



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

### Civil Engineering Contractors' Association North West news

#### Contact details

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

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

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

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

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

#### CECA NW Legal Advice Service

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

#### Tendering workshops

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

### **CECA NW 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](mailto: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](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 & CPUK 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 09.45 - 11.30, Thursday 12 September 2019, Chimney House Hotel, Congleton Road, Sandbach, CW11 4ST for CECA Midlands and NW members. To book your place: [admin@cecamidlands.co.uk](mailto:admin@cecamidlands.co.uk)

### **CITB to make £17.8m of funds available for site-ready workers**

CITB is promising to provide at least 18,000 new site-ready workers under its latest initiative. The skills body is pumping-in an extra £17.8m to support employers in training and retraining more workers. The CITB Onsite Experience Commission will be inviting contractors to apply for funding over the coming months.

### **Ex-offenders - speed interviews with HMP Hindley**

Inspiring Change award winners, CPUK C&R and its partners recently held speed interviews at HMP Hindley 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.azure.send.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](mailto:marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk)

#### The Williams Rail Review

The Williams Rail Review was established in September 2018 to look at the structure of the whole rail industry and the way passenger rail services are delivered. The review will make recommendations for reform that prioritise passengers' and taxpayers' interests. The review's findings and recommendations will be published in a government white paper in autumn 2019. Reform will begin in 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-williams-rail-review>

#### The impact of reverse charge VAT

Construction companies are facing a 20% drop in cash flow when VAT changes come into force in October. Government experts believe 150,000 firms could be hit by the "reverse charge".

The changes mean companies in the construction supply chain will no longer receive their 20% VAT payment when they submit bills. The VAT cash will instead be paid direct to HMRC by the customer receiving the service who will reclaim it in the normal way. **Please see details on page 3, of the forthcoming seminar for CECA Midlands & NW members on 12 September.**

#### EA annual report: water industry must clean up its act

Water company efforts to protect the environment have been described as "simply unacceptable" by the Environment Agency (EA), with only one of the major water and sewage companies in England performing at the level expected. The EA say that overall water company performance has deteriorated, reversing the trend of gradual improvement in the sector since the rating system began in 2011. Serious pollution incidents increased in 2018 causing damage to the rivers and wildlife.

The EA's annual report rates each of the nine water and sewerage companies in England as either green, amber or red on a range of measures including serious pollution, pollution per km of sewer pipes, supply resilience, self-reporting of pollution and complying with permits - and also compares individual company performance to highlight the best and worst.

Northumbrian Water was the only company achieving the highest four-star rating, showing that it is possible to bring in good environmental practices and limit the impact of operations on nature.

The report highlighted the best and worst performance including:

- Northumbrian Water improved to gain the highest rating of 4 stars.
- Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Wessex Water dropped from 4 stars to 3 stars, with Anglian Water and Thames Water remaining on 3 stars. Companies with 3 stars must improve their performance to reduce their impact on the environment.
- Southern Water, South West Water and Yorkshire Water were only given 2 stars and described as demonstrating an 'unacceptable level of performance.'
- Again this year South West Water is poor performing and has consistently demonstrated unacceptable performance and a red rating for pollution incidents. Most water companies look set to fail to meet 2020 pollution targets.
- Southern Water and Thames Water failed to demonstrate they have robust enough plans to maintain secure water supplies.

### **RAIB calls for review of zero-hours contracts for rail workers**

The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) have released their findings into the fatal accident between London Victoria and Three Bridge in November 2018.

The investigation found track worker was hit by a train in the earlier hours of the morning after they had placed equipment on the track. The report criticises Network Rail for their use of zero-hours contracts, which they claim contributes to fatigue and a higher risk of accidents.

### **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](http://www.stopmakeachange.co.uk) while companies interested in signing up for 2019 can contact [enquiries@ceca.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ceca.co.uk)

### **Government launches flood and coastal erosion call for evidence**

The government has launched a call for evidence which will form the basis for future policies to protect people, businesses and the environment from the effects of flooding and coastal erosion.

The public, scientists, local authorities and industry are invited to give their views on urgent questions and inform future policies to tackle a problem which, over the coming decades, is set to increase as a result of population growth and climate change. Despite government investment of £2.6bn over six years to deliver more than 1,000 projects to better protect 300,000 homes, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, wants to strengthen the flood and coastal erosion policy framework to ensure that it can continue to manage risks effectively. This consultation closes at **11:45pm, 19 August 2019**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flood-and-coastal-erosion-call-for-evidence>

### **HS2 reveals designs for Automated People Mover**

HS2 has unveiled the visuals for its new people mover at the first of a series of events to share emerging designs with the public and explain the role that the people mover will play.

The people mover will provide a fast and frequent transport connection between HS2's new Interchange Station in Solihull, through to Birmingham Airport in just 6 minutes. When fully operational, the people mover will carry up to 2,100 passengers per hour in each direction.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hs2-reveals-designs-for-automated-people-mover>

### **Six climate activists arrested at concrete plant**

Police chiefs are warning that construction will continue to be targeted by climate activists during a week of direct action. The warning follows the arrest of six protesters yesterday at London Concrete in Bow. Protesters from Extinction Rebellion chained themselves to the gates of the plant in east London preventing deliveries to and from the site. They were protesting about construction of the nearby Silvertown Tunnel and the environmental impact of concrete.

### **Guidance on forward tipping dumpers**

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

### **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>

### **Stonehenge tunnel's £1.7bn procurement starts despite funding uncertainty**

Highways England has launched its search for a contractor to deliver the A303 tunnel near Stonehenge despite there having been no resolution on how the scheme would be funded.

A contract notice outlines the agency's plans to build the scheme for £1.25bn. A preliminary-works package worth about £450m would be procured separately, taking the total value of the project to £1.7bn. A development-consent order is currently being considered with a decision from the secretary of state for transport expected in early 2020. Three firms or joint ventures are expected to be invited to bid for a design-and-build contract to deliver the 8-mile scheme.

<https://ted.europa.eu/TED/notice/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:328673-2019:HTML:EN:HTML&tabId=1&tabLang=en>

### **Government plans for electric car charge points to be installed in all future homes**

The government has announced a public consultation for new plans that could see all new-build homes fitted with an electric car chargepoint. The proposals aim to support and encourage the growing uptake of electric vehicles within the UK by ensuring that all new homes with a dedicated car parking space are built with an electric charge point, making charging easier, cheaper and more convenient for drivers.

The legislation would be a world first and complements wider investment and measures the government says it has put in place to ensure the UK has one of the best electric vehicle infrastructure networks in the world, as part of the £1.5bn Road to Zero environmental strategy. The government has also announced that it wants to see all newly installed rapid and higher powered charge points provide debit or credit card payment by spring 2020. This consultation closes at **11:45pm on 7 October 2019**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/electric-vehicle-chargepoints-in-residential-and-non-residential-buildings>

### **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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/813656/190701_BEIS_Green_Finance_Strategy_Accessible_PDF_FINAL.pdf)

### **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](http://www.ncub.co.uk/images/reports/NCUB_Talent2050_Skills_and_Education_Report_Final.pdf)

### **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: 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/>

### **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/0EFA2828-495B-40E4-97BF-58AD804707C2/BusinessesLatePayments>

### **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>

### **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>

### **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>

### **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.

### **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.

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/752686/Homes\\_England\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_AW\\_REV\\_150dpi\\_REV.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752686/Homes_England_Strategic_Plan_AW_REV_150dpi_REV.pdf)

### **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

### North West Regional Construction Awards 2019

Congratulations to CECA NW member, CPUK Civils & Remediation for their success in this year's awards.

- Client of the Year  
*WINNER - Cumbria County Council, Infrastructure Recovery Programme*  
*HIGHLY COMMENDED - Manchester City Council Capital Programmes*
- Contractor of the Year  
*WINNER - Willmott Dixon Construction*
- G4C Future Leader Award  
*WINNER - Ashleigh Gow, Kier Construction North West*
- Digital Construction Award  
*WINNER - Interserve, for the High Energy Beam Proton Project*
- Health, Safety & Wellbeing Award  
*WINNER - Sandside Lodge SEN School, Cumbria*
- Innovation Award  
*WINNER - Rhenus, sustainability via chemical remediation & geotechnical soil stabilisation*  
*Organisations involved: CPUK Civils & Remediation, BWB and The Peel Group*
- Integration & Collaborative Working Award  
*WINNER - Campus Whitehaven*
- Offsite Construction Award  
*WINNER - EBN Schools Programme of Works, Manchester City Council*
- Outstanding Achiever Award  
*WINNER - Steven Hunt, Steven Hunt & Associates*
- People Development Award  
*WINNER - F Parkinson*
- Project of the Year - Building  
*WINNER - FA Parklife*
- Project of the Year - Civils  
*WINNER - Campus Whitehaven*
- Preservation & Rejuvenation Award  
*WINNER - Corn Exchange Phase II, Aviva Investment Property Trust, Manchester*
- *HIGHLY COMMENDED: Ogdens Clock Tower, Torus, Liverpool*
- SME of the Year  
*WINNER - Krol Corlett Construction*  
*HIGHLY COMMENDED - Crossfield Group*
- Special Recognition Award  
*WINNER - John Lorimer*  
*In recognition of significant contribution to the delivery of progressive change in the construction sector*
- Sustainability Award  
*WINNER - Rhenus, sustainability via chemical remediation & geotechnical soil stabilisation*  
*Organisations involved: CPUK Civils & Remediation, BWB and The Peel Group*
- Sub-regional Project of the Year Award - Cheshire, Warrington & Wirra  
*WINNER - Huntington Community Primary School*
- Sub-regional Project of the Year Award - Cumbria  
*WINNER - Campus Whitehaven*
- Sub-regional Project of the Year Award - Lancashire  
*WINNER - Redevelopment of Penwortham Control Building*
- Sub-regional Project of the Year Award - Liverpool  
*WINNER - FA Parklife*
- Sub-regional Project of the Year Award - Manchester  
*WINNER - Wythenshawe Hospital, Emergency Department*
- Value Award  
*WINNER - Paddington Village infrastructure and public realm*

<http://constructionawardsnw.co.uk/winners-2019.html>

### **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.

### **Flyover demolition expected by year end**

The demolition of the Churchill Way flyovers in Liverpool could be completed by the end of the year, at a cost of £6.75m, with a masterplan to be created to guide the future of the available land.

Liverpool City Council's Cabinet next Friday is seeking permission to remove the 50-year-old structures in a phased demolition, after a safety inspection last year found "multiple, significant defects".

### **Works begins to clear eroding plastic from Cumbria river**

The first phase of a £1.5m project which will remove a 1.5-mile plastic liner from a Cumbrian riverbed has started. West Cumbria Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency are working to remove the multi-tonner liner which was installed in the bed of the River Keekle approximately 25 years ago, to protect erosion. The liner now poses plastic pollution and erosion risks, however once complete, the project will allow the river to function more naturally, improve habitat and biodiversity and improve river access for local people.

### **Anglesey secures funding for regeneration plan**

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has allocated £495,000 to support the North Anglesey Economic Regeneration Plan, created in response to Hitachi's decision to halt work at the £20bn Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station in January.

### **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.

### **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>

### **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.

### **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.

### **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".

### **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.

### **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.

### **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: 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.

### **Civils Estimator offers freelance service**

An established NW based Civils Estimator, who has worked for a number of CECA NW members in an 18 year career as both an Estimator and QS, is of late August, offering freelance Civils Estimating services, including pricing (including first principle), estimating and take-offs. Work can be done in either Client offices or remotely with regular contact made. Please contact Guy Lawson for further information and for an informal chat. References available on request.

## Tenders

Cumbria: Capital Works Framework 2020-2024

Expressions of interest close on 30/08/2019.

Contact: Clare Redpath, Cumbria County Council, Email: [clare.redpath@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:clare.redpath@cumbria.gov.uk)

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

Wigan: Carriageway Resurfacing and Footway Reconstruction Works 2019-2020

Expressions of interest close on 09/08/2019.

Contact: Dave Hibbert, Wigan Council, Email: [d.hibbert@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:d.hibbert@wigan.gov.uk)

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

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](mailto: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](mailto:trish.rimmer@blackpool.gov.uk)

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

Marsden: Colne Valley Skate Park

Expressions of interest close on 29/07/2019.

Contact: Robert Williams, Kirklees Council, Email: [robert.williams@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:robert.williams@kirklees.gov.uk)

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

Calderdale: Rights of Way Framework

Expressions of interest close on 31/07/2019.

Contact: Deborah Gaunt, Calderdale Council, Email: [deborah.gaunt@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.gaunt@calderdale.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](mailto:Geoff.Prowling@leeds.gov.uk)

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

Bradford: Sugden End Landfill

Expressions of interest close on 31/07/2019.

Contact: Naveed Anwar, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Email: [naveed.anwar@bradford.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:procurement@harrogate.gov.uk)

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

## ...and finally

### 'Concretebergs' found in sewers every year

Concrete blockages on the scale of the 100-tonne 'concreteberg' found recently in Islington's sewers are being found in major cities as frequently as once a year, according to a senior engineer.