

3 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](mailto:guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk) or mobile 07703 585027.

### Civil Engineering Contractors' Association North West news

#### Contact details

The office address is: CECA North West, The White House, Wilderspool Business Park, Greenalls Avenue, Warrington WA4 6HL Email: [guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk](mailto:guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk); Tel: 07703 585027. Although the office is not manned full time, I can be contacted on the above email and mobile number. We are also on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CECANW>

### Free and discounted services for members - what can we do for you?

CECA NW always wants to make sure it delivers the services that members want. So, please tell us what your priorities are. We are always looking for ways to enhance the services CECA NW offers to members, which currently include:

- Legal services (see below)
- Training
- Tendering support
- Market intelligence
- Lobbying

But, please contact Guy Lawson if there are any specific areas where we can be of assistance.

#### CECA NW Legal Advice Service

Willow Contracts has provided very high quality advice to CECA NW members over the last year - and their support and expertise for legal and contractual matters is highly recommended. The email address exclusively for members is [CECAsupport@willowcontracts.co.uk](mailto:CECAsupport@willowcontracts.co.uk) and this will automatically contact Chris Hutchinson and his colleague. For the telephone service, the dedicated number is 01924 919392. In the event that the call cannot be taken any voicemail left is automatically routed to Chris's mobile phone. Call costs I am advised are at standard rates.

#### Tendering workshops

Members are invited to contact Guy Lawson for 1-2-1 tendering workshops, where he will advise on PQQs and ITTs, eg on how to present socio-economic and CSR data as effectively as possible. This is a free service to CECA NW members. Please contact him at the above number or email.

### **CECA NW 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/>

### **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](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](mailto:cecagolf@btinternet.com) ; M: 07740 731445

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

[http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event\\_id=136](http://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=136)

### **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. Our goal is to understand more deeply what is currently being delivered, why, and by who, and what barriers and challenges to improving social value outcomes need to be addressed. As part of this, we also want to capture and share best practices in the final report, which will be launched at a special conference in the Autumn, planned to coincide with a meeting of the new All Party Parliamentary Group for Economic Development.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 contactors 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](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](mailto: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.

### Construction minister quits over Brexit

Construction minister Richard Harrington was among three ministers who resigned to vote against the Government over Brexit.

### 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](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>

### **£450m Midland Metro extension update**

The new metro line connecting Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham has finally got the go-ahead after securing the funding needed for construction. Work is expected to get underway later this year with the project projected to trigger 2,000 new homes a year, almost one million square feet of prime commercial space and 34,000 permanent jobs.

Funding for the scheme has been approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). After originally being predicted to cost £370m, estimates jumped up by £80m to £450m once costing analysis was undertaken but city leaders believe an increase in the number of people paying council tax from the extra new homes that could be built will bring in £580m. Once up and running, residents will be able to take advantage of up to 17 new stops along the 11 kilometres of track. The new system will also reduce journey times by half compared to travelling by bus.

### **Southampton to London pipeline route confirmed**

Esso has confirmed the route for its replacement underground pipeline project.

The project would require development consent from the Secretary of State for Energy as it meets the thresholds for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 regime.

Esso's project proposals are to "replace 90km of [its] 105km underground aviation fuel pipeline that runs from our Fawley Refinery near Southampton, to [its] West London Terminal storage facility in Hounslow.

### **Balfour Beatty JV wins £1.5bn central railway alliance**

A Balfour Beatty-led joint venture has been named preferred bidder for Network Rail's £1.5bn Central Track Alliance contract. Balfour Beatty has an 80% share in the ten-year alliance which will be responsible for the development, design and delivery of track renewals and crossings, as well as associated infrastructure works across the London North West, London North East and East Midland routes. Atkins has a 10% share and French railway specialist TSO hold a 10% share in the team.

### **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](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>

### **Plan to extend road repair guarantees to 5 years**

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

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

### **CITB Apprenticeship grants increase**

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

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

### **Experienced site workers to lose Grandfather Rights to CSCS cards**

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

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

### **£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](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/](http://www.cpa.uk.net/sfpsgdumpers/)

### **Doing business with Sellafield (LINC and CTM update)**

LINC with Sellafield Ltd has now transitioned over to the CTM system. In order to qualify for LINC in CTM please either login with your existing details or if you are new to CTM register as a 'new supplier' and navigate to RFQ 10536 - LINC Qualification.

<https://sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=SELLAFIELD>

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

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

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

### **Homes England launches Strategic Plan 2018/19 - 2022/23**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/752686/Homes\\_England\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_AW\\_REV\\_150dpi\\_REV.pdf](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.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/72018CE403559E772540EF23F30FEDED/C40BBAE3F3472508948D468F162BC46E>

## North West - and the North

### 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>

### **Burnham: Not either/or between HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail**

The mayor of Greater Manchester has insisted that bringing HS2 to the north is vital for the role it would play in pushing its regional transport needs to the front of the queue.

Andy Burnham's remarks come as the new HS2 chair Allan Cook visited Manchester for the first time in the role, as both men underlined the benefits of HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail.

They agreed that only by linking both transport schemes would Greater Manchester reap the awards of at least 40,000 new jobs and 13,000 new homes to the local economy.

HS2 is scheduled to reach Manchester by 2026, with full operations earmarked for 2033. As part of plans Manchester's Piccadilly station would be completely rebuilt. Passengers could eventually see a new HS2 terminus on top of a new Metrolink stop, together with a new boulevard connecting three public places, a park, separate bus terminus and taxi ranks.

Designs released by Manchester City Council focus on the idea of it being "One Station", meaning that HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail will be fully integrated into the existing station area.

Both Burnham and Cook believe HS2 is key to unlocking the Northern Powerhouse Rail network and will provide the foundation on which NPR ambitions can be realised.

### **Commission announced to develop £6bn Liverpool station**

Steve Rotherham, the Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, announced the formation of a Station Commission chaired by Denise Barrett-Baxendale, the chief executive of Everton Football Club, to oversee the project, which will link the city to the future HS2 rail link and Northern Powerhouse Rail.

### **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.

### **KPMG: North West economy shows resilience against Brexit headwinds**

The North West economy has continued to be resilient despite the lack of clarity around Brexit, according to KPMG. The firm's latest quarterly economic outlook for the UK shows that the ongoing uncertainty and headwinds have resulted in a downgrade of the country's short-term outlook optimism.

<https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/uk/pdf/2019/03/economic-outlook-march-2019-fog-in-channel.pdf>

### **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.

### **NPIF reaches £100m milestone**

The Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund (NPIF) has now directly invested £100m in SMEs across the region in deals that have attracted an additional £84m from the private sector. The £400m investment fund was launched in 2017 by the British Business Bank using cash from the European Regional Development Fund, HM Government and the European Investment Bank.

### **Notice of preliminary meeting on A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool Improvement Scheme**

A 'Rule 6' letter published by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) indicates that a preliminary meeting will take place on **9 April 2019**, marking the start of the examination into Highways England's A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool Improvement Scheme for "up to 5km of new two lane dual carriageway road connecting Windy Harbour Junction to Skippool Junction". Gareth Symons has been appointed as a single lead examiner. The Rule 6 letter sets out Gareth Symons initial assessment of the principal issues to consider, his procedural decisions and the draft examination timetable which is scheduled to close on 9 October 2019. HE's £100m proposal, to bypass the existing A585, has been put forward as part of the Government's £15bn Road Investment Strategy.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a585-windy-harbour-to-skipool-improvement-scheme/>

### **Plans in for new North East coal mine**

The Dewley Hill surface mine is a joint planning application put forward to Newcastle City Council by Banks Mining, part of the County Durham-headquartered Banks Group, and Ibstock Brick, the owners of the Throckley Brickworks.

### **Council's £26.5m bid to build new road linking HS2 hub with homes**

A major new road could be built in Nottinghamshire to link the HS2 hub in Toton with new homes at Chetwynd Barracks, while also relieving congestion around Bardills Island on the A52.

### **York Central scheme gains outline approval**

Outline planning has been granted to develop over 2,500 homes and a new commercial district next to York railway station. More than £155m in funding is in place to fund infrastructure works needed to unlock the 45ha site, which is one of the largest brownfield city centre sites in the UK.

### **Morgan Sindall wins 20-year Sellafield civils deal**

Morgan Sindall is among four teams selected as preferred bidders for a 20-year partnership set to revolutionise project delivery at Sellafield. The new Programme and Project Partners model will establish long-term relationships to deliver the site's decommissioning programme more safely, efficiently and cost effectively. This will consist of a complex portfolio of construction projects, stretching over many decades with an estimated spend of £4.5bn. Instead of procuring supply chains for each major project, Sellafield's in-house team will now work collaboratively with its four partners.

#### *Preferred bidders for Sellafield decommissioning*

- Integration - Kellogg Brown and Root (est value £750m)
- Design and Engineering - Wood Nuclear (est value £750m)
- Civils Construction Management - Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure (est value £1.5bn)
- Process Construction Management - Doosan Babcock (est value £1.5bn)

The selected firms will work together to deliver three initial major projects. The SPRS Retreatment Plant, SIXEP Contingency Plant and Replacement Analytical Project, together estimated at £1bn - £1.7bn). Further major projects in the pipeline still need more detailed project definition and are valued at £1.9bn-2.8bn.

### **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://esourcing.waxdigital.co.uk/MAG/DisplayModules/TradeModules/Negotiations/Opportunities/VieWOpportunityEvent.aspx?EventID=1363&Culture=en-GB>

### Consultation on major A1 highways scheme

Highways England is consulting on the proposed 'A1 Northumberland, Alnwick to Ellingham' scheme following previous consultations in 2016 and the announcement of a "preferred route" in 2017. The current consultation will close on **8 April 2019**.

The scheme, as it meets the thresholds for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 regime, will require development consent. According to the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) website, a formal application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) is expected in Q4 2019. The highways improvement scheme would see, if granted development consent by the Secretary of State for Transport, approximately "8km of online widening between the single carriageway north of Denwick and the dual carriageway south of North Charlton". The road would be upgraded to a dual carriageway and there would be improvements to Charlton Mires Junction.

[https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a2e/consult\\_view/](https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a2e/consult_view/)

### 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>

### Bradford launches strategy to capitalise on high speed rail

A new strategy has been launched setting out the economic and social benefits of bringing Northern Powerhouse Rail to Bradford city centre. Bradford Council has released its Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) Growth Strategy at the MIPIM property conference.

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/browse-all-news/press-releases/bradford-launches-bold-northern-powerhouse-rail-growth-strategy-to-grasp-opportunities-of-high-speed-rail/>

### **Rail partnership with Drax Power Station**

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

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

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

### **Peel plans in for £150m renewable energy plant**

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

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

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

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

### **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](mailto:heathrowbusinesssummits.admin@prospects.co.uk) Tel: 01823 362800

### **£200m biomass plant with enough energy to power Preston**

Major plans could see a £200m green energy plant with the potential to power the whole of Preston.

Developers say it will burn largely biomass waste generating low carbon electricity which could be sold cheaply to local businesses.

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

### **Proposed roads and rail link for Leeds Bradford Airport**

Transport improvements for Leeds Bradford Airport have been unveiled as Leeds City Council launch a public consultation for the people of Yorkshire to have their say on. As part of the plans, three options to better road links to the airport have been published along with a parkway railway station on the Leeds to Harrogate line. Located on the Bradford and Leeds boundary, the airport is the primary airport for Yorkshire and is one of the UK's fastest growing airports with staff having to cater for over four million passengers last year - an increase of nearly 13% in just 12 months.

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

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

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

### **WYG to prepare Chorley transport strategy**

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

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

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

### **Rivington Chase link road to unlock £262m development site**

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

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

### **Plans in for Workington rugby and football stadium**

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

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:devun.mason@leics.gov.uk)

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

Blackburn: Carriageway Surfacing Victoria Street, Northgate Link

Expressions of interest close on 10/04/2019.

Contact: Heather Bailey, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Email: [heather.bailey@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:heather.bailey@blackburn.gov.uk)

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

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

Expressions of interest close on 15/04/2019.

Contact: Richard Carroll, Durham County Council, Email: [richard.carroll@durham.gov.uk](mailto:richard.carroll@durham.gov.uk)

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

## ....and finally

### First driverless bus hits the road in Manchester trial

The UK's first full-sized autonomous bus has been trialled at a Manchester bus depot in another big step forward for the technology.

Using sensors, optical cameras and ultrasound, the driverless bus was able to manoeuvre itself around a planned path while detecting and avoiding objects.

The software used in the Manchester pilot scheme will form the basis of future autonomous trials when passengers will also be on board.

It is hoped the trial could provide future benefits during passenger journeys, such as providing a warning when a cyclist or pedestrian may be in a blind spot.

The first public demonstration was part of a programme Stagecoach is developing in partnership with bus manufacturer Alexander Dennis Limited (ADL) and technology company Fusion Processing.

Existing rules mean a driver must remain on board the bus at all times during the trial, although the UK is in the process of updating its regulations.