

10 April 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 2018-19 Annual Review

Want to know what CECA NW has done over the last year? Have a look at our 2018-19 annual review (hard copies are available upon request):

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-nw-annual-review-2018-19/>

Who's who at CECA NW?

New Chairman of CECA NW, Oliver Tolputt, and new directors and members of the CECA Executive Committee are listed here: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/north-west/about-us/>

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. A first seminar is being planned for 31 May in Manchester - 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=140

In planning....

CECA NW will be holding a meeting this spring for members on housing infrastructure opportunities in the region. Also, following the CECA Payment Summit, a northern summit is being planned for later in the year. Interested parties in either or both should contact Guy Lawson.

Social value in construction survey

The Institute of Economic Development (IED), together with its partners, CECA NW, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Arup, Atkins, Commonplace, and CITB, are conducting an important research project on Social Value in Construction. The survey will close at **the end of April**, and by submitting your responses, you are giving permission for the IED and partners to analyse them. Your details will not be used for any other reason than in relation to this research work. Please click the survey link below to start: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/S8TKMZY>

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 - he is meeting the STAR team this month to progress a members' meeting later this spring.

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.

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.

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.

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

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>

Quicker CSCS skills cards as applications go online

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

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.

CITB Employer Update

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

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.

CECA & Build UK Launch First Phase of New Pre-Qualification System

The UK construction industry has taken a major step towards improved efficiency with the launch of the first phase of a new Pre-Qualification System.

CECA and Build UK have announced the launch of the first phase of the new system, which is designed to reduce inefficiencies that are costing the construction industry up to £1 billion a year.

The existing PQ system is complex and repetitive and a major barrier to improved productivity. The multitude of schemes currently in operation sees around 180,000 specialist contractors producing over two million pieces of paper every year for 5,000 contractors.

The new system will ultimately allow for greater consistency and efficiency in how companies become pre-qualified for work at the first stage.

The roll-out of this first phase of the new system includes:

- Publication of the Common Assessment Standard used to pre-qualify companies. Based on existing PQ questionnaires, including BSI's PAS 91, this covers 10 key areas and includes desktop and site-based assessment standards.
- Confirmation of the first recognised assessment bodies to certify companies against the Common Assessment Standard. These organisations are Achilles, CHAS, and Constructionline.

CECA Publishes Procurement Briefing

CECA's Procurement Group, in conjunction with Burgess Salmon, has published a briefing on "Optimising the Procurement Process for Authorities & Utilities" which is free to download.

This follows on from CECA's Procurement Report, which identified eight specific industry procurement challenges, namely:

"information requirements disproportionate to bid value"

"lack of client engagement during the procurement process"

"too many bidders"

"poor tender documents"

"frameworks that deliver less than forecasted revenue and/or include secondary competition"

"poor management of the procurement process"

"quality of feedback post-tender"

"lack of checking and enforcement of undertaking made by contractors in tender documents."

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/CECA-Burgess-Salmon-Briefing-Note-Preferences-for-Authority-Procurement-Process-April-2019.pdf>

New Construction Minister announced

The MP for Pendle in Lancashire has been given the brief after his predecessor Richard Harrington resigned last week, citing the threat of a no-deal Brexit.

Stephenson, who was first elected as Conservative MP for Pendle in May 2010, has previously been a Government whip, Lord commissioner of HM Treasury, from January 2018 to April 2019 and Assistant Government Whip from June 2017 to January 2018.

As the new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Business and Industry, he will also be responsible for Industrial Strategy delivery, sector deals, aerospace and the rail supply chain.

Contractors told to pay on time or face public works ban

Contractors are being warned to pay their supply chains on time or face being banned from winning further government contracts. Officials from the Cabinet Office have written to firms to remind them of the new rules on prompt payment, which come into force this autumn.

HS2 delays main civils start

The start of main civils work on HS2 has been put back from June to allow more time for contractors to pare down final delivery costs. Main civils was originally planned to start in November 2018. This slipped to March before being extended to June in order to provide suppliers with additional time to optimise their designs.

£2bn for Wales and Borders railway in CP6

Network Rail has allocated £2bn to the Welsh and Borders rail network over the next five years as attempts are made to improve the reliability and performance of services. The money ringfenced for the areas represents a 28% increase in the funding from the previous five-year cycle and is the first time that the specific funding plan has been developed by Network Rail Wales and Borders. With the focus on maintaining and renewing the existing railway, investment includes £27.7m to improve the railway's extreme weather resilience, £176m on track renewals and refurbishments and £135m to improve signalling in West Wales. Included in the projects is a £22m renewal of the Grade II Barmouth viaduct, and the delivery of Phase 2 of the Port Talbot re-signalling scheme to improve reliability.

Public Accounts Committee: Government must explain who is responsible for Crossrail failures

- Fixation on December 2018 delivery deadline led to warning signs being missed or ignored
- Unacceptable that DfT and Crossrail have not identified root causes of delays and cost increases
- DfT must urgently set out what consequences senior officials have faced for programme failures

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/news-parliament-2017/crossrail-progress-review-report-published-17-19/>

Thames Tideway project reports £280m increase in costs

The company building London's new super sewer has confirmed project costs are set to rise by 8% due to construction complications. Tideway said 40% of the work is now complete after the "first and most unpredictable phase of the project" was now finished. The company's revised cost estimate is now £3.8bn compared to £3.52bn originally which represents an 8% increase.

Construction buyers report another month of falling output

Construction buyers saw workloads slip for the second month in succession in March. It is the first time the bellwether IHS Markit/CIPS UK Construction Total Activity Index has recorded back-to-back falls in output levels since August 2016. The index posted 49.7 - up fractionally from 49.5 in February but still below the 50.0 no-change threshold. Buyers reported another fall in commercial work and civil engineering activity which more than offset a modest upturn in residential building.

DfT launches its 'biggest review into transport in a generation'

In what is being described as the biggest review into transport in a generation, the *Future of mobility: urban strategy* wants to pave the way for transforming the way people and goods move around cities. The review will explore regulations around new types of vehicles including e-scooters and e-cargo bike trailers, how sharing data can improve services by reducing congestion, and how journey planning and payment can be made simpler.

As part of plans to explore how transport in the UK can modernise, a competition will run parallel to the review with £90m up for grabs for cities to test innovative ideas on possible improvements.

This Future Mobility Zones Fund aims to support local leaders and industry to trial new mobility services, modes and models through the creation of up to four future mobility zones.

The regulatory review will have four new areas of focus:

- Micro-mobility vehicles and how to trial them
- Mobility as a service
- Transport data
- Modernising bus, taxis and private hire vehicles legislation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-of-mobility-urban-strategy>

Competition & Markets Authority

The Competition & Markets Authority has launched a case into the supply of construction services:

<https://www.gov.uk/cma-cases/supply-of-construction-services>

Consultation on future of infrastructure finance

The UK government will use a variety of models to encourage private investment in public infrastructure in England once the UK leaves the EU, but will not seek a "like-for-like" replacement to the now-abolished Private Finance Initiative (PFI). The government published a wide-ranging consultation on the future of English infrastructure finance alongside the chancellor's Spring Statement. The consultation does not make any formal proposals for new initiatives or new models. However, it states that "off-balance sheet" mechanisms demonstrating the same characteristics as PFI and its replacement, PF2, will not be considered. The consultation also addresses the likely "gap" in support for infrastructure once the UK leaves the EU and ceases to be a member of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/785546/infrastructure_finance_review_consultation_web_version.pdf

Escaping the jaws of death: ensuring enough water in 2050

England is facing an "existential crisis" and will not have enough water to meet demand within 25 years unless severe action is taken now, the head of the Environment Agency has warned.

Factors like climate change and population growth mean the country is facing the real prospect in a few decades of reaching the "jaws of death", according to Sir James Bevan.

The man leading the agency says in the face of water scarcity, the country must tackle both sides of the equation: reduce demand and increase supply.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/escaping-the-jaws-of-death-ensuring-enough-water-in-2050>

£201 million road repair fund to resurface extra 1,000 miles

Councils in England will be given a share of more than £200 million for road maintenance and pothole repairs. Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has announced the allocation of an extra £50 million for councils for potholes and flood resilience as well as £151 million to reward examples of councils' best practice - funding that could resurface more than 1,000 miles of road. These funds come from the £6.6 billion the government is providing in the 6 years to 2021 to improve local roads.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/201-million-road-repair-fund-to-resurface-extra-1000-miles>

...but LGA: Councils repairing potholes every 17 seconds but £10bn funding black hole remains

Despite local authorities reporting that, on average, 55% of their average annual highway maintenance is spent on carriageways, councils still need to spend a total of £9.79 billion over 10 years to bring roads "up to scratch". The Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) survey, produced by the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA), is now in its 24th year and is widely regarded as the most authoritative and comprehensive study into local road maintenance funding and condition.

The survey reveals that 1.86 million potholes were filled in during 2018/19 compared with 1.53 million in the previous 12 months. While highway maintenance budgets have increased from an average of £20.6 million to £24.5 million year-on-year.

"Missing Link" proposal unveiled for route linking Midlands and South West

Highways England has announced its planned improvement scheme for the A417 that will "upgrade the last stretch of single carriageway of the road linking the M5 with the M4 - commonly known as the 'Missing Link' - to dual carriageway", which is near Gloucester.

The improvement scheme will require development consent as it meets the thresholds for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 regime.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/missing-link-proposal-unveiled-for-route-linking-midlands-and-south-west>

Severn Trent reveals £2bn AMP7 award

Severn Trent has announced details of the first contractors it intends to use to deliver £2bn of construction projects in AMP7. The framework has been structured into four defined Lots.

- Capital Delivery Design and Build Frameworks (Lot 1)
- Three separate Capital Delivery Build Only Frameworks (Lot 2, 3 and 4)

The successful contractors for the first two lots are:

Lot 1

- Amey Utility Services Limited
- Costain Limited
- J. Murphy & Sons Limited
- Mott MacDonald Bentley Limited
- MWH Treatment Limited
- nmcn PLC
- VolkerStevin Limited & Atkins JV

Lot 2

- Barhale Limited & Doosan Enpure
- Coffey Construction Limited
- CPC Civils Limited
- Forkers Limited
- GEDA Construction Limited
- J.N. Bentley Limited
- Kier Integrated Services limited
- MWH Treatment Limited
- nmcn PLC
- VolkerStevin Limited

Ofgem sets out no-deal Brexit contingency plans

Ofgem, has published an update on its contingency plans for how the EU's regulation on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT) will apply if there is a no-deal Brexit.

https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2019/03/ofgem_remit_communications_notice_update.pdf

Social value model developed for UK government procurements

Potential social benefits that can be derived from UK government contracts will need to be considered by departments when they set criteria for the award of those contracts, under new proposals outlined by the government. The government's draft new social value delivery model sets out policy outcomes based on broad 'social value' themes that departments can strive for when developing award criteria for their contracts.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/social-value-in-government-procurement>

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/>

£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>

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>

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.

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

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/>

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/>

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>

Pinsent Masons: Energy Report

<https://pacesetters.pinsentmasons.com/energy>

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%20mar19.html>

News from ACAS

<https://northwest.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/B04ED4F2AC9750102540EF23F30FEDED/9ED5B1BE2DF0DC070CC2E775D3CF5869>

North West - and the North

Government confirms Warrington Western link road cash

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has approved the £142.5m funding deal for the Western Link, connecting the A56 at Chester Road with the A57 at Sankey Way.

The road will create a new crossing point over the Mersey, cutting congestion and opening up land for development for up to 24,000 new homes and “substantial employment opportunities” potentially including Peel’s Port Warrington. The Western Link is to join the A56 at Higher Walton, to the south of Warrington, with the A57 in Great Sankey.

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/westernlink>

Take-off for first phase of Manchester Airport’s £1bn transformation

Manchester Airport is today, April 1, celebrating the completion of the first major phase of its £1bn transformation programme. Passengers flying out of the UK’s third largest airport were this morning welcomed onto a giant new pier, which connects to Terminal 2, for the first time.

Thousands of jobs to be created at £180m logistics scheme in Warrington

Langtree and Panattoni have submitted a planning application to develop a major new employment site in south Warrington that will create around 4,100 new high-quality logistics jobs.

The £180m development would provide 288,000 square metres of new employment space if approved by Warrington Borough Council and generate £7.1m a year in new rates for investment in local services. Six 56 Warrington is on land bounded by junction 20 of the M6 and junction 9 of the M56 motorways. The submission follows a series of well-attended public consultation events and the recent approval by Warrington Borough Council of its Draft Local Plan which has identified the land for employment uses.

<https://www.langtreepp.co.uk/planning-application-submitted-for-major-employment-scheme/>

New Bus Depot planned for Warrington

A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new state-of-the-art bus depot on Dallam Lane in Warrington. If passed, the new depot would replace the existing operation on Wilderspool Causeway, which is run by Warrington’s Own Buses, the council-owned bus company.

<https://www.langtreepp.co.uk/planning-application-submitted-for-new-bus-depot-for-warrington/>

Developer chosen for £100m Deansgate station overhaul

Henry Boot Developments has been selected by Network Rail as the preferred partner for a £100m transformation of Manchester’s Deansgate railway station.

The redevelopment will see the existing grade two-listed station building retained, with works undertaken to enhance the entrance, refresh the layout and improve accessibility. There is also a wider commercial scheme planned alongside the station, although details are yet to be revealed.

Greater Manchester yet to spend £37m of Section 106 monies

Research from The Strategic Land Group has revealed Greater Manchester councils received £15.7m in Section 106 contributions for the 2017/18 financial year, although there remains £36.8m unspent across the 10 boroughs.

<https://strategiclandgroup.co.uk/developer-contributions-report/>

Hydrogen-from-plastics deal signed at Protos

Waste2Tricity has signed an agreement with Peel Environmental for a 54-acre site at the Ellesmere Port energy hub to develop a hydrogen-from-waste facility.

Demolition to open up £150m Church Wharf gateway

Derelect buildings on Bank Street in Bolton will be knocked down in the coming weeks to make way for Church Wharf, Muse’s mixed-use masterplan for an area next to the River Croal.

Beams laid for Wigan link road bridge

CECA member, Jones Bros Civil Engineering has reached its first milestone on the A49 link road, with beams installed for the first of three new bridges.

Proposed THT takeover to unlock £4bn of investment

Trafford Housing Trust (THT) looks set to be acquired in a move which will unlock £4bn of investment in the North West and creating 20,000 homes. L&Q has confirmed it is in talks to buy the business, which will see THT become a wholly-owned subsidiary. It is anticipated that the acquisition will complete in June 2019.

£700m Teesside gas power station

The government has given the green light to build a £700m gas-fired power station in Middlesbrough. Sembcorp Utilities is behind plans to build the 1.7GW Tees combined cycle power plant on land at the Wilton International manufacturing site on Teesside.

The project will utilise existing gas and national grid connections on the site of the former Teesside Power Station, which was demolished six years ago. Taking more than three years to build, the new gas-fired power station will employ up to 1,000 during the construction phase.

University acquires land for high speed rail facility

A ten-acre plot at the Gateway 45 Leeds development has been bought by the University of Leeds for a new engineering and technology campus specialising in high speed rail research and development.

Network Rail: five year £5.7bn investment in LNW

Just days before Network Rail enters its next five-year funding cycle, its London-to-Carlisle region has unveiled a £5.7bn plan to keep services running smoothly along Europe's busiest mixed-used railway. The London North Western (LNW) region runs the railway infrastructure in the Chilterns, West Midlands, North West, Merseyside, Lancashire and Cumbria - accounting for 24% of the country's railway network. The West Coast main line which features prominently in the network connects main cities like London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow.

In its funding package for the five years to 2024, government has given LNW, otherwise known as the "backbone of Britain", £5.7bn for its vital operations, maintenance and renewals activities supporting the region's business vision of "one team delivering brilliant service for customers and taxpayers." Money within that funding pot will go towards railway renewals (replacing track, bridges, points, embankments and structures), major resignalling and track remodelling at Crewe on the West Coast main line and the delivery of HS2.

New trans-Pennine roads study announced

Highways England is to lead a £300,000 study looking at major improvements to road links between the M65 in East Lancashire and parts of Yorkshire. The study - due to start in April - will consider what enhancements could be made to road connections between the end of the M65 at Colne and communities like Skipton in North Yorkshire and Keighley and Bradford in West Yorkshire.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-trans-pennine-roads-study-announced>

A66 Northern Trans-Pennine scheme SME workshop, 9 May 2019

The A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Scheme invites you to attend a SME workshop event at the following Darlington address on **Tuesday 9 May**:

Darlington Mowden Park Rugby Arena, The Northern Echo, Neasham Road, Darlington DL2 1DL

This workshop will aim to identify and understand the benefits and mechanisms that need to be in place to support and enable better SME contribution on the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project, through working groups and discussion groups.

Please can you let us know the attendee names (Maximum 2 per supplier), via a message on this Bravo ITT, by **Thursday 25 April**.

Lunch will be provided, please let us know of any dietary requirements.

We will issue an agenda closer to the time.

Following the event, any questions and answers from the session will be posted on this Bravo ITT for anyone registered to access.

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

...also A66 bidders' one-to-one meetings, Manchester

The A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project Team invites all suppliers who are interesting in bidding for the Project as a totality or as a JV to attend a one-to-one session to discuss your responses to the project questionnaire you responded to in greater detail.

These sessions will be held on **Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 April 2019** and each session will be for a duration of up to 45 minutes.

These will be held at: Malmaison, 1-3 Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1LZ

Please can you let us know your preferred date and the attendee's names, via a message on this Bravo ITT, by **Thursday 11th April**.

The slots times will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Following the event, any questions and answers from the session will be posted on this Bravo ITT for anyone registered to access.

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

Planning consent for £120m Stockport bus station

Plans to transform Stockport bus station into a modern transport interchange with a roof top park above the bus station have gained planning. The £120m scheme also includes a 17-storey tower of flats and offices and a new cycle and pedestrian bridge to link the interchange with Stockport rail station.

Construction of the new interchange scheme could start by spring next year, with completion estimated for 2023. Located alongside the A6 and Mersey Square, the interchange will be funded by Transport for Greater Manchester, Stockport Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

One NW site shortlisted for regional Heathrow construction hub

Heathrow Airport has revealed 18 sites left in the running to become construction hubs for the third runway project, one of which is in the North West: Mckeaning (East Coast West Cumbria Ltd), Lillyhall Industrial Estate, Workington.

BCEGI signs deal for £250m Bolton shopping centre rebuild

Chinese contractor Beijing Construction and Engineering Group International has agreed to fund the redevelopment of Bolton's Crompton Place shopping centre. The mixed-use project is the flagship in Bolton's £1.2bn town centre regeneration plan put together by real estate investment and development specialist Midia and Bolton Regeneration Limited. The shopping centre and surrounding area will now be converted into a new retail, leisure, office and residential destination while opening the streetscape to provide pedestrian links to Bradshawgate.

£15m station improvement work

Stations across Greater Manchester and Merseyside will see improvements this year as part of a £15m investment by Network Rail. Between now and late spring 2019, £1.38m of upgrades will be delivered at Wilmslow, Wigan Wallgate, St Helens Central, Glossop, Cheadle Hulme and Heaton Chapel stations. The upgrades will include improved seating and waiting areas, new customer information screens and refurbished toilet facilities. The stations being upgraded are on lines that have suffered poor reliability and are serviced by trains in dire need of replacement.

£4m safety project keeps trains online in west Cumbria

A £4 million project is underway above the coastal railway line, near Whitehaven in west Cumbria. Up to fifty thousand tonnes of soil is being removed from a steep hillside at Lowca to prevent landslips above the tracks.

North West coastal communities share in £9.8m funding boost

People living in coastal communities across the North West will benefit from almost £10m from Government funds awarded to 11 projects to help develop and improve tourist attractions, create jobs and promote socio-economic growth.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-announces-over-36-million-for-the-great-british-coast>

National Cycle Network revamp gets underway with £21m from DfT

The DfT has announced funding of £21m to kick-start a major upgrade of the National Cycle Network (NCN). Plans to improve the quality of the tracks will be managed by the charity Sustrans, which has earmarked an initial 50 'Activation Projects' for completion by 2023. This forms the first stage of Sustran's long-term strategy to improve the network launched last year.

Sunderland road upgrade

Roads Minister Jesse Norman has announced that a stretch of A1231 road between the new Northern Spire bridge and the city centre, will be upgraded to a dual carriageway. The £70.2 million project is the third phase of improving journeys along the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor and will support regeneration of sites both sides of the river as well as 1,000 new homes.

Woodhouse Colliery Planning Application approved

Cumbria County Council (CCC) has formally granted planning approval to West Cumbria Mining (WCM) to develop its Metallurgical Coal Project, which will be known as Woodhouse Colliery - a new underground mine, located on a brownfield site, to the south west of Whitehaven in West Cumbria.

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.

<https://www.westcumbriamining.com/local-news/woodhouse-colliery-planning-application-press-statement/>

Sisk on board for Isle of Man ferry terminal

Sisk has been picked for a £20m contract for Liverpool's Isle of Man ferry terminal at Princes Half Tide Dock with construction due to get under way in July.

Trafford set to approve £2.6m cycling spend

A £2.6m cycling and walking improvement package for a route between Urmston and Sale Water Park will go before Trafford Council's executive with a recommendation for approval.

The plans, which are being managed by One Trafford - the council's partnership with Amey - will build on existing infrastructure, upgrading cycling facilities near the M60 and linking Urmston and Sale Water Park to the Mersey Valley Visitors Centre and Jackson's Boat Bridge.

The proposed route will run between Trafford and Manchester and incorporates Jackson's Boat Bridge, which connects the two boroughs over the river Mersey.

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://sourcing.waxdigital.co.uk/MAG/DisplayModules/TradeModules/Negotiations/Opportunities/ViewOpportunityEvent.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>

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

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.

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.

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

Stoke: Capital Highways Works Multiple Lots Framework

Expressions of interest close on 18/04/2019.

Contact: Debbie Cramphorn, Stoke on Trent City Council, Email: debbie.cramphorn@stoke.gov.uk

Leicestershire: Highways Minor Works Top Up 2019

Expressions of interest close on 26/04/2019.

Contact: Devun Mason, Leicestershire County Council, Email: devun.mason@leics.gov.uk

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

Leicester: Mansfield Street Link Road and Improvement Scheme

Expressions of interest close on 13/05/2019.

Contact: Jigna Dhorajioa, Leicester City Council, Email: jigna.dhorajioa@leicester.gov.uk

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

Whaley Bridge: Earth Reinforcement and Wall Repair Buxton Rd

Expressions of interest close on 10/05/2019.

Contact: High Peak BC and Staffordshire Moorlands DC, Email: procurement@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Skipton: Canal Waterfront Improvements

Expressions of interest close on 03/05/2019.

Contact: Jonathan Austin, Craven District Council, Email: jonathan.austin@pendle.gov.uk

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

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

Expressions of interest close on 15/04/2019.

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

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

Also - more details for the following can be provided upon request:

- Wigan: Carriageway Resurfacing Works 2019/20
- St Helens: Sutton Manor Country Park - DREAM Statue - Cleaning and Repair
- Preston: Infirmary Canal Bridge Repainting
- Preston: Tawd Valley Cycleway - Flexible Pavement Surfacing
- Lancaster: Edward Roberts Court Works
- Ormskirk: Footpath and Associated Landscape Works
- Clitheroe: Primrose Lodge De-Silting
- Mansfield: Ground Stabilisation Works by Drilling & Grouting

....and finally

Landmark new canal bridge set to link North Glasgow communities

A landmark new footbridge over the Forth & Clyde Canal in Glasgow is set to permanently link three communities in the north of the city for the first time since the waterway opened in 1790.

A planning application for the new Stockingfield Bridge has been submitted, with construction expected to commence this autumn. The project, delivered by Scottish Canals with funding from Sustrans and the Glasgow City Council Vacant Derelict Land Fund, will provide a new traffic-free link between the communities of Maryhill, Gilshochill and Ruchill - as well as spectacular views over the city.

<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/news/stockingfield-bridge/>