annual Monitoring Report looks across the six sector-specific reports that the commission has published since 2015, covering 45 recommendations to government - 42 of which have been accepted.

Of those 42 recommendations, 10 are now considered to have been fully met - including the introduction of better measuring of mobile connectivity, moves towards improving rail connections between Leeds and Manchester and efforts to deliver a smart and flexible energy system.

However, progress against the remaining 32 recommendations accepted by government has been varied. There are many areas where significantly increased momentum is required to meet the NIC's recommendations.

<https://www.nic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Monitoring-Report-2018-Final.pdf>

CITB forecast: 168,500 new jobs to be created over next 5 years (15,250 in the North West)

A five-year forecast into the industry's skills needs published by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) has shortened expectations for growth with infrastructure predicted to grow by 1.9%, down from 3.1% in last year's forecast.

<https://www.citb.co.uk/research-insight/construction-skills-network/industry-insights/>

And for details of the North West forecast:

https://www.citb.co.uk/documents/research/csn_reports_2019-2023/csk-csn-info-nwest_lo_crop.pdf

NIC: new group to put design at the heart of infrastructure

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) is starting a recruitment drive for a new group that wants to ensure designers take the lead when it comes to delivering projects within the UK. The commission wants to make the case for design experts to shape how infrastructure is planned and delivered and is calling on professionals from varying backgrounds to submit their applications.

Targets for the group will include:

- Championing design quality in the nation's infrastructure;
- Undertaking research examining the added value that design can bring to infrastructure;
- Putting in place measures to support the introduction of board level design champions for major projects;
- Developing design principles for publication by the Commission; and
- Convening discussions between and publishing advice for projects' design panel

Deadline for applications: **5pm on Friday 15 March 2019.**

<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/national-infrastructure-design-group/>

Government seeking views on English light rail potential

New tramways and other light rail systems could improve journey times in English towns and cities, while also offering a boost to UK manufacturing, the government has suggested.

It has opened a new call for evidence on how light rail transit (LRT) and other rapid transport systems could be incorporated into the urban transport networks of the future. It is also seeking views on what support would be needed to construct these systems in the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/light-rail-and-other-rapid-transit-solutions-in-cities-and-towns-call-for-evidence>

Route picked for £1.4bn section of Oxford to Cambridge expressway

Highways England has announced the route for a new road scheme between Black Cat junction in Bedfordshire and the Caxton Gibbet roundabout near Cambourne in Cambridgeshire. According to Highways England, the scheme will "improve a key east-west road link, journeys on the A1, the A421 and the A428 will be improved by a new three tier junction at the Black Cat roundabout" linking a new ten mile dual carriageway between the two areas.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/route-unveiled-for-major-new-road-and-junction-at-black-cat>

Network Rail unveils major operational shake-up

Network Rail has unveiled plans to further decentralise its management structure in one of the biggest operational shake-ups for years. The new devolved operating model will bring track and train closer together to better focus on service performance. Its planned new structure will be formed of 13 routes, increased from the current eight. The routes will be supported by five Network Rail regions, each led by a managing director. These will be Scotland, Wales & Western, London North Western, Southern and Eastern. Some previously centralised services and functions will also be devolved to region or route level enabling them to be more responsive to customers and passengers and better deliver to future plans.

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/network-rail-takes-devolution-to-the-next-level/>

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/who-we-are/putting-passengers-first/>

NIC issues call for evidence on utilities regulation

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) is seeking views on how the current utilities regulation system is working and what future changes may be required to ensure regulation supports investment and innovation while at the same time keeping costs down for consumers. The regulation study is expected to examine the future changes that may affect the regulated sectors; whether the current regulatory model encourages sufficient competition and innovation; whether there is regulatory consistency between the sectors, and the relationship between regulators and the government.

The deadline for responses is **Friday 12 April.**

<https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/future-of-regulation-study-call-for-evidence/>

Scotland halves project bank account threshold

The Scottish Government has paved the way for a dramatic increase in the use of project bank accounts by slashing the project value threshold in half. From **19 March**, public bodies must include a PBA in tender documents for public works building contracts worth £2m and over and civil engineering projects worth £5m upwards.

International Women in Engineering Day (#INWED19), 23 June 2019

The global awareness campaign, coordinated by the Women's Engineering Society (WES), aims to increase the profile of women in engineering worldwide and focus attention on the career opportunities available to girls in engineering and related industries. In 2019, WES's own centenary year, INWED will aim to inspire even greater participation across the globe, both online and through physical activities, by individuals, schools, colleges, groups and organisations. The theme will be supported by the hashtags #INWED19 and #TransformTheFuture. For more information: <http://www.inwed.org.uk/>

CCS £30bn public works framework

The Government's Crown Commercial Service has started the mega bid race for a recording-breaking Government works framework. The vast public works framework will be available for use by central Government departments and all other public sector bodies, including local authorities, blue light services and devolved bodies. It is the first time a construction works framework has been drawn up for this scale of project pipeline.

CCS Construction Works and Associated Services:

- Lot 1a: Minor building works (regional sub lots) (£0k - £3m) - £3.5bn
- Lot 1b: Minor civil engineering works (regional sub lots) (£0k - £3m) - Total value £1.5bn
- Lot 2: Construction Works and Associated Services (£3m - £10m) - £4bn
- Lot 3: Construction Works and Associated Services (£10m - £30m) - £4bn
- Lot 4: Construction Works and Associated Services (£30m - £80m) - £4bn
- Lot 5: Construction Works and Associated Services (£80m +) - £3bn
- Lot 6: Residential - £2.25bn
- Lot 7: High rise resi (regional sub lots) - £2.25bn
- Lot 8: Maritime - £1.5bn
- Lot 9: Airfields - £750m
- Lot 10: Demolition - £3bn
- Lot 11: Construction management - £250m

Interested firms have until **15 March** to submit bids. The bid pack can be accessed from the CCS website: <https://crowncommercialservice.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

New infrastructure bank post-Brexit?

The government is coming under pressure to replace funding the country will lose from the European Investment Bank (EIB) after Brexit on March 29 with peers claiming that Britain will not receive any share of the profits that the EIB has accumulated, nor any interest or dividends.

Under the prime minister's Withdrawal Agreement, the UK will receive the 3.5bn euros (£3bn) of capital it has paid into the EIB but is set to miss out on profits amounting to 7.6bn euros (£6.6bn).

The report published by the Lords EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee identifies the impact Brexit has already had on the benefits the UK receives from the EIB. In 2016, it lent a total of 7bn euros for 54 projects - this has dropped to 1.8bn euros for 12 projects in 2017 and just 932m euros for 10 projects last year. The committee has used its report to argue that Britain should give "swift and serious consideration" to creating a state-backed infrastructure bank to replace funding the country will lose.

CECA: Data Protection & Brexit - Are You Prepared?

If your organisation shares personal data with organisations in the European Economic Area (EEA), you will need to take steps to ensure you continue to comply with data protection laws if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. For UK businesses that only share data within the UK, there will be no change.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/data-protection-brexit-are-you-prepared/>

£20m fund available for future road ideas

Highways England is launching a £20m fund to develop new ideas on how future roads will be designed and maintained. Firms are invited to look at the impact of technological advances like low carbon, connected and autonomous vehicles on how the UK's transport network operates.

The competition is now open. Registration closes: **Wednesday 1 May 2019**

For more information and to apply:

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/303/overview>

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/

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>

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>

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

Chartered ICES newsletter

<http://mailshot.cices.org/Chartered%20ICES%20newsletter%20feb19.html>

Lockton Health & Safety bulletin, February 2019

<http://emailcc.com/rv/ff00473eb6971783bb5a88f9c245b45eba97f044>

News from ACAS

<https://northwest.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/76E71C711BE0293D2540EF23F30FEDED/E749B28C19AE70012C69F821C9DCC086>

North West - and the North

Manchester Airports Group £700m framework announced

MAG Group Major Capital Works Framework
Civil Construction Works (region and project value)

Lot 1a: North £3m-£10m

Lot 1b: South £3m-£10m

Lot 1c: North over £10m

Lot 1d: South over £10m

New Build and Fit Out Construction Works

Lot 2a: North £3m-£10m

Lot 2b: South £3m-£10m

Lot 2c: North over £10m

Lot 2d: South over £10m

Refurbishment Works

Lot 3a: North £3m-£10m

Lot 3b: South £3m-£10m

Lot 3c: North over £10m

Lot 3d: South over £10m

The deadline is 5 April to register an interest in bidding:

<https://esourcing.waxdigital.co.uk/MAG/DisplayModules/TradeModules/Negotiations/Opportunities/Vie%20OpportunityEvent.aspx?EventID=1363&Culture=en-GB>

United Utilities opens starting blocks for £750m Manchester and Pennines Resilience scheme

United Utilities has kicked off the procurement process for its major £750 million-plus Manchester and Pennines Resilience scheme with the announcement of an Early Contractor Involvement requirement to support project development. The water company is proposing to use the direct procurement model to deliver replacement tunnels in AMP7 and 8 for the Haweswater Aqueduct to ensure the resilience of potable water supplies to populations in Manchester and the Pennines.

United Utilities is expecting to publish a formal contract notice next month.

<https://www.waterbriefing.org/home/contracts/item/15915-united-utilities-opens-starting-blocks-for-%C2%A3750m-manchester-and-pennines-resilience-scheme>

£6bn plan for Liverpool Lime Street station

Liverpool is setting up a Station Commission to oversee delivery of a planned new £6bn station in the city centre connecting to HS2 and the Northern Powerhouse Rail network.

<https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/steve-rotheram-announces-commission-to-deliver-new-station-for-liverpool-city-centre/>

Construction Awards North West

Please find details of the Construction Awards NW - let's have the winning entry from a civil engineering contractor this year! The deadline for submissions is 5.00pm on **Friday 29 March 2019**.

<http://www.constructionawardsnw.co.uk/apply.php>

Trafford Tories add to GMSF pressure

A motion has been submitted by the local authority's Conservative group ahead of Trafford Council's meeting next week asking leader Andrew Western to pressure the Greater Manchester leadership over its proposed spatial framework. The motion features prominently the release of green belt sites in the borough, ultimately concluding that Trafford should be prepared to pursue its own Local Plan outside of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

Cuadrilla mobilises at Preston New Road

The shale gas exploration company has remobilised a range of equipment at its flagship Lancashire fracking site. The specialist kit is designed to get two existing wells ready for further hydraulic fracturing later this year. At this stage the equipment being mobilised does not include hydraulic fracturing pumps. Cuadrilla said that forecasts using flow test results from Preston New Road, near Blackpool, in January 2019 have clearly identified the size of the opportunity for the UK. The company announced the start of a three-month programme of fracking to assess the site's viability in October.

Lord Heseltine backs Everton project

Former Deputy Prime Minister Lord Heseltine has backed Everton FC's proposed move to Bramley-Moore Dock as a "golden opportunity to bring lasting change to the north of the city".

The football club is on track to submit a planning application later this year for a state-of-the-art stadium on Bramley-Moore Dock, a largely abandoned piece of dockland in the north of Liverpool which forms part of Peel Land & Property's Liverpool Waters site.

Rail partnership with Drax Power Station

A project which built specially-designed freight wagons to carry millions of tonnes of biomass a year to the UK's biggest power station and breathed new life into a disused rail yard has won another prestigious industry award and is exploring opportunities for growth.

The partnership between Drax Power Station, near Selby, in North Yorkshire and Davis Wagon Services saw a new fleet of freight wagons designed and built by WH Davis Ltd to deliver the biomass needed to produce renewable electricity for millions of homes.

<https://www.drycargomag.com/new-opportunities-created-by-multi-award-winning-power-station-rail-project>

Four Lancashire councils 'seek advice' on becoming unitary authority

Four Lancashire councils have asked the government for "advice" on how to become one "super" unitary authority. In a letter, Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale's leaders said they wanted to "pool resources" as "Pennine Lancashire".

Huddersfield waterfront plans revealed

Plans for the regeneration of Huddersfield's waterfront quarter have been revealed, including a mix of residential and commercial buildings of up to 15 storeys. SKA Developments' proposals for the Greater Waterfront Quarter include housing, business space, shops, leisure facilities, community attractions and a health centre.

Strategic Transport Plan launched in Cumbria

Transport for the North Chief Executive, Barry White, joined local civic and business leaders for a local launch of the Strategic Transport Plan. Following a pan-Northern launch in early February, the event at Carlisle Airport provided an opportunity to engage with local leaders and outline how the plans will deliver transformed connectivity for Cumbria.

Potential interventions in Cumbria include improvements to the A69, A689 and A595 including the Whitehaven Relief Road, the upgrade of the A590 together with the dualling of A66 between A1(M) and M6 and a new link to the north of Kendal. Also included are upgrades to the Furness, Lakes, Cumbrian Coast and Tyne Valley Lines.

The plan also seeks to ensure that Cumbria achieves the most out of HS2 with station improvements and increased capacity proposed along the West Coast Mainline and at Carlisle, Penrith and Oxenholme.

Also included is the Carlisle Southern Link Road, which is to receive £102m funding from Central Government, announced just a few days after the Investment Programme was formally endorsed by the Transport for the North Board.

<https://transportforthenorth.com/strategic-transport-plan-launched-cumbria/>

<https://transportforthenorth.com/wp-content/uploads/TfN-final-strategic-transport-plan-2019.pdf>

Festival Gardens receives £10m funding boost

Homes England is to provide a grant of £9.9m to facilitate the development of up to 1,500 homes at Liverpool's Festival Gardens site.

The cash injection, provided to Liverpool City Council, comes from Government's £450m Local Authority Accelerated Construction programme, and will be used to fund site remediation.

Peel plans in for £150m renewable energy plant

Peel Environmental has signed a deal with Progressive Energy to deliver a £150m bio-substitute natural gas plant at the 134-acre Protos energy park near Ellesmere Port.

The plant will generate renewable gas from up to 175,000 tonnes of bio-resources, including unrecyclable wood and refuse derived fuel. This gas will be used in the transport sector, generating enough gas to power up to 1,000 low carbon HGVs and buses every year.

A planning application has been submitted by Peel and Progressive Energy. The plant will also be configured in the future to produce renewable hydrogen, potentially linking into Cadent's plans to build a hydrogen network in the region as part of its HyNet project.

Subject to planning approval and funding, Progressive Energy's plant is due to start production in 2022. It is expected that a further eight similar facilities could be built across the UK during the 2020s.

Mersey Metro Mayor launches £10m fund for renewable energy projects

Renewable energy projects in the Liverpool city region will soon have access to a new £10m fund. Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram unveiled the fund on Wednesday as part of his drive to create a zero-carbon city region by 2040. His Green Investment Fund is part of a larger £25m Urban Development Fund supported by the European Regional Development Fund.

.... and launches Liverpool City Region apprenticeship portal

Access to apprenticeships available across the Liverpool City Region is set to get much easier as Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram launches the UK's first one-stop web portal for apprenticeships.

<https://www.apprenticeshiphub.org.uk/>

Electricity North West launches drive to bring together developers and landowners

Electricity North West - the firm that operates the region's power network today revealed it has launched a new drive to establish strategic partnerships with developers and major landowners in the region. The move aims to support the region's bid to meet the terms of the Paris Climate Change Agreement and Manchester's 2038 carbon neutral target.

A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement scheme accepted for examination

Highways England's A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement scheme has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The improvement scheme is to "significantly enhance the capacity of the junction between the A19 and A1290 in Sunderland/South Tyneside". The proposals include the construction of a new bridge to the south of the existing A1290 bridge which together with the existing bridge would result in a more traditional roundabout layout and new slip roads to connect the A19 to the south. To the north, link roads would link into the proposed Testos junction Improvement.

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/programmes/a19-testos-and-downhill-lane-junction-improvements/>

March date for WCM planning decision

West Cumbria Mining will find out this month if its plans for a new metallurgical coal mine at the former Marchon works site near Whitehaven can go ahead.

The plans cover mineral extraction over 50 years over a 689-acre site running to and beyond the St Bees coast. The £165m project includes associated development such as the refurbishment of two existing drifts leading to two new underground drifts; coal storage and processing buildings; office and change building, an access road, ventilation, power and water infrastructure and landscaping.

There is also provision for a coal loading facility and railway sidings linked to the Cumbrian Coast railway line with adjoining office and welfare facilities, along with the extension of railway underpass and permanent access on land off Mirehouse Road, Pow Beck Valley. The intention is for coal to be moved entirely by rail to UK steel making and port destinations.

Decision due on Welsh Mountain Zoo expansion

A final decision on the zoo's expansion, including a new home for its snow leopards, will be made next week after Conwy's planning committee backed the proposals against officer recommendation.

£200m biomass plant with enough energy to power Preston

Major plans could see a £200m green energy plant with the potential to power the whole of Preston. Developers say it will burn largely biomass waste generating low carbon electricity which could be sold cheaply to local businesses.

<https://www.lep.co.uk/news/business/the-200m-biomass-plant-with-enough-energy-to-power-preston-1-9605016>

Heathrow Business Summit: North West, Blackburn - 23 May

The Heathrow Business Summits provide a great platform for SMEs to get a foot in the door and capitalise on the business opportunities available at Heathrow. Promote your business to Heathrow's supply chain through face-to-face appointments on the day. Meet and network with other businesses visiting the event. Meet and network with exhibitor partners including chambers of commerce, business organisations and the Department for International Trade.

To register: heathrowbusinesssummits.admin@prospects.co.uk

Tel: 01823 362800

Proposed roads and rail link for Leeds Bradford Airport

Transport improvements for Leeds Bradford Airport have been unveiled as Leeds City Council launch a public consultation for the people of Yorkshire to have their say on. As part of the plans, three options to better road links to the airport have been published along with a parkway railway station on the Leeds to Harrogate line.

Located on the Bradford and Leeds boundary, the airport is the primary airport for Yorkshire and is one of the UK's fastest growing airports with staff having to cater for over four million passengers last year - an increase of nearly 13% in just 12 months.

With the Department for Transport (DfT) estimating this may increase to 7.1 million by 2030 and to approximately nine million passengers a year by 2050, the council is keen to reduce congestion for people travelling there.

The parkway element of the proposals would see a new station built on the existing Leeds to Harrogate line, with a short connecting spur road to give access the airport. The station would be connected to a 350-space car park and a bus interchange.

Options for road improvements include two proposed routes for a bypass created from the A65. The release of the latest details form part of a phase of public consultation which runs until **Friday 12 April**.

WYG to prepare Chorley transport strategy

Chorley Council has appointed WYG to draw up a rethink of the borough's highways and transport strategy. WYG's brief is to address challenges around the region's congestion, travel choice, and sustainability. The impact of the upcoming Central Lancashire Local Plan, set to create a large number of new homes and employment land opportunities across the region, will also be considered.

Among the options to be explored are future schemes which could provide additional capacity and connectivity in the borough's transport network.

These include investigating the links between the M6, M61, and M65, along with local road networks, and the five train stations in the borough at Chorley, Euxton Balshaw Lane, Buckshaw Parkway, Adlington, and Croston.

Liverpool bus hub to go ahead

Plans for a bus layover hub at Old Haymarket in Liverpool city centre have been approved. The proposal is part of the first phase of Liverpool's £47m City Centre Connectivity project, which focusses on re-engineering routes in and out of the city's commercial and retail districts. The first part of the roads element of this started in January, in Victoria Street.

Liverpool flyovers to be demolished over safety fears

Liverpool city centre's Churchill Way flyovers are to be demolished after an independent engineering inspection found significant defects. The two-lane, concrete structures, which were opened in 1970, were closed last September for detailed inspections after design and construction flaws were discovered. The two separate roads linking Lime Street to Dale Street (south flyover) and Tithebarn Street (north flyover), were first closed in the 1980s for repairs. Further remedial works were carried out in 2005 and 2013 as part on a regular maintenance regime.

Housing infrastructure fund unlocks south Carlisle link road

The Government has signed off nearly £250m of funding to clear the way for construction of almost 25,000 more homes. As part of the big funding package, the government will invest £157m in critical infrastructure for big schemes in Devon and Cumbria. The housing infrastructure fund loans will pay for a new motorway link road between south Carlisle and the M6, unlocking up to 10,000 new homes at St Cuthbert's Garden Village.

Two North West smart motorway projects delayed

Highways England has put back the start of two major smart motorway schemes around Manchester. The agency claims the decision to delay smart motorway starts by at least 12 months is needed to reduce congestion caused by roadworks in the region.

Galliford Try's £90m M56 job near Manchester Airport and Costain's £150m M6 contract between Warrington and Wigan had been due to start this spring.

| Revised North West smart motorway timetable | | |
|---|---|--|
| Scheme | Original start date | New start date |
| M62 junctions 10-12 (Croft to Eccles) | Under way, complete spring 2020 or before | No change |
| M56 junctions 6-8 (Manchester Airport to A556 Bowdon) | Spring 2019 | Spring 2020, or upon completion of M62 junctions 10-12 |
| M6 junctions 21a-26 (Croft to Orrell) | Spring 2019 | Deferred - new start date in due course |
| M62 junctions 20-25 (Rochdale to Brighouse) | Autumn 2019 | No change |

Cumbria stations set for series of upgrades

Railway stations on the Cumbrian coast, Lakes and Furness lines will be improved this year as part of a £15m benefits package for passengers in the North. Between now and the spring, £1.2m of upgrades will be carried out at Workington, Whitehaven, Sellafield, Barrow-in-Furness, Burneside, Staveley and Windermere stations. These will include better seating and waiting areas, revamped toilet facilities and new customer information screens.

Consultation launched on Crewe HS2 hub

Cheshire East Council has opened its six-week consultation on the development around Crewe station that could be brought about by the arrival of HS2. The draft plans for C-SHAAP, the Crewe Station Hub Area Action Plan, set out an emerging development strategy and key policies that will allow the council to set a framework to manage development. The consultation is open for six-weeks, ending at midnight on **26 March 2019**.

<https://cheshireeast-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/crewe/chsds?tab=info>

Water Industry Event - Twenty65 Conference 2019, Manchester 26 - 27 March

The Twenty65 2019 Conference takes place at the Hilton Deansgate Hotel, Manchester on 26th & 27th March. Register for attendance, or specialist one-on-one meetings to talk about stage early innovation projects: <https://twenty65.ac.uk/annual-conference>

Rivington Chase link road to unlock £262m development site

Proposals for a £12m link road to serve the wider £262m Rivington Chase development, featuring 1,700 homes, have moved forward with a planning application due to go to Bolton Council in the coming weeks. The road is due to link the 187-acre site, formerly home to the Horwich Loco Works, to the Middlebrook Retail Park, Horwich Parkway railway station, and Junction 6 of the M61.

Funded by a national Government grant, the plans for the road will be submitted this month to help enable further development at Rivington Chase, which has outline consent for 1,700 houses along with retail and leisure development. This was given the go-ahead in September 2015.

Plans in for Workington rugby and football stadium

Plans to build a new stadium in Workington for the rugby league and football club have advanced with the submission of plans to Allerdale Borough Council. The 8,000-seat stadium plan has been drawn up by architect Holmes Miller and Icen Projects on behalf of the council. Work has also been provided by specialist firms Aecom and Gleeds. While a project value has not been released the stadium is expected to cost £15m-£20m to build.

Transport for Greater Manchester's Transport Strategy 2040 (delivery 2020-2025)

Key priorities are: tackling climate change, creating a thriving economy, and supporting 'world-class connectivity that keeps Greater Manchester moving'. The Greater Manchester Strategy is supported by this 2040 Transport Strategy Delivery Plan (2020-2025) which contains a strong commitment to providing a transport system which: supports sustainable economic growth and tackles congestion; improves the quality of life for all by being integrated, affordable and reliable; protects our environment and improves air quality, and capitalises on new technology and innovation.

https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/5M1Wlyfjj2giEsaUy00yaG/c9c1665385b04d9490e5908ad01e860d/190104_Draft_Delivery_Plan_2020-2025_.pdf

Carlisle sets out next steps for UK's largest Garden Village

Carlisle City Council is looking to start the second stage of masterplanning for its 10,000-home St Cuthbert's Garden Village by the end of the month with a consultation due to be held in May. The site is one of 14 of the Government's Garden Villages across the country and sits to the south of the city centre. In terms of housing numbers, Carlisle City Council claims the site is the largest in the country with the capacity for 10,325 homes.

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.

Metrolink tram-train expansion wins Government backing

The Government has signalled its support for the potential introduction of tram-trains to expand the Metrolink network, which could see services extending to Wilmslow, Marple, and Wigan, with more detailed proposals expected to come forward before the summer.

The expansion of the Metrolink to include tram-trains was mooted alongside the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, released earlier this month.

The tram-train system, which is currently being tested for feasibility, would enable adapted Metrolink vehicles to run on the same rail lines as trains.

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

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.

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.

Tenders

South Heywood - Junction 19 Improvements

Expressions of interest close on 20/03/2019.

Contact: Jamie Cooper, Rochdale MBC, Email: jamie.cooper@star-procurement.gov.uk

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

Artificial Turf Pitch Extension and Resurface

Expressions of interest close on 22/03/2019.

Contact: Chloe Baker, Wigan Council, Email: Chloe.Baker@wigan.gov.uk

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

Durham: Framework Agreement for Civil Engineering Work from £50-500k

Expressions of interest close on 01/04/2019.

Contact: Richard Carroll, Durham County Council, Email: richard.carroll@durham.gov.uk

Register via NEPO: <https://www.nepo.org/>

Little Don Bridleway Trail - Langsett to Underbank

Expressions of interest close on 20/03/2019.

Contact: Yvette Everitt, Barnsley MBC, Email: YvetteEveritt@barnsley.gov.uk

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

....and finally

200 years since the Lancaster Canal opened in Kendal

In the eighteenth century, merchants proposed building a canal starting at Kendal and running almost due south through Lancaster to Preston. The canal finally opened in Kendal in 1819.

<https://www.lctrust.co.uk/the-canal/history>