

22 May 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.

Inspiring Change Awards 2019

Congratulations to CPUK Civils & Remediation, winner of the SME Award for their initiative to support ex-offenders into the industry (they are the second NW SME to win the award in consecutive years), and to all the other worthy winners. To find out more about the initiative: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/ex-offenders-initiative-2019/>

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 be in two parts: on Design Innovation and Wellbeing within Civil Engineering. It is free to attend, and takes place from 12.30 for 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 Executive Committee, Wednesday 12 June 2019

The next meeting of the CECA NW Executive Committee takes place at Daresbury Park Hotel, Warrington, at 08.30 for 09.00. All are welcome to attend, whether committee members or not, but please book your place with Guy Lawson first.

CECA NW/ICES Annual Golf Day, Leigh Golf Club, Thursday 4 July 2019 (please note change of date)

Web: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-nw-ices-golf-day-4-july-2019/>

E: cecagolf@btinternet.com ; M: 07740 731445

Construction Minister to be Guest of Honour at CECA NW annual awards dinner Midland Hotel, Manchester, Friday 11 October 2019

We are delighted to report that Andrew Stephenson MP will be attending the CECA NW annual awards dinner as guest of honour. Please see the link to the awards entry forms:

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-nw-annual-awards-2019-entry-forms/>

To book places at the dinner: https://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=140

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/>

In planning....

CECA NW will be holding a meeting this spring for members on housing infrastructure opportunities in the region. A meeting for members with STAR Procurement will take place this summer. Also, following the CECA Payment Summit, a northern summit is being planned for later in the year. 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. Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson.

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 seminar (free for CECA members)

Breakfast seminar: 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.

Schools & Colleges Liaison

CECA NW welcomes Jacqueline Vail, who will be co-ordinating schools and colleges liaison activity across the region, and supporting the work of CECA NW Foundations. Jacqueline will be making contact with members over the next few weeks to identify what is currently being done, and what CECA NW do can assist members in efforts to attract more young people into the industry.

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>

Groundforce training

Groundforce runs training courses for some other CECA regions, so I wanted to see if you would be interested in CECA NW running any of the courses they offer. Please see their latest training brochure <http://www.groundforcebrochures.com/training-services>

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.

ICE report: Infrastructure project final costs average 80% above bid prices

Recommendations:

- Infrastructure owners should complete scope, design and exploration before work starts to avoid scope creep or retroactive changes, taking steps to include contractors in design at an early stage.
- The Government and infrastructure owners must move away from capital cost as the most important metric when assessing project benefits, and recognise the importance of whole-life economic, social and environmental value.
- All public infrastructure owners undertaking procurement must award contracts based on a cost estimate range, using a should-cost estimate as a reference point, with an amount of contingency allocated appropriate to the level of project maturity.
- Principles set out in the Government Outsourcing Playbook should be mandatory for infrastructure owners, this includes infrastructure owners undertaking should-cost modelling to help inform their expectations and knowledge of appropriate tender prices during the procurement process.

http://cdn.roxhillmedia.com/production/email/attachment/730001_740000/ICE%20Report%20-%20Reducing%20the%20gap%20between%20cost%20estimates%20and%20outturns%20for%20major%20infrastucture%20projects%20and%20programmes.pdf

Network Rail appoints first regional MDs

Network Rail has appointed its first five regional managing directors ahead of a major restructure.

Changes for the operator include devolving responsibility for the company into five regions, containing 13 routes. Four of the five new MDs are already working at Network Rail, while the incoming head of the North West and Central region is Tim Shoveller, who joins from Stagecoach.

New MDs:

- Alex Hynes, managing director, Scotland
- John Halsall, managing director, Southern
- Mark Langman, managing director, Wales and Western
- Rob McIntosh, managing director, Eastern
- Tim Shoveller, managing director, North West and Central

Lords call for HS2 rethink to secure northern upgrades

The costs of HS2 appear to be out of control and could threaten plans for more essential upgrades to the rail network in the north, according to peers. A report from the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee says it is not convinced the £56bn budget is realistic and that major changes should be considered to keep costs down. The report stokes up further doubts over HS2 with the Upper House committee urging the Government to consider a major rethink on the project.

This includes considering halting work on Euston station as the main terminus in the first phase, in favour of Old Oak Common in west London, which will connect to central London by Crossrail. The Lords call for investment in the rail network in the north of England to be prioritised and warn that the Department for Transport's appraisal of the HS2 project is fundamentally flawed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/economic-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/hs2--report-launch/>

Major contractors change approach to road maintenance market

A number of Tier 1 contractors are looking to work-out existing maintenance deals but not bid any new work as they focus purely on capital projects. The move comes as Highways England continues to take more decisions in-house under its asset delivery model. Highways England staff are taking a growing number of decisions over maintenance spending and are looking to engage more directly with Tier 2 and 3 contractors further down the supply chain. Big name firms fear further erosion of maintenance margins and are looking to focus their resources elsewhere.

Site inductions to contain modern slavery warnings

Major contractors are now highlighting how to spot signs of modern slavery and labour exploitation as part of site induction talks. Leading firms have teamed up with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) for the initiative: <https://www.glaa.gov.uk/>

The package includes a presentation for new starters which will be shown at the end of traditional health and safety inductions. Other initiatives include complementary posters on spotting the signs of exploitation and a toolbox talk aimed at raising awareness of workers' rights on site.

The move is part of the Construction Protocol launched by the GLAA and signatory firms to protect vulnerable workers, share information and raise awareness within supply chains.

Environment Agency calls for new approach to flood and coastal resilience

Launching a major, long-term strategy to tackle flooding and coastal change, Environment Agency chair, Emma Howard Boyd has said "we cannot win a war against water" by building higher flood defences and called for a new approach to ensure communities are resilient to the threat of flooding posed by climate change. Opening an eight-week consultation on the new strategy, Howard Boyd said that the Environment Agency is preparing for a potential 4°C rise in global temperature and urgent action is needed to tackle more frequent, intense flooding and sea level rise.

Among the recommendations in the strategy, the Environment Agency has committed to working with partners to develop consistent standards for flood and coastal resilience across the country. To achieve these standards, communities should have access to a range of tools which give them control of how they prepare for and respond to flooding and coastal change, based on the challenges or flood risk any location may face.

These could include traditional defences, temporary barriers, natural flood management, sustainable drainage systems, effective flood warnings and emergency response, alongside designing and adapting existing properties and new development so they can recover quickly from a flood.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environment-agency-chair-calls-for-new-approach-to-flood-and-coastal-resilience>

Armitt demands Chancellor commits to funding infrastructure plan

National Infrastructure Commission Chair Sir John Armitt has called on the Chancellor to commit to a major programme of upgrades of transport, energy and technology networks. Sir John is concerned that the Government is set to only pay lip service in the forthcoming Autumn spending review to the country's first National Infrastructure Assessment published last year. The government is required to consider the plan and formally respond with its own strategy, expected to be announced this autumn. *Sir John's key tests set out in the letter to the Chancellor*

- Long term perspective - the strategy must look beyond the immediate spending review period and set out the government's expectations for infrastructure funding and policy up to 2050
- Clear goals and plans - where the government endorses NIA recommendation, this should be backed up with a specific plan, with clear deadlines and identified owners
- Firm funding commitment - the government should commit to providing funding of 1.2% of GDP a year in infrastructure
- Genuine commitment to change - recommendations such as devolving funding for urban transport to cities and a national standard for flood resilience are fundamental policy changes, and "the strategy needs to respond in the same spirit."

FIDIC launches The Emerald Book

International engineering federation FIDIC (the International Federation of Consulting Engineers) and ITA-AITES (the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association) have teamed up to publish a new form of contract for tunnelling and underground works, The Emerald Book.

<http://fidic.org/books/conditions-contract-underground-works-2019-emerald-book>

Construction industry blames auditors for Carillion's collapse, says new report

A survey of the supply chain conducted by public sector procurement specialists Scape Group has found that "93% of suppliers think the relationship between Carillion and KPMG enabled the outsourcer's true financial position to be concealed." Over half of suppliers polled think the accounting policies at Carillion were "not discharged in good faith" and that the subsequent collapse was "facilitated by poor management." 64% of suppliers believe that Carillion's downfall was due to "debt mismanagement, acquisitions and long payment terms, created by a focus on revenue rather than profit." The survey also claims the construction industry would "support a shake-up of the 'big four' accounting firms, with 57% of suppliers polled saying they thought this was required."

<https://www.scapegroup.co.uk/research/carillion>

Armitt: Government needs to get serious about infrastructure

National Infrastructure Commission chair Sir John Armitt has called for the UK to build a shared vision for infrastructure's role in the economy, to unite people, mend fractures in society and build a true sense of community for millions of people.

Speaking to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Infrastructure, Armitt said there was an urgent need for Britain to shape a new national and global identity based on optimism and confidence, with infrastructure at its heart.

Digital UK map of buried utilities

Work is starting on an ambitious project to draw up a digital map of all UK underground pipes and cables to end strikes and save workers lives. The government's Geospatial Commission plans to collate existing data on underground pipes and cables to create an Underground Assets Register. Nearly £4m is being invested in London and Sunderland to test the feasibility of the project. There is currently no comprehensive underground map of the UK's service network.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/map-of-underground-pipes-and-cables-designed-to-save-lives-and-prevent-major-disruption>

Network Rail £750 million signalling contract

Network Rail has announced five-year contracts worth an estimated £750m to deliver sign-alling and telecoms across the country in period CP6, between 2019-2024, with further contracts set to be awarded in June 2019 and January 2020.

The signalling and telecoms (S&T) frameworks, which are split into six geographical lots, have been awarded to VolkerRail Special Businesses Ltd (London North West), Atkins Ltd (Anglia, South East and Wessex), Linbrooke Services Ltd (London North East), Babcock Rail Ltd (Scotland), Colas Rail Ltd (Western) and Siemens Mobility Ltd (Wales).

The frameworks will deliver projects of varying value, including stand-alone level crossings, stand-alone major telecoms and related civils works.

Rail firms call for independent body to oversee Britain's rail network

Rail companies have today called for a new independent non-government body to oversee Britain's rail network. The Rail Delivery Group (RDG) has described its proposals as a golden opportunity to "call time on short term fixes and set out the once-in-a-generation system upgrade the railway needs if it is to help the country prosper over the next 25 years." They also claim their plans would "better join up the railway, improve accountability for passengers and result in easier, better value fares for all."

<https://www.raildeliverygroup.com/media-centre/press-releases/2019/469773861-2019-04-30.html>

£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

CITB Business Plan reveals spending proposals for £614m of levy cash

The Construction Industry Training Board is planning a new “big, bold” careers campaign in a bid to attract a new generation of workers into construction.

The move is part of the board’s latest three-year plan which highlights how it will spend the £614m of levy income collected between 2019/20 to 2021/22.

The plan outlines the ‘Big Six’ skills challenges identified by CITB research. They include:

- making construction an attractive career to a broader range of recruits
- developing a ‘site-ready’ workforce
- getting more construction learners to join the industry
- growing the number and diversity of apprentices
- helping smaller firms invest in the training that can transform their business
- boosting the number of assessors for vocational qualifications

<https://www.citb.co.uk/documents/businessplan/citb-business-plan-2019-uk.pdf>

CMA guidance on competition law for the construction industry

The Competition and Markets Authority has recently been investigating a number of cases of potential competition law breaches by firms in the construction sector. Most recently, their investigations resulted in the disqualification of two company directors of CPM group due to their involvement in a cartel. To raise the level of awareness within firms about competition law and the rules with which firms have to comply, the CMA has launched a package of materials to help business. This includes:

- a [quick guide on how to avoid disqualification](#)
- a [checklist on how to comply with competition law](#)
- our #StopCartels campaign page <https://stopcartels.campaign.gov.uk/> that houses:
 - an interactive quiz to test knowledge of the law and what is/ isn’t permitted
 - case studies with lessons learnt and information
 - reporting form + info on immunity from fines under our leniency programme.

CECA: Infrastructure Finance Review

The Government is keen to facilitate further private investment and involvement in infrastructure delivery. As we leave the European Union, the UK’s relationship with the European Investment Bank will change, and while Government will explore the options for a future relationship with the EIB, it wants to be prepared for all scenarios.

A Government review of the infrastructure finance market is underway and CECA is keen to respond with members’ views. As such, we would be grateful if you could fill in the short survey below.

CECA is also planning to hold a workshop to discuss and finalise its response to the consultation. An option for members to be further involved can also be found below.

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

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, Sellafeld Ltd, Tideway and Transport for London.

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>

£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.

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/>

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

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>

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 - menopause and the workplace

<https://northwest.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/3EA5A787CBE676AA2540EF23F30FEDED/93265BA3D986134362AF25ACF5E3F0AC>

North West - and the North

Green light for £1 billion trans-Pennine transformation

Options for the transformation of a key northern route, improving connections between the east and west of England were unveiled by Transport Secretary Chris Grayling. The A66 is both a nationally important road, linking Penrith in Cumbria with Scotch Corner in North Yorkshire and a key regional route. It is a hugely important route for freight traffic across the United Kingdom and as the main link to the Lake District and North Pennines to the East of England.

Upgrading the A66 route will provide enormous benefits to people living locally but will also change the way people travel round the UK, improving connections from Scotland to the east coast of England and Belfast's port traffic, via Stranraer, onwards to ports including Hull and Felixstowe.

Highways England is now developing plans to fully dual the remaining single carriageway sections of the A66, which total 18 miles of the 50 mile route and this is the first opportunity for members of the public to get involved. The consultation sets out ideas for each of the remaining sections of single carriageway. They include:

- Allowing through traffic from the M6 or the North East to bypass congested Kemplay Bank Roundabout
- Dualling the existing three-mile section between Penrith and Temple Sowerby including a new junction arrangement for Center Parcs at the western end and an optional short bypass to avoid High Barn at the eastern end
- A new bypass north or south of Kirkby Thore and north of Crackenthorpe - following the route of the old railway line or the old Roman road
- Providing an upgrade of the five-mile single carriageway between Appleby and Brough - freeing up the existing A66 for local access-only traffic as well as walkers, cyclists and horse riders
- Re-designing and improving the junction with the A67 at Bowes to allow full westbound and eastbound access and exit to and from a newly dualled 1.9-mile section of the single carriageway
- Dualling the existing road between Cross Lane and Rookley with options for a short bypass of St Mary's Church and Old Rectory at the eastern end of the 1.8 mile section
- Similarly, dualling the existing four mile section between Stephen Bank and Carkin Moor but with three different options, including short bypasses - for the eastern end

More information about the project, including consultation events and a sign-up link for regular email updates, is available on the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine scheme page:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a66-northern-trans-pennine/>

First trains run on re-opened Halton Curve

There will now be hourly rail services linking North Wales and Cheshire to Liverpool, due to the £14m reopening of the Halton Curve track. Services will be hourly from Chester, calling at Helsby, Frodsham, Runcorn, Liverpool South Parkway and Liverpool Lime Street.

There will also be two direct services per day from Wrexham General and one direct from Liverpool to Wrexham. The first train from Wrexham departed at 6.35am today.

This is the first service to run direct from North Wales into Liverpool for over 40 years. Future plans will see more journeys into Wales, with some services running to Cardiff via Shrewsbury and to Llandudno.

The service is targeting 250,000 new trips on the line, and hopes to remove the need for 170,000 journeys on road via the M56 and A55.

The Halton Curve scheme is the re-opening of a 1.5-mile stretch of track near Frodsham which links services from Chester onto the West Coast Mainline into Liverpool. Work to bring the track back into full use began in July 2017 and was completed by Network Rail in May 2018.

The £14.5m Halton Curve project has been backed by the Government's Local Growth Funding, along with direct capital from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. The final cost has come in under the projected £17.95m budget.

Enterprise Zone plans lodged in Blackpool

Outline proposals have been submitted for a first, 81-acre phase of development at Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, including close to 1m sq ft of industrial space, a sports village and a gateway access road. The zone overall is to see 356 acres developed out over time, with £28.8m allocated to tackle this initial three-year phase. Preston-based architect and planner Cassidy + Ashton is working on behalf of the site's promoters, Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council.

The phase one site sits in the south eastern part of the zone, mostly within Blackpool's jurisdiction. Cassidy + Ashton's plan sets out the relocation of the existing Common Edge football pitches, including new facilities for AFC Blackpool, to unlock land for industrial development. Up to 25 parcels of serviced land could be brought forward during phase one, completing by 2023.

Amy Johnson Way on the existing business park will be linked to the new spine road by a roundabout providing access from Common Edge Road, Marton before it meets Queensway.

Search underway for £800m Salford masterplan partner

Salford City Council and the University of Salford have launched their search for a private sector partner to deliver the ambitious £800m masterplan for Salford Crescent. Salford Crescent will see the University of Salford campus and the surrounding area "transformed into a new city district" that will include a modern residential neighbourhood, the redevelopment of the university campus, a new industry innovation park and a cultural quarter built around key heritage assets.

Aviation strategy integral for Northern UK to ensure global position

The UK government must establish northern airports as the 'beating heart' of Northern Powerhouse as leaders stress the importance of global connectivity in the transport sector. Figures from the forthcoming NatWest Northern Powerhouse PMI report, show the Northern Powerhouse is making good progress; outperforming London in 29 out of the previous 36 months. But more needs to be done. Lord Jim O'Neill, Vice-Chair of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership; Andrew Cowan, Manchester Airport CEO; Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe, Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leader of Bradford Council; and Joanne Roney, CEO of Manchester City Council have said that creating a super-connected, productive and internationally-competitive Northern Powerhouse is not just important to the North itself, but is required to create a balanced and outward-facing UK.

They said that direct access to the world's most important economies is critical to the creation of internationally significant centres of excellence in fields like advanced manufacturing, technology, energy and life sciences in the North.

£8.5bn Morecambe Bay 'tidal power gateway' and road link plans to go on show

An £8.5bn "tidal power gateway" road link across Morecambe Bay would provide energy for two million homes and generate thousands of new jobs, according to those behind the proposals. The project, which would see a road link being built from Heysham to south Cumbria via the Furness Peninsula and then crossing the Duddon Estuary, is being driven by the Northern Tidal Power Gateways board headed by Chief Executive Alan Torevell. He will present the project and the latest details to businesses at a Tidal Power Business Forum at Kendal Town Hall on **7 June 2019**.

<https://trafalgar-pr.co.uk/northern-tidal-power-gateway/>

Merseytravel reveals £250m framework winners

Companies including Pell Frischmann, IBI, Waterman, Aecom, and Arup have secured a place on a framework covering disciplines such as engineering consultancy, transport planning, quantity surveying, and architecture. The framework will cover a vast range of disciplines needed across Merseytravel's estate, which includes its offices, bus stations, ferry terminals, and tourist attractions including Spaceport. It also includes the Kingsway and Queensway Mersey tunnels.

Warrington's New Town House to be demolished

The council is due to sign off the demolition of the 1970s building next week, opening up a prime site in the town centre for residential development once staff relocate to Muse's £142m Time Square.

Sellafield awards 20-year contracts worth up to £7bn

Sellafield has awarded contracts to four firms to carry out decommissioning work at its Cumbria site over the next two decades. According to Sellafield, the total programme and project procurement value has an expected range of £3bn-4bn but could end up being worth as much as £7bn.

Morgan Sindall has been named civils construction management partner and said its deal was worth an expected £1.6bn. Doosan Babcock has been appointed as the process construction management partner. Wood was awarded the design and engineering partner role with KBR appointed as the integration partner. The decommissioning programme is expected to last for 100 years at the Cumbria site, which ranges over two square miles and contains more than one thousand buildings.

Economic and green boost for Peak District as £14m rail freight scheme unveiled

Network Rail has transformed a disused council tip at Buxton into 430 metres of railway sidings so longer freight trains can serve local quarries.

STAR Procurement: GM Streetscene Alliance update

STAR have now had firm commitment from the following authorities to be part of the new GM Streetscene Alliance for Civil and Highways Works:

- Stockport - Full Alliance Partner
- Rochdale - Full Alliance Partner
- Bury - Full Alliance Partner
 - Trafford - Customer
 - Tameside - Customer

A revised procurement programme has now been established which includes the following key milestones:

- Technical/procurement kick off meeting 1st May 2019.
- Market Engagement Event - June 2019
- Issue of OJEU Notice and Stage 1 (SQ) - August 2019
- Issue of Shortlist Stage 2 (ITT) - October 2019
- Award of Alliance Contracts - February 2020
- Start of GM Streetscene Alliance April 2020

Based on the current value of Stockport's alliance contract (£9m for 2019), it is expected that, overall, the proposed new contract will have a total value of £600-700 million.

Current proposal to have separate Alliances for full partners above (instead of sub-geographical lots).

Each one having a single contractor for each Lot (with ten lots per Alliance). It is currently proposed that there will be three bandings for the Highways Structures Maintenance lots, for example.

Customers (as listed above) will then be able to enter into any of the above Alliance contracts when the need arises (we will specify an indicative value for those Authorities).

Each Full Alliance Partner will also be able to call upon the services of other contractors from other Alliances when capacity issues arise.

They are intending to have a Memorandum of Understanding developed across all 5 GM Authorities to define how the relationship will work.

STAR have now introduced the Social Value Portal for all procurements above £50K. This will be introduced on the GM Streetscene Alliance procurement.

Warrington Local Transport Plan update

Please find a link to the latest version of the Warrington Local Transport Plan LTP4.

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/info/201080/streets-and-transport/2383/local-transport-plan>

Carlisle flood defence works to get under way

The first phase of the scheme, designed to avoid a repeat of the devastating floods caused by Storm Desmond, is set to be signed off by Carlisle Council. The Environment Agency is proposing the works to protect large areas of the city from flooding; Storm Desmond in 2015 caused the rivers Caldew, Eden, and Petteril to overflow, damaging nearly 2,000 properties across Carlisle in the process.

The first phase of the works primarily covers a 19-acre area within Melbourne Park and at the entrance of Carlisle's Tesco superstore. There are plans for a further three phases; one covering the Sands Centre, Bitts Park, and the bridge over the river Eden; another covering Willowhome, Maltings, and the river Caldew downstream of the A595; and a final phase following the Caldew upstream of the A595.

Northern Powerhouse Rail set for autumn decision

Chancellor Philip Hammond told the House of Commons treasury committee that the next Spending Review - expected in the autumn - would have a "laser focus" on improving regional productivity, with the modern industrial strategy "at the heart" of the plan.

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.

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.

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=uq94G12EHkyr_ADOwCF132gDRrUHc4FCj1UB_t9i56xUOFoxWTBJMFdZRFNTOFc5T045M0s3V1pZNi4u

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.

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.

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.

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.

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>

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

United Utilities: Services Framework-Early Contractor Involvement (ECI)

https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/publicpurchase_frameset.asp?PID=28121&B=UNITEDUTILITIES&PS=1&PP=

Cumbria: Capital Works Framework 2020-2024 - Supplier Engagement Day

Expressions of interest close on 28/05/2019.

Contact: Clare Redpath, Cumbria County Council, Email: clare.redpath@cumbria.gov.uk

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

Bolton: Framework for Highways Work

Expressions of interest close on 03/06/2019.

Contact: Irfan Oomer, Bolton Council, Email: irfan.oomer@bolton.gov.uk

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

Fairhaven: Lake & Gardens Restoration

Expressions of interest close on 28/05/2019.

Contact: Ben McCabe, Fylde Borough Council, Email: benm@fylde.gov.uk

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

Manchester: Road Lining & Associated Works

Expressions of interest close on 27/05/2019.

Contact: Stephen Polese, Manchester City Council, Email: s.polese@manchester.gov.uk

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

Whaley Bridge: Earth Reinforcement and Wall Repair Buxton Rd

Expressions of interest close on 28/05/2019.

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

Rotherham: Forge Island Flood Defence Works

Expressions of interest close on 14/06/2019.

Contact: Joanne Kirk, Rotherham MBC, Email: joanne.kirk@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Darlington: Highways Surfacing Framework - Pre Procurement Soft Market Testing

Expressions of interest close on 24/05/2019.

Contact: Claire Weatherburn, Darlington Borough Council, Email: claire.weatherburn@darlington.gov.uk

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

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:

- Douglas: Peel Food Park Drainage Maintenance Contract
- Fylde: Lytham Crematorium Development
- Bury: Highways Investment Strategy - Year Two
- Wythenshawe Community Housing: Groundworks - Repairs & Maintenance
- Great Places Housing: Drainage, Groundworks & Surfacing contracts
1: Liverpool, Manchester, Blackpool; 2: Sheffield, Stoke
- Spennymoor: Merrington Lane infrastructure works
- Cumbria: Construction of a Minewater Treatment Facility at Nent Hags

....and finally

Scottish housebuilder unveils waste plastic road

A Scottish housebuilder has used plastic waste to build a road on one of its developments, in what is thought to be a UK first. Springfield Properties boss Innes Smith said its installation at a site in Elgin would help tackle the country's "plastic waste epidemic". The design reduces the use of bitumen, a form of crude oil used to make roads. It has also been claimed the plastic surface is stronger than existing ones and could reduce potholes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-48332259>