

12 June 2019

CECA North West

NEWS DIGEST FROM CECA NORTH WEST

Welcome to this round up of news from CECA North West. If there are any items you wish to include, please let me know. If you would like to contact me, or wish to arrange a meeting, I can be reached via email: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk or mobile 07703 585027.

Civil Engineering Contractors' Association North West news

Contact details

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

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

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

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

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

CECA NW Legal Advice Service

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

Tendering workshops

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

CECA NW SME meeting

CECA NW hosted a meeting for SME members on 4 June, covering a range of issues from payment terms to work placements and apprenticeships. Notes of the meeting are available from me.

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

STAR Procurement meeting, Friday 5 July 2019

A meeting for members with STAR Procurement at Hotel Football, Manchester will take place on 5 July - further details shortly. Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson to book a place.

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 and Barry White, CEO of Transport for the North will be attending the CECA NW annual awards dinner as guests 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.

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. 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

Reverse Charge VAT

With reverse charge VAT coming this autumn, if members would like a CECA NW seminar on the subject, please let me know.

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.

Digital skills for the construction industry, Liverpool, Wednesday 19 June 2019

This is an opportunity for you to understand how digitisation is going to affect your business and how main contractors can support you. Find out what this means to you at this free workshop. This event is jointly run by the Supply Chain Sustainability School and CITB.

<https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/uk/sustainability/construction/support/supplier-training/910/digitising-skills-for-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>

CITB Employer Update

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

Fairness, Inclusion and Respect Programme (FIR) update

More introduction to FIR workshops are being run, plus Ambassador training session, and Ambassador coaching sessions. If any of this is of interest and you want your organisation to get involved or build on its existing activity then please do get in touch: Tolu Oke, T: 020 7697 1985; M: 07469 159 788

FIR Training and Project Manager, E: Tolu@supplychainschool.co.uk

FIR Toolkit: <https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/default/fairness-inclusion-and-respect/fir-toolkit.aspx>

Sponsoring the Civil Engineering Challenge

We are sponsoring resource packs to enable scouts and guides to achieve the Civil Engineering badge, developed by Pippa Higgins of Vinci. Please let me know if you would like more information. We are now funding over twenty groups to undertake the civil engineering challenge.

Policy & Industry Affairs

CECA Payment Summit, 5 September 2019 (please note the change of date)

An early date for your diary - further details shortly.

CECA SME Procurement survey - now live

If you are an SME (less than 250 employees) please do fill it in:

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

National Infrastructure Survey & Spending Review to be delayed?

It is looking increasingly likely that both the NIS and the Spending Review will be put back to 2020. Liz Truss, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, however, gave some encouragement on investment in nuclear:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/economic-affairs-committee/the-spending-review/oral/102847.html>

HS2: Phase 2b design refinement consultation

The Department for Transport has proposed enabling HS2's lines to be used as part of Northern Powerhouse Rail. HS2 phase 2b will connect Crewe to Manchester and the West Midlands to Leeds. The Department for Transport has launched a consultation on future touch points for NPR.

These will facilitate junctions that could connect to a potential new line from HS2 towards Liverpool.

One junction would allow future Liverpool-Manchester NPR trains to use the HS2 line into Manchester.

The other would allow future London-Liverpool HS2 trains to use any new, future NPR route into Liverpool. Both would enable improved capacity and connectivity between Liverpool, Warrington and Manchester Piccadilly. This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 6 September 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2b-design-refinement-consultation>

Addleshaw Goddard/Northern Powerhouse Partnership: Backing Northern Powerhouse Rail

On the back of surveying 5,000 businesses across the North of England, Addleshaw Goddard working alongside the Northern Powerhouse Partnership has developed a report exploring the impact those businesses foresee from Northern Powerhouse Rail and a new wider transport infrastructure across the North of England. What is clear from the results of our survey of businesses across the North is that our business community is aware of and motivated by the opportunities Northern Powerhouse Rail will bring. They are ready to invest now to ensure maximum growth in the future.

<https://www.addleshawgoddard.com/en/insights/insights-briefings/2019/transport/backing-northern-powerhouse-rail/>

Adonis/IPPR: Reshaping Britain's Railways for the 21st Century

Lord Adonis will set out the key elements of a 'Reverse Beeching' plan, including practicalities, timescales, and finances. His title 'Reshaping Britain's Railways for the 21st Century' echoes Beeching's 1963 report 'Reshaping Britain's Railways.' Over one million people live in the 27 biggest towns without a railway station, including Gosport, Dudley, Newcastle under Lyme, Washington, Waterlooville, Halesowen, Leigh, West Bridgford, Skelmersdale, Blyth, Dunstable, Woodley, Coalville, Abingdon, Swadlincote, Wisbech, Rushden, Darlastan, Ashington, Witney, Haverhill, Aldridge, Ferndown, Kingswinford and Daventry. 'Reversing Beeching' would be transformational for the communities concerned, making a major contribution to building 'One Nation' and a green Britain.

HS2 final decision 'by end of year'

A final decision on HS2 is to be made by the end of the year, chief secretary to the treasury Elizabeth Truss has said. Speaking to the Economic Affairs Committee of the House of Lords, Ms Truss also said that it would be for the next prime minister to decide the fate of the project. Ms Truss confirmed that HS2 was among the projects that hadn't been fully committed and is therefore being examined as part of the spending review.

McLoughlin: Next prime minister must commit to HS2

Former transport secretary Sir Patrick McLoughlin has urged all the current Conservative party leadership candidates to give clear backing to HS2 if they seriously want to become Prime Minister. McLoughlin made the remarks while visiting key rail suppliers in Derby, as part of UK trade body the Railway Industry Association's (RIA) Rail Fellowship Programme, where he visited the rail manufacturer Bombardier and received a tour of the production lines on site. His comments come against a background of some leadership candidates prevaricating on HS2 and others threatening to review or scrap the scheme, at a time when there are strident calls from the industry and business for clear commitments to be made to HS2

Guidance on forward tipping dumpers

<https://www.cpa.uk.net/sfpsgpublications/>

GMB: Gender equality in construction “will take nearly 200 years”

Gender equality in construction will take nearly 200 years to achieve according to latest analysis from the GMB union. Figures revealed at the GMB's annual Congress in Brighton today show that at the current rate of growth, the number of women in construction will equal men by the year 2194. The union has arranged a summit with the major construction companies working on the £18bn Hinkley Point C project to discuss the lack of women in construction.

Infrastructure professionals recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours' list

Winners include: Sue Percy, CIHT chief executive, who has been awarded a CBE for services to transport; Dr Anne Kemp, technical director at Atkins, who has been awarded an OBE for services to digital construction innovation; and Dr Louise Brooke-Smith, a strategic planning consultant at Arcadis, who has been awarded an OBE in recognition of her enduring contribution to the built environment.

Arcadis: Post Brexit skills shortages to push up tender prices by 4%

Tender prices are set to rise by 4% in 2022 as post-Brexit skills shortages bite across construction. The latest forecasts from Arcadis predict rises after a period of industry “treading water” while politicians dither over Brexit. The consultancy has held its short term inflation forecast at just 2-3% to 2021 as clients take a ‘wait-and-see’ approach to the current political turmoil.

<https://www.arcadis.com/en/united-kingdom/our-perspectives/2019/june/uk-construction-spring-market-view-2019/>

Stop. Make a Change 2019

For 2019, Stop. Make a Change is aligning itself with the Infrastructure Client Group's Top Risks project. The project aims to address seven of the biggest health, safety and wellbeing risks in the sector. Over the next year the Top Risks project will seek ways to tackle risks associated with:

1. People & Mobile plant
2. Mental health
3. Striking buried services
4. Lifting operations
5. Heavy goods vehicles operations
6. Hand-arm vibration related disease
7. Public safety

Stop. Make a Change 2019 events will take place from **9 to 13 September**. Full details can be found at www.stopmakeachange.co.uk while companies interested in signing up for 2019 can contact enquiries@ceca.co.uk

Dawnus plant to be auctioned

More than 1,000 pieces of plant and machinery from Dawnus will go under the hammer later this week. Among the lots up for auction are 40 excavators weighing between six and 20 tonnes, nine articulated dump trucks, two crushers, a drilling rig and 21 commercial vans. Dawnus administrator Grant Thornton has previously estimated that up to £3m could be raised from selling the company's plant, machinery and vehicles, although the book value of the equipment was estimated to be £5.4m.

Communities to benefit from new housing infrastructure rules

New rules which make the way housing developers stump up money for infrastructure simpler and more transparent are being brought in, the government has confirmed. Contractors already have to pay for roads, schools, GP surgeries and parkland that is needed so that areas can cope with the influx of extra residents. Developers were charged £6 billion in contributions in 2016/17, helping to unlock jobs and growth. However, councils have previously not had to report on the total amount of funding received or how it's spent. They will not only make it simpler for communities to know what the money has been spent on, but also make it faster for councils to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy in the first place - so areas can benefit from getting the infrastructure they need in good time.

Restrictions will be eased to allow councils to fund single, larger infrastructure projects from the cash received from multiple developments, giving greater freedom to deliver complex projects at pace.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/communities-to-benefit-from-new-housing-infrastructure-rules>

CLC calls for clients to drive direct employment

The Construction Leadership Council has called on clients to put pressure on contractors to shift towards greater direct employment. The council is urging clients to sign up to a code of employment where those who contribute to a project are directly employed. It argues this would ensure that it is in the employer's best interest to train their staff and benefit from their improved productivity.

It is one of three key recommendations set out in a new report looking at how to deliver a construction pipeline of more than £600bn over the next decade.

http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CLC-Skills-Workstream_Future-Skills-Report_June-2019_A4-Print-Version.pdf

Drop in construction apprenticeship starts

The number of construction apprenticeship starts halved since last year. In March 2019, there were only 694 apprenticeship starts in construction, planning and the built environment, compared with 1,247 in March 2018.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/804361/Apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-May2019-main-text.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-may-2019>

....even though CITB forecasts 168,500 construction jobs created in next five years

The CITB's Construction Skill's Network Report 2019-23 predicted that approximately 168,500 construction jobs will be created in the UK over the next five years.

<https://www.citb.co.uk/about-citb/construction-industry-research-reports/search-our-construction-industry-research-reports/forecasts/csn-forecasts-2019-2023-uk/>

.....but construction roles still 'not skilled enough' for job shortages list

Construction roles facing shortages still should not be added to the government's shortage list because they do not meet the required skills threshold, a new report by the Migration Advisory Committee has said. The committee has published its review of the Shortage Occupation List - its list of roles it defines as needing migration to fill shortages. While related roles including engineering geologists, hydrogeologists and geophysicists have been added to the list, most construction jobs were not.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-review-of-the-shortage-occupation-list-may-2019>

2019 Youthbuild Young Builder of the Year Awards

For 2019 there is a prize fund of £7,500 and all shortlisted finalists will receive a certificate and tools prizes and a trip on the London Eye. The winner of the 18 to 24 year old category may receive up to £1,500 (including tools), with further awards being made to the runners up. The winner of the 14 to 18 year old category will receive up to £750 (including tools) and their educational establishment will receive tools worth up to £500. <https://ybuk.org/youth-builder-of-the-year-awards/2019-awards/>

The application window closes on Wednesday, 31st July.

CECA Legal & Commercial Group focussing on contractual issues in infrastructure.

The group has been established in response to the emergence of new forms of contract such as FAC-1 and the NEC4 Alliance contract. It also reflects changing commercial models such as Project 13 being adopted by clients including Network Rail, Environment Agency, National Grid, Heathrow and Sellafield. As well as discussing new developments, the group is intended to provide a forum to discuss issues relating to existing contracts. In recent months CECA has responded to a wide range of issues in this area, and want to ensure that our public positions accurately represent the views of members. Finally, CECA continues to provide significant free commercial and contractual training for members. We hope that the new group will help to guide future developments for this training, ensuring that we continue to target those courses that will be most beneficial to members. Fenwick Elliott LLP have offered to host and offer their expertise at the first meeting of the group, which will take place on the afternoon of **11 July**, followed by a drinks reception at their offices in London. If you would like further details, or to join up, please email marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk

Major contractors warned again over late payment work ban

Cabinet minister Oliver Dowden has fired another warning at major contractors over late payment. Dowden reiterated the government's get-tough stance at the RICS annual Construction Conference. September will see new rules introduced meaning large companies could be prevented from getting major government contracts if they do not pay 95% of their invoices within 60 days.

£55m Homes England grant funding to boost development of 4,000 homes

Homes England has agreed funding deals with 12 local authorities to deliver 4,000 homes across England. The £55m funding has been awarded through the government's £450m local authority accelerated construction (LAAC) programme, and will support local authorities with works required to prepare their sites for the development of new homes such as infrastructure enabling works, planning and technical expertise and site remediation. In the north, the local authorities are: City of York Council, Gateshead Council, Newcastle City Council, Pendle Borough Council, and High Peak Borough Council.

Kerslake commission: Create regional agencies to boost infrastructure

Four new economic development agencies are needed to oversee infrastructure projects and regional development, an independent review of inequality in the UK will recommend.

The UK2070 Commission, established last year to examine inequalities across different parts of the country and chaired by former head of the civil service Lord Bob Kerslake will recommend the creation of the new bodies. Lord Kerslake's commission will say that an agency for each of the North, Midlands, South-east and South-west of England would help to stimulate growth.

<http://uk2070.org.uk/2019/05/28/first-report-of-the-uk2070-commission-to-be-published-on-thursday-30th-may-2019/>

Social Enterprise UK report: Social value-led procurement driving higher economic growth

A new report, Front and Centre: Putting Social Value at the Heart of Inclusive Growth, launched by Social Enterprise UK, has found that local councils are increasingly using procurement as a way to drive higher economic growth.

The report calls on central government, local councils and other public bodies to do more to utilise social value, putting it front and centre of decision making. Based on in-depth research across local government, the report shows a growing use of social value - making spending decisions not just on financial cost but on the economic, social and environmental impact.

82% of local councils believe that spending public money focusing on social value, rather than just focusing on the cheapest product, generates higher levels of growth. Sunderland, one of the case studies referenced in the report, was one of the fastest growing cities in the UK in 2018. Two-fifths of councils also believe that a social value approach can reduce inequalities.

<https://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/front-and-centre-putting-social-value-at-the-heart-of-inclusive-growth>

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.gla.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.

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>

ICG lead drive to eliminate site accidents

Major clients are joining forces to push for a step change in the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone involved in big UK infrastructure projects. Over the next 12 months representatives from the industry's major clients, contractors and supply chain have agreed to work together to tackle the causes of illness and injury in the sector. The initiative has been driven by the Infrastructure Client Group (ICG), which represents some of the country's largest client organisations.

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

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.

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

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://shredsystems.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 ICES

<http://mailshot.cices.org/Chartered%20ICES%20Newsletter%20may19.html>

News from ACAS

<https://northwest.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/BB4CF5CCBE2187112540EF23F30FEDED/637A906986799673942A2DF08F503B7C>

North West - and the North

Power Up The North campaign

Collaborating with 33 newspapers and websites, the Manchester Evening News is calling for action to narrow the north-south divide. We call on leaders to:

- Deliver a fundamental shift in decision-making out of London, giving devolved powers and self-determination to people in the north
- Commit funding immediately to make Northern Powerhouse Rail a national priority
- Overhaul the region's road and rail network as a part of a wider environmental plan, with devolved funding and powers
- Put full weight behind a bespoke Industrial Strategy for the north of England to enable every sector of the economy, from manufacturing to farming, to flourish
- Make additional investment available for the north's schools, colleges and universities to boost skills training
- Set out a programme to build a new generation of social housing and affordable homes
- Accelerate investment in the north's digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, and support creative industries
- Commit that the government's 'shared prosperity fund', intended to replace EU structural funding, be fully devolved in long-term tranches to enable strategic decisions of scale rather than areas having to bid in for smaller amounts, piecemeal.
- We also call on the next PM to elevate the post of Northern Powerhouse minister to cabinet status, with full powers, as a clear signal that they intend to take this region seriously.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/power-up-north-its-time-16402124>

Merseyrail chooses three for framework

The transport organisation has named the successful bidders for its five-year £10m framework, for construction works across its estate. Projects being delivered, or set to be delivered, across the network range from large schemes, station enhancements and rebuilds, car park projects, lift installations and booking office refurbishments. Merseyrail had started the tender process by asking for bids on three lots, with bidders invited to aim for lots covering values up to £100,000; between £100,000 and £1m, and £1m-plus. However, the organisation, which trades as Merseyrail Electrics 2002 Ltd, a joint venture between Serco and Abellio, decided not to award lot one. Instead, it has awarded places on both other lots of the framework to Morgan Sindall, Styles & Wood and Amalgamated Construction.

Maghull motorway improvements get underway

Sefton Council and contractor John Sisk & Son have kicked off a project to add two "missing" slip roads at Junction 1 of the M58 nearly Maghull.

Mayfield Depot to be transformed into cultural venue

The former depot behind Piccadilly Station could be used as a concert venue, market hall, and cultural space for the next five years, replacing Albert Square as Manchester's main events hub. A consultation on the future of the wider £1.1bn Mayfield development was held last month. The first phase will see the delivery of a park, focussed on the River Medlock, along with a 90,000 sq ft, eight-storey office, and a 550-space multi storey car park on Baring Street. It marks the first planning application for the site, which could provide 1,500 homes, a 650-bedroom hotel, retail and leisure space, along with more than 800,000 sq ft of offices. The first phase includes the MSCP, highways works to provide access to Baring Street, the office, and half the park, with the second half to follow. If planning consent is secured, it is expected this will be complete in spring 2022.

Government looking to axe Liverpool's HS2 link

Money for a £7bn line linking Liverpool to the HS2 high-speed railway was supposed to have been "in the bag" before October's budget last year, only for the Treasury to carry out a last minute U-turn.

<http://www.linkingliverpool.org/>

Cheshire East progresses Crewe HS2 hub

A planning application for a major overhaul of Crewe railway station will be submitted next summer as the town prepares for the arrival of HS2. The plans centre around the railway station, including improved access, a southern link road bridge between Gresty Road and Weston Road to take traffic away from the station's frontage, and better public transport and pedestrian routes.

The Department for Transport has already committed £9.5m of funding via Network Rail to support development at the station; this will allow it to serve between five and seven HS2 trains per hour.

Barrow to adopt Local Plan

The council is expected to sign off its Local Plan, covering development across the borough up to 2031 and including a masterplan for regenerating the town centre. The Local Plan was first brought forward in 2014, and sets out development opportunities, job creation, and housing targets across the borough for the next 12 years. This includes developments around Barrow Marina, Cavendish Dock, and a waterfront business park; a potential masterplan to cover the town centre to improve its retail and leisure offering; and brownfield sites that can be brought forward for development.

Designs revealed for Ellesmere Port transformation

Consultation events are being held in early June on the plans, which will see the town's bus station replaced with a public service hub, while existing council offices will be demolished.

Under the proposals, Cheshire West & Chester council's offices on Civic Way and the existing bus station will be knocked down. The new public service hub will be built on the latter site, next to the Mercer Walk entrance of the Port Arcades shopping centre. The capital cost of the project is cited at £16m and will be supported by £7m from the Cheshire & Warrington LEP.

Design of £7m Protos hydrogen facility revealed

Energy-from-waste specialist Waste2Tricity is to consult on a planning application for a £7m development at Peel Environmental's Protos at Ellesmere Port. The plans would see a plastics-to-hydrogen facility delivered at the 250-acre Cheshire site, with Waste2Tricity agreeing a 125-year lease with Peel. Waste2Tricity is the development partner of listed energy group PowerHouse. The £7m facility would take up to 25 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic each day, and use it to produce hydrogen which could be used to power road vehicles.

Energy giants plan carbon capture hub in Humberside

Britain could have the world's first "carbon-negative" power station by the mid-2020s under plans by a trio of energy companies to capture carbon emissions in the Humber region.

National Grid, Drax and Equinor said that they planned to work together on developing the country's first carbon capture, usage and storage hub, following the recommendations of climate change chiefs.

Giant wind turbine plant planned for former steelworks site

Demolition and decommissioning specialist Able UK has submitted its "scoping plans" to build a huge wind turbine plant on the site of a former steelworks on Teesside. Able wants to develop a 72-hectare site on former SSI steelworks land, building a facility that would create around 600 jobs, combining assembly, installation and servicing of offshore wind turbines on one super-site. Details of the project have emerged in early-stage planning documents submitted to Redcar and Cleveland Council.

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,

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.

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.

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.

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>

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.

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 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.

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

Wigan: Carriageway Resurfacing Works 2019/20 - A580 East Lancashire Road

Expressions of interest close on 28/06/2019.

Contact: Dave Hibbert, Wigan Council, Email: d.hibbert@wigan.gov.uk

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

Blackpool: Yeadon Way (Phase 2) Refurbishment - Highways Design & Build

Expressions of interest close on 31/07/2019.

Contact: Trish Rimmer, Blackpool Council, Email: trish.rimmer@blackpool.gov.uk

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

Bury: Highways Investment Strategy - Prestwich Year 2

Expressions of interest close on 14/06/2019.

Contact: Chris Bayfield, Bury Council, Email: c.bayfield@bury.gov.uk

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

East Yorkshire: Repair, Maintenance and Installation of Highway Road Marking and Specialist Surfacing

Expressions of interest close on 12/07/2019.

Contact: Stefanie Wright, East Riding of Yorkshire, Email: stefanie.wright@eastriding.gov.uk

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

Leeds: Meet the Buyer - 2019 (YORbuild2 and YORcivil2 frameworks)

Expressions of interest close on 21/06/2019.

Contact: Karen Walker, Leeds City Council, Email: karen.walker@leeds.gov.uk

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

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

- Birkenhead: Car Park Alteration & Improvement Works at Knowsley Court
- Blackpool: Marine Lake Refurbishment
- Network Rail: Hope Valley Capacity
- Wigan: Access Works at Three Sisters Local Nature Reserve and Recreation Area
- Homes England: South Central Demolition Framework
- Spennymoor: Merrington Lane infrastructure works
- Great Places Housing: Drainage, Groundworks & Surfacing contracts
- Mansfield: Ground Stabilisation Works by Drilling & Grouting

....and finally

Ballard unveils 8th generation fuel cell module for heavy duty motive market

Ballard Power Systems unveiled its 8th generation high-performance fuel cell module, the FCmove-HD, at the UITP Global Public Transport Summit. It is the first in a family of FCmove products to be introduced and is specifically designed to meet the requirements of transit bus operators. It will be used in 1,000 fuel cell electric buses (FCEBs) to be deployed in Europe by the new H2Bus Consortium, which was announced on 3 June: <https://www.greencarcongress.com/2019/06/20190610-ballard.html>