

24 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 Summer Seminar, Friday 31 May 2019

CECA North West Foundations Group would like to invite anyone relatively new to the industry, or starting their career, to attend an afternoon lunch and seminar, followed by a drinks event in Manchester. The seminar will focus on Design and Wellbeing within Civil Engineering. It is free to attend, and takes place from 13.00 to 17.00, at the Manchester Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. To book your place:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-foundations-summer-seminar-drinks-event-tickets-60458564193>

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> There is also a shorter version we have just produced too: <https://youtu.be/4CiP7SE5lrw>

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):

Web: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-nw-ices-golf-day-4-july-2019/> 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. Now that planning for the west Cumbria colliery has been approved, a meeting will be arranged for CECA NW members later in the year - further details in due course.

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

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.

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

Manchester College Plant & Civils Schools Awareness event, 26-27 June 2019

CPUK Civils and Remediation are leading a Plant & Civils Awareness Event - 26th and 27th June 2019 - sessions start at 09.30 and 14.15; Manchester College, Openshaw Campus, Ashton Old Road, Openshaw, Manchester M11 2WH. Come along and take advantage of this opportunity to promote our industry to students from Greater Manchester (please see flyer attached for more details).

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

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>

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 September 2019 (please note the change of date)

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>

£400m Eastern Highways Framework up for renewal

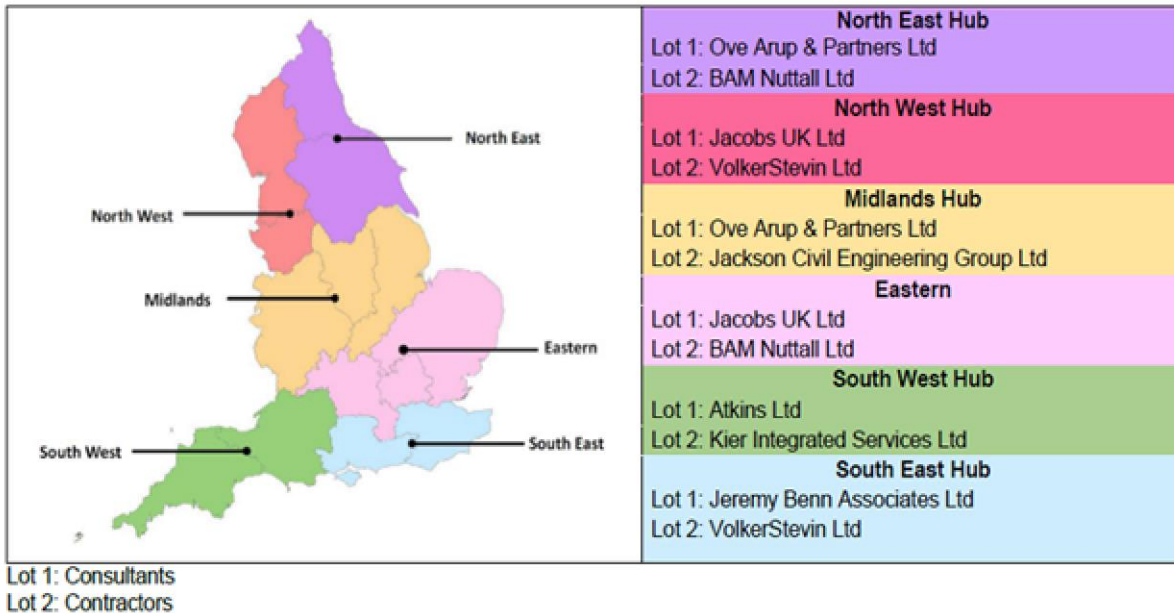
An alliance of 11 local highways authorities in the East of England is set to invite bids for their third generation Eastern Highways Alliance Framework. Essex County Council is leading the procurement for the local authorities and plans to formally start the tender race in June. For more information email Dawn Gower at the council team: procurement.team@essex.gov.uk

Bidders' day for M4 Newport £185m enabling works

The Welsh Government is calling up firms to attend a bidders' day ahead of inviting tenders for enabling works for the proposed £1.3bn M4 corridor project around Newport. The public inquiry stage for the scheme to re-route a section of the M4 motorway has now been completed and a decision on whether to proceed to detailed design is anticipated shortly. Interested parties should register their interest by emailing Transport Procurement and requesting an information pack: TransportProcurement@gov.wales

£2.6bn Environment Agency flood and coastal framework announced

BAM Nuttall, Jackson Civil Engineering and VolkerStevin retain places as preferred contractors, joined by Kier Integrated Services for the first time. The Environment Agency expects to spend around £1.5bn through the framework over four years. The option to extend for a further four years takes the total projected spend to £2.3bn.



Majority of SMEs expect 2019 recession

More than half of small and medium-sized construction enterprises are bracing themselves for a recession in 2019, a survey has found.

Analysis of 104 construction SMEs by Bibby Financial Services found companies had started the year with the gloomiest outlook since 2014.

In addition to 56 per cent expecting a recession, 28 per cent said economic uncertainty meant they would not be investing in their businesses over the next three months. This was up from 17 per cent at the start of 2018.

<https://www.bibbyfinancialservices.com/about-us/news-and-insights/news/2019/smes-predict-brexit-recession>

NIC tells government to ban sale of new diesel HGVs by 2040

Diesel HGVs should be making way for hydrogen and battery alternatives, to reduce the climate impact of freight, a new report has said. According to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), government should be looking to ban the sale of new diesel HGV lorries no later than 2040 so the freight industry is prepared and ready to invest in greener technologies. NIC chair Sir John Armitt believes clean technology alternatives like hydrogen are “well advanced”, meaning there is no excuse for ministers to not set out how they plan to support the transition within the next two years.

ICG lead drive to eliminate site accidents

Major clients are joining forces to push for a step change in the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone involved in big UK infrastructure projects.

Over the next 12 months representatives from the industry’s major clients, contractors and supply chain have agreed to work together to tackle the causes of illness and injury in the sector.

The initiative has been driven by the Infrastructure Client Group (ICG), which represents some of the country’s largest client organisations.

ICG members include EDF Energy, Environment Agency, Heathrow, Highways England, HS2, National Grid, Sellafield Ltd, Tideway and Transport for London.

Turner & Townsend International Construction Market Survey 2019

The consultancy has called for greater investment in new technology and methods to ensure the UK remains competitive for investment. The international construction market survey 2019 shows that construction inflation rose 2.1% in the UK capital, with average build costs now standing at an average of £2,880 per square metre.

By comparison, costs in key European commercial centres have started to soar as construction activity in these markets heats up. Construction inflation in Amsterdam rose by 8.8% during 2018, while Dublin saw prices increase by 7%. Berlin and Frankfurt - both seen as competitors to the City of London for financial organisations once the UK leaves the European Union - have seen inflation rise by 4.7%.

<http://www.turnerandtowntsend.com/en/insights/international-construction-market-survey-2019/>

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.

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

Also, please find a link to CECA's survey on this:

This is a link to a survey on the Infrastructure Finance Review for forwarding to members:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/InfrastructureFinanceReview>

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>

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>

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/>

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/>

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

£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

News from ACAS

<https://northwest.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/FB76E52E6DD5D1092540EF23F30FEDED/36062D723E382E58405DC10595964AA8>

North West - and the North

Cheshire East to green light £59m Middlewich bypass

The 1.7-mile road, designed to unlock major employment sites to the south of the town centre, could get under way in 2020 with Cheshire East Council to sign off the latest stage of the project **next week**. The proposed road, valued at around £58.5m, will run from the Salt Cellar roundabout on the A54, to Booth Lane, south of Middlewich. The single carriageway road is expected to unlock significant amounts of housing and employment land south of the town.

New £2bn civils framework for Yorkshire & the Humber

A new £2bn civils framework covering Yorkshire and the Humber has launched a call for tenders. Local authorities in the region have committed to procuring major civil engineering projects worth more than £10m each through the new framework.

The launch was prompted by the success of the £1bn YORcivil 2 framework, which went live in 2017. A spokesman for East Riding council, which is procuring the new framework, said lots on YORcivil 2 for schemes worth more than £10m had already hit their value limits, which created the need for an additional framework covering major projects.

Schemes expected to be procured through the new deal include maintenance and construction of roads, bridges, flood alleviation schemes and public realm.

The framework will run for an initial four years with the possibility of extension for a further two years. The deadline for tenders is early June and eight contractors will be appointed in September.

Go-ahead given to acquire land for important Lancashire road scheme

The proposed scheme, which will link the west side of the city to the M55 motorway, is the biggest new road programme in the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal.

First phase of £1.1bn Mayfield moves forward

A planning application for the first phase of the project next to Manchester's Piccadilly station will be submitted this summer, featuring a central park, 90,000 sq ft of offices, and a multi-storey car park.

Plans revealed for huge Lancashire site plan

Plans for a major £250m development scheme in South Ribble which would create more than 3,000 jobs have been revealed. Dubbed Lancashire Central, the 160-acre site sits alongside the M6 and M65.

University of Liverpool set to unveil £1bn estate plan

The University of Liverpool is to unveil a £1bn vision to expand its estate over the next 15 years. A masterplan drawn up by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios will be unveiled for public consultation at the end of the month. The masterplan sets out a new central green on the Liverpool campus, together with plans to revitalise existing courtyards. The University also plans to remove small, car parks in the centre of the Liverpool campus and replace these with three multi-storey car parks towards its perimeter.

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/>

Volker Stevin HSEQ Expo at Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston on Tuesday 11th June 2019

The event will be open from 09:00 until 16:00, with a series of presentations throughout the day (schedule to be confirmed nearer the date). You can drop in at any time, for as long as you like, to browse the exhibitors' stalls or listen to one of the talks.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uq94Gl2EHkyr_ADOWCFI32gDRrUHc4FCj1UB_t9i56xUOFoxWTBJMfdZRFNTOFc5T045M0s3V1pZNi4u

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.

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.

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, 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 the acquisition will complete in June 2019.

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>

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.

£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.

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>

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.

£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.

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 Sustrans' long-term strategy to improve the network launched last year.

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.

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.

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

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.

Jobs

H&S Advisor

Location: Head office based in Middleton, but extensive travel to sites will be required.

Bemus Construction Services Limited provide bespoke groundworks and civil engineering solutions for a range of clients. We operate as both a Principal Contractor and a Tier One Contractor working in partnership with some of the UK's largest construction companies and developers. The general scope of our service includes earthworks, remediation, demolition, foundations, reinforced concrete, highways, drainage, hard landscape works and Multi Utility installations.

Key responsibilities:

- Complete site safety audits and corresponding paperwork including monitor that corrective actions are in place and when they are completed
- Outline safe operational procedures which identify and take into account all relevant hazards
- Ensure working practices & policies are safe and comply with legislation
- Prepare health and safety strategies and develop internal policy for Head Office & site
- Carry out regular site inspections to check policies and procedures are being properly implemented;
- Monitoring & ensuring completion of all health & safety paperwork generated from site (RAMS, plant & equipment inspections, temporary works etc.)
- Ensuring company insurance policies and documents are legally compliant and up to date
- Recording & investigating accidents & incidents
- Construction phase plans
- Keep up to date with new legislation and maintain a working knowledge of all Health and Safety Executive (HSE) legislation and any developments that affect the employer's industry;
- Contact with external professional advisors, partner organisations, contractors and Health and Safety agents as required
- Deliver workshops, new starter inductions and training
- Risk Assessment & Method Statement Management
- Attending client health & safety forums / meetings
- Training needs analysis for all staff
- Managing the training budget for H&S in coordination with the SHEQ Manager
- Create & implement the H&S strategy for the company

Person Specification

- Qualified to NEBOSH standard or equivalent
- Knowledge of OHSAS 18001 / ISO9001 / ISO14001(desired but not essential)
- Experience and understanding of health, safety, quality & environmental issues in construction.
- Detailed knowledge of the construction procedures and processes.
- Methodical approach to duties
- Presentation skills
- Pleasant and confident manner
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Organisational skills and workload prioritising.

Salary: £30k-£45k DOE

Bemus, Brooke House, Morton Street, M24 6AN, 01706 627055 construction@bemus.co.uk

Tenders

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.eastmidtenders.org/>

Leicester: Mansfield Street Link Road and Improvement Scheme

Expressions of interest close on 13/05/2019.

Contact: Jigna Dhorajia, Leicester City Council, Email: jigna.dhorajia@leicester.gov.uk

Register via East Mids Tenders: <https://www.eastmidtenders.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

YORcivil Major Works Contractors Framework Agreement

Expressions of interest close on 03/06/2019.

Contact: Mark Ives, East Riding of Yorkshire, Email: mark.ives@eastriding.gov.uk

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

Barnsley: District Heating Mains Replacement Programme

Expressions of interest close on 30/04/2019.

Contact: Jane Lee, Barnsley MBC, Email: jane.lee@nps.co.uk

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

Newcastle: Loadman Street Earthworks

Expressions of interest close on 24/05/2019.

Contact: Chris Rush, Newcastle City Council, Email: Chris.Rush@newcastle.gov.uk

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

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

- Sunderland: Dock gates refurbishment
- Isle of Man: Douglas Airport apron refurbishment works
- Spennymoor: Merrington Lane infrastructure works
- Hartlepool: Civil Engineering & Highways Works and Coastal Protection Works
- Cumbria: Construction of a Minewater Treatment Facility at Nent Hags
- 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

London biggest 'concreteberg' found in a north London sewer

The blockage, caused by people pouring concrete into drains, is the largest that Thames Water has ever seen. Over time it has built up to become at least 100 metres long and weighing 105 tonnes. Residents have been told the 'concreteberg' will take at least two months to remove.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErpAKWqIgL4>