



10 July 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 Golf Day 2019

Many thanks to everyone who supported the 2019 Golf Day, and congratulations to Will Hughes for winning the Mark Fairclough Cup, and to Lowbury Construction for winning the CECA NW team trophy.

CECA NW Chairman's 2019-20 Q1 report

CECA NW Chairman, Oliver Tolputt's Q1 report is now available: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/chairmans-2019-20-quarter-1-report/>

CECA NW Political & Economic Report, June 2019

The new quarterly report is now out: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-nw-political-economic-report-june-2019/>

CECA NW Foundations, Thursday 25 July 2019

A meeting is being arranged in July to plan the autumn events for the CECA NW Foundations group, at our offices in Warrington. All welcome - interested parties to contact Jacqueline Vail:

jacquelinevail@ceca.co.uk

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 Construction Minister, Andrew Stephenson MP; Barry White, CEO of Transport for the North; and Steve Moore, Director of Operations at the Environment Agency 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.

CECA NW & CPMUK C&R in the news

<https://www.lancashirebusinessview.co.uk/latest-news-and-features/building-new-lives-for-ex-offenders>

Training & Development

CECA NW & Midlands seminar on Reverse Charge VAT, Thursday 12 September 2019

A seminar with Liz Bridge is being arranged for Thursday 12 September 2019 - further details shortly.

Ex-offenders - speed interviews with HMP Hindley

Inspiring Change award winners, CPUK C&R and its partners are holding speed interviews at HMP Hindley on 11 July to recruit groundworkers. More are planned - firms keen to address the industry's skills shortage should contact Paul Pritchard of Novus: t: 0161 674 1300 e: ppritchard@novus.ac.uk

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.

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.azuread.com/m/023a3170cc3440b2b5de2b317aba2411/610813C4/A6E289F7/102018n>

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: What Does Industry Want from Government?

CECA will be using the next few months to assess what industry needs from Government to deliver the world-class infrastructure needed to drive growth across the UK. To this end, CECA is seeking your views, on what you think is important for infrastructure delivery in the next few years. If you have any suggestions for us, please email Marie-Claude Hemming: marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk

IHS Markit/CIPS UK: Construction output falls at steepest rate since April 2009

Construction output has fallen at the steepest rate since April 2009, according to the latest statistics from the IHS Markit/CIPS UK Construction Total Activity Index. The new figures show that business activity declined for the second month running in June, the fall in house building was the largest reported for three years and new orders shrank amid political and economic uncertainty hitting client confidence. June's data revealed a sharp loss of momentum for the UK construction sector, with business activity and incoming new work both falling at the fastest pace for just over ten years.

HSE: Deaths in construction industry fall to record low

The number of deaths in the construction industry fell to a record low of 30 in 2018/19, new stats from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have revealed. The total number of fatalities dropped from 38 to 30, just below the previous lowest total of 31 in 2016/17, provisional data from the agency showed. The rate of deaths per 100,000 workers stood at 1.31, lower than the five-year average of 1.61.

Green Finance Strategy

The government has announced its Green Finance Strategy, setting out plans to increase investment in sustainable projects and infrastructure. The strategy, says the government, will ensure financial risks and opportunities from climate change are integrated into mainstream financial decision making, and increase availability of finance to bring together the UK's low carbon and environmental expertise and the financial services sector.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/813656/190701_BEIS_Green_Finance_Strategy_Accessible_PDF_FINAL.pdf

RICS: Flexible working key to attracting more women into construction

Flexible working options are key in making construction a more attractive and progressive career choice for women, according to a new Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) poll. 48% of the 285 industry professionals surveyed by RICS voted flexible working options as the top recommendation to help encourage and retain more female talent in the property and construction sector. This was followed by the need for more firms to raise awareness of their successful female role models (31%), wider pay gap reporting (14%) and better return to work programmes (7%).

Talent 2050: Recruit from "reservoir of talent" to tackle skills shortages and improve diversity

Skills shortages and a lack of diversity in UK engineering can be overcome with a new approach by thinking about recruiting from a 'reservoir of talent' which is ready to learn, rather than the existing 'leaky pipeline', a new report says. To drive innovation, productivity and economic growth the UK needs to prepare for the skills challenges of the coming decades. Through workshops and a rapid evidence assessment, the Talent 2050 final report explores future engineering needs in the UK for a globally-competitive skills and diversity mix.

http://www.ncub.co.uk/images/reports/NCUB_Talent2050_Skills_and_Education_Report_Final.pdf

Public attitudes to urban transport report: Public don't prioritise sustainability

A new study has found a disconnect between government and public priorities for urban transport development, particularly when it comes to sustainable forms of transport. Following Theresa May's commitment to reach 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050, the report, *Public attitudes to urban transport*, indicates that people are more willing to support infrastructure that presents tangible benefits, as opposed to meeting broader national needs.

Specialist infrastructure and development communications consultancy, Copper Consultancy, this year conducted a survey of 1,600 people across the UK, following a period where large rail and road schemes have dominated the conversation around the country's transport network.

https://www.copperconsultancy.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/attitudes-to-urban-transport2019_copper.pdf

National Policy Statement for Geological Disposal Infrastructure

Policy framework providing the basis for planning decisions on geological disposal infrastructure for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-geological-disposal-infrastructure>

CECA: Time for Government to Get A Grip of Frameworks

Civils contractors are calling on the UK Government to establish a 'clearing house' for frameworks to check they are fair and do not overlap. CECA has said that recent years have seen a proliferation of frameworks on a national, regional and local level, bringing increased costs for contractors and ultimately the UK taxpayer.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-time-for-government-to-get-a-grip-of-frameworks/>

CECA: Committee Funding Recommendations Vital for Local Roads Survival

Civil engineering contractors have welcomed the publication of the Transport Committee's report *Local roads funding and maintenance: filling the gap* which addresses once and for all the extreme state of disrepair of the English local road network. The report focused on four key themes: the deterioration of local roads; their safety; funding; and the reporting of road conditions. The report noted that local government revenue funding had fallen by about 25% since 2010. This lack of funding certainty has caused many councils to take short-term, reactive decisions on road maintenance, which is less effective than proactive maintenance and undermines local economic performance.

To this end, the Committee recommended that the Department for Transport work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to propose a front-loaded, long-term five year funding settlement to the Treasury as part of the forthcoming Spending Review to enable local authorities to address their long term road maintenance backlog and plan confidently for the future.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-committee-funding-recommendations-vital-for-local-roads-survival/>
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtrans/1486/report-files/148602.htm>

£2bn Midlands rail upgrade proposals

The Government is being asked to back a £2bn package of improvements to transform east-west connections on the Midlands' rail network. The proposals, known as the Midlands Rail Hub, would see 15 pieces of new and improved infrastructure in the region. Its centrepiece would be a £950m plan to improve links to an expanded Moor Street station with a pedestrian link to the proposed HS2 Curzon Street station.

<https://www.midlandsconnect.uk/news-and-events/2-billion-midlands-rail-upgrade-plans-the-most-ambitious-for-a-generation-as-government-is-urged-don-t-ignore-the-midlands/>

Guidance on forward tipping dumpers

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

£1.4bn London highways maintenance framework

Transport for London is planning to hand highways upkeep and enhancement schemes in the capital to just three contractor teams. Selected firms will share an estimated £1.4bn pipeline of work over an extended period from 2021 to 2033, with each being sole deliverer for a region in London.

The new framework will replace The London Highway Alliance Contracts (LoHAC), which operated four regions rather than three. TfL has also opted to extend the framework duration from eight to 12 years to allow contractors to write-down the cost of specialist fleet, secure premises at economic prices, and train and invest in staff. A bidders' conference takes place on **16 July** at TfL Offices to share information about the frameworks. Prequalification will run to **29 July** with tenders due to be issued to shortlisted bidders in the first week of September. The intended start date of the frameworks is October 2020 to allow mobilisation in order to commence service delivery in April 2021.

Contact Scott Spencer at TfL, tel: +44 2071261912, email: ScottSpencer@tfl.gov.uk

WSP secures ten projects with Highways England

WSP has been appointed through Highways England's specialist, professional and technical services (SPaTS) framework. In the NW, that includes the A69 Carlisle to Newcastle.

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>

Thames Water unveils £2.6bn AMP7

Thames Water has outlined details of its tender plans for £2.6bn of work under the next AMP7 spending programme. A bidders' day is being planned ahead of formally issuing invitations to tender for various lots over the next 12 months. Its investment plan covering 2020-2025 will include two major sewage treatment works projects worth together around £180m. Further details of the bidders' event can be obtained by emailing Thames Water's procurement department:

procurement.support CENTRE@thameswater.co.uk

HS2 UK Earthworks Survey

HS2 Ltd is seeking to learn more about the capacity and capability of the UK Earthworks market and we invite you to complete a short market research questionnaire. They would like to understand a little more about the range of Earthworks related services you provide, the areas where your organisation operates and the extent to which you are interested in providing Earthworks related services to HS2 Ltd or our supply chain. Please click here to start the questionnaire (deadline: 5pm on **Friday 12th July 2019**): <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HS2Earthmoving/>

Tolhurst: Late Payments

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Kelly Tolhurst MP made the following announcement, in response to the "Creating a responsible payment culture" call for evidence. The Government are committed to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises to start well and grow, including through a network of 38 growth hubs throughout England that provide advice, guidance and support. As part of our industrial strategy, we have an action plan to unlock more than £20 billion of investment in innovative and high-potential businesses. Where we see practices that unfairly constrain SMEs' finance choices, we are prepared to act. For example, we recently removed a barrier that was preventing some SMEs from using invoice finance because of prohibitive contract terms imposed by their customers. The new measure is expected to provide a long-term boost to the UK economy worth almost £1 billion.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-19/debates/OEFA2828-495B-40E4-97BF-58AD804707C2/BusinessesLatePayments>

Nick Smallwood named new IPA head

The Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) has named former Shell executive Nick Smallwood as its new chief executive. Formerly vice president for projects engineering and chief projects engineer at the oil giant, Mr Smallwood will take over at the authority in August. The post has been vacant since Tony Meggs left to head up Crossrail in December.

Network Rail awards £215m CP6 contracts

The minor signalling frameworks are split into 17 route-based lots, with two framework contractors for seven of the routes and three framework contractors for the Western route.

Minor signalling framework (values by lot):

Western	£25m - £75m	Amey, Balfour Beatty, Linbrooke
LNE/EM	£30m - £40m	Volker Rail, Balfour Beatty
Wessex	£20m - £40m	Amey, Balfour Beatty
Wales	£2m - £10m	Amey, AMCO Giffen
South East	£5m - £10m	Amaro, AMCO Giffen
Anglia	£5m - £10m	Volker Rail, Linbrooke
Scotland	£2.5m - £10m	OSL, AMCO Giffen
LNW	£10m - £20m	Volker Rail, Linbrooke

... and Network Rail's new regional management structure goes live

Network Rail's new regional management structure took effect from 24 June, the first phase of changes the company says are designed to address "passengers' top priority of performance and punctuality." The company says the changes will shift power and decision making into smaller, regional organisations that are closer to customers and give local managers the levers and authority to tackle performance issues head-on. The five new regions - Eastern, North West & Central, Scotland's Railway, Southern, and Wales and Western - will be devolved further with 14 new routes coming into operation later in the summer, with further changes planned to continue to devolve power and authority from the centre to the routes and regions. The news comes as figures show that from a high in 2012, train performance has been in decline (from 91.6% of trains on-time to 86.3% today), and the National Rail Passenger Survey found that punctuality and reliability are passengers' top priority.

The new regions and their managing directors are:

- Alex Hynes, managing director, Scotland's Railway.
- 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.

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

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>

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 marielaudehemming@ceca.co.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>

£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>

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.

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 ICES

<http://mailshot.cices.org/marketplace%20June19.html>

News from ACAS

<https://northwest.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/980AA504883F6DF72540EF23F30FEDED/DF100DC3E92A2E926A4D3D471B02C3D7>

North West - and the North

Transport for the North: £7.5m towards Cumbrian Coast Line upgrade

Cumbria LEP and Cumbria County Council have secured £7.5million to fund the development of upgrades to the Cumbrian Coast Line - this is the next step in securing vital improvements that will enhance services for local communities & improve links between industries.

<https://twitter.com/CECANW/status/1146367372808327168>

Salford advances major road projects

Salford Council is set to sign off a series of highway improvements, chief among them the commitment of £4.5m to the Trafford Road corridor vital for accessing MediaCity and Salford Quays.

The overall project is costed at around £19.8m, with £4.8m coming from Mayor's Challenge Fund, £10.5m from the Growth Deal, and this £4.5m in match-funding from the council.

£40m flood protection programme for Bury

Construction is now underway on a £40m flood defence scheme in the Radcliffe and Redvales area of Bury, which was badly hit by flooding in 2015. The scheme, part of the Environment Agency's £2.6bn investment into flood defences across the country, will be delivered in two parts and has been designed to reduce the risk of flooding to over 800 local homes and businesses. It will also help keep transport routes and infrastructure open during times of flood, maintaining vital links in an area that was severely affected by flooding in December 2015.

Barbour ABI/CPA: Construction activity in Northern Powerhouse down 24% in 2018

Figures from 2018 reveal the value of construction contracts awarded in the Northern Powerhouse totalled £13.2bn, a decrease of 24% on the previous year. The 'Regional Construction Hotspots in Great Britain' is an annual report from Barbour ABI and the Construction Products Association (CPA) which provides a regional analysis of construction contracts awarded in 2018, accounting for local trends and particularities that aren't always reflected at a national level. In terms of overall contract awards in the Northern Powerhouse, Durham, North & North East Lincolnshire, and Conwy & Denbighshire were 'hotspots', whilst Sheffield, Blackburn with Darwen, East Lancashire, and Chorley & West Lancashire were 'coldspots'. Infrastructure contract awards totalled £2.1bn in 2018, a 59.3% decrease from 2017, which included the country's largest contract award in Leeds (the TransPennine Rail route upgrade).

Costain appointed as sole maintenance service provider by United Utilities

Costain has been appointed as sole Maintenance Service Provider by United Utilities across its operations under a framework contract for an initial period of five years with an option to extend to ten years. Under the contract Costain will provide overall management and delivery of United Utilities' larger-scale water and wastewater asset maintenance activities across the entirety of its network, including 96 water treatment and 575 wastewater treatment sites, which serves over six million people in the North West of England. This contract marks the first time United Utilities has outsourced its maintenance activity as it seeks to drive material efficiency and operational improvements in line with customer expectations and regulatory requirements.

Altrincham to Chester line gets £800,000 upgrade

Network Rail will invest £800,000 in a section of track between Altrincham and Ashley, allowing faster journeys from Manchester to Chester via Northwich. The major improvements, which will see 2,500 tonnes of railway stone and 700 sleepers replaced, along with new drainage works. This will allow a 20mph speed limit on the section of track to be lifted.

Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy is launched

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greater-manchester-local-industrial-strategy>

Plan to start £85m Eden Project North in 2020

Details have been revealed of ambitious plans to build an £85m northern version of Cornwall's Eden Project on Morecambe Bay's seafront. The first environmental scoping planning report for the proposed Eden Project North attraction has been submitted to Lancaster City Council. Backed by Eden Project International, the project will consist of five mussel-shaped domes rising to nearly 40m.

<https://www.edenproject.com/media/2018/11/new-vision-morecambes-eden-project-revealed>

Burnham: Our Network

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has launched Our Network, his 10-year plan to create an integrated, modern and accessible public transport system. The Mayor outlined the projects and policies he intends to implement to create a world-class public transport system for the people of Greater Manchester, accompanied by an animated map that shows how public transport connections across the city-region will grow and develop in four phases over the next decade. Our Network will be an integrated, simple and convenient London-style transport system; allowing people to change easily between different modes of transport; with simple affordable ticketing and an aspiration to have a London-style cap across all modes; with orbital routes that allow people to travel around the city region, as well as in and out of the city centre. Cycling, walking and buses will be accessible and convenient for short journeys, with interchanges and transport hubs enabling people to easily transfer to tram or train for longer journeys.

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/transport/our-network/>

RTPI: Ambitions for the North

Joined up planning is vital across the North to deliver growth and prosperity to all of its communities - according to a new report. The 'Ambitions for the North' report was launched by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in Leeds with a keynote speech by Lord Heseltine.

<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/research/projects/ambitions-for-the-north-people-and-place/>

North East launches £377 million bid to transform travel in the region

A bid has been agreed to try and secure more than £377 million of funding to improve transport in the North East. Councils across the region from Northumberland to County Durham would split the Transforming Cities Fund. If successful, the programme will be delivered over the next four years, after being approved today by the North East Joint Transport Committee, bringing together the North East and North of Tyne combined authorities.

The bid submitted to the Department for Transport consists of five key themes:

- £82.9 million invested in 16 miles of improvements to bus corridors into and through town and city centres, with high-quality priority measures to deliver consistent journey times.
- £59.1 million to transform 29 miles of cycle and walking routes as well as cycle parking around town and city centres and major destinations including Metrocentre and Newcastle International Airport.
- £55.9 million to upgrade key gateway rail stations including a new terminal building and parking at Sunderland, major improvements to access in and around Newcastle Central station and better access to Durham station.
- £15.6 million to build new and larger park and ride sites for bus and Metro in Durham, Gateshead and north of Newcastle, as well as modernising payment.
- £234.5 million to provide a new passenger rail line between Ashington, Blyth and Newcastle, and to deliver the Metro Flow Project to increase frequency, cut journey times and unlock future expansion of the network.

Fiddler's Ferry: SSE to close its last coal-fired power plant

The company said the plant in Warrington, which employs 158 people, will close on 31 March 2020 and it was beginning a consultation with trade unions. SSE said the station's losses were "unsustainable".

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.

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.

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.

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.

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,

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>

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>

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: Mckeating (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.

Tenders

Manchester: Hyde Road (A57) Pinch Point Widening Scheme

Expressions of interest close on 16/08/2019.

Contact: Robert Kelk Council, Email: r.kelk@manchester.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/>

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: Full Fibre Programme

Expressions of interest close on 26/07/2019.

Contact: Geoff Prowling, Leeds City Council, Email: Geoff.Prowling@leeds.gov.uk

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

Bradford: Sugden End Landfill

Expressions of interest close on 17/07/2019.

Contact: Naveed Anwar, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Email: naveed.anwar@bradford.gov.uk

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

Harrogate: Provision of Substructure & Groundworks

Expressions of interest close on 19/07/2019.

Contact: Christopher Hebdon, Harrogate Borough Council, Email: procurement@harrogate.gov.uk

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

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

- Manchester: Metrolink Communications Network Upgrade Project (AMENDED DEADLINE)
- Preston: Sherwood Way & South Drive Park Pitch Drainage
- Accrington: Refurbishment of Children's Play Area
- Liverpool: Anfield Phase 4G Demolition
- Seascale: Multi-disciplinary Infrastructure Engineering Framework
- Bury: Christ Church Ainsworth Primary School - Secure Fencing
- Mansfield: Minewater Treatment Civil Engineering, Refurbishment & Minor Works (EVENT)
- Network Rail: Hope Valley Capacity
- Great Places Housing: Drainage, Groundworks & Surfacing contracts

....and finally

St Helens gas powered hydrogen bus trial to improve air quality

A hydrogen bus pilot is designed to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040. One of the initiatives in the pipeline is the Hydrogen Bus Project, which will see the creation of a new hydrogen refuelling station at the BOC plant in St Helens. The project will potentially see up to 25 hydrogen-powered buses on the streets of the city region, emitting nothing but water from the exhaust pipe. The new hydrogen refuelling station will initially deliver 500kg of hydrogen every day.