



24 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 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 & 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

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

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.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.

Expert panel appointed to advise government's Infrastructure Finance Review

The government has appointed a 21-strong expert panel to provide advice to the ongoing Infrastructure Finance Review. The review is being carried out by HM Treasury, with support from the Infrastructure and Projects Authority, to “ensure the government continues to have the right tools in place to support private infrastructure investment as the UK leaves the EU.” Supporting the work of the review, the expert panel will provide advice during the review process and input on the challenges facing the infrastructure market and how they can be addressed. Charles Roxburgh, second permanent secretary of HM Treasury, and Matthew Vickerstaff, deputy CEO and head of project finance of the Infrastructure and Projects Authority, will co-chair the panel. The 21 panellists are:

- Robert Bartlett, head of infrastructure, MUFG;
- Clare Burgess, partner, Clifford Chance;
- David Carter, director of infrastructure, West of England Combined Authority;
- Tara Davies, member and head of European Infrastructure, KKR & Co L.P;
- Mark Dooley, global head of Green Investment Group, Macquarie;
- Adrian Doran, head of corporate banking, Northern Ireland, Barclays;
- Katy Dowding, executive vice-president, Skanska;
- Liv Garfield, CEO, Severn Trent;
- Katrina Haley, managing director, HSBC;
- Neil King, managing director, infrastructure, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board;
- Kwong-Wing Law, regional head, infrastructure finance, Natixis;
- Gareth Lynn, non-executive director, Welsh Government;
- Graham Mather CBE, president, The Infrastructure Forum;
- Damian Moloney, head of investments, international, AustralianSuper;
- Darryl Murphy, head of infrastructure debt, Aviva Investors;
- Chris Rule, chief executive & chief investment officer, Local Pensions Partnership;
- Ian Russell, chair, Infrastructure Commission for Scotland;
- Laura Shoaf, managing director, Transport for the West Midlands;
- James Stewart OBE, vice-chair, KPMG;
- Tom Sumpster, head of infrastructure, Legal & General;
- Barry White, CEO, Transport for the North

CECA: Regulated Asset Base (RAB) Model for Nuclear

In June 2018, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced that the Government would review the viability of a ‘Regulated Asset Base’ (RAB) model for new nuclear projects and committed in January 2019 to publishing an assessment of this model by the summer.

The Government’s assessment has concluded that, by providing regulated returns to investors, a RAB model has the potential to reduce the cost of raising private finance for new nuclear projects, thereby reducing consumer bills and maximising value for money for consumers and taxpayers.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/regulated-asset-base-rab-model-for-nuclear/>

MoD: £1bn overseas construction framework

The Ministry of Defence is preparing to launch a £1bn framework for construction capital works in its overseas bases. Procurement is being led by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and will begin with a market engagement event in Glasgow next month followed by another in Cyprus in September. The framework has been split up into five lots covering different overseas locations. They are: Cyprus; the Falkland Islands (pictured) and Ascension Island; Mainland Europe, excluding Germany; wider overseas areas; and the general overseas operational estate.

Network Rail: record £7bn investment outlined in latest annual report

Network Rail's latest annual report and accounts show a pre-tax loss of £173m compared to £48m profit last year - though the national rail body say the loss was planned and expected as a result of the design of the fixed regulatory settlement for 2014-2019, increased train performance penalty payments, increased maintenance spending and increased depreciation and financing costs. However, the report for the 12 months to 31 March 2019, saw record levels of investment up 6.2% from last year to £7bn, with revenue increased to £6.7bn from £6.6bn. It was also a year that Network Rail say almost 3,000 new services a week were added to the network, providing "much needed capacity and extra seats as investment in Britain's infrastructure hit a record high."

Labour: call for quarterly reviews of HS2

HS2 should be subjected to an independent review every three months during its construction, to prevent further cost overruns and delays, the Labour Party has said. At a House of Commons debate, York MP Rachael Maskell presented the idea as part of a series of clauses on the bill proposing the second phase of HS2 works from the West Midlands to Crewe, Cheshire.

Highways England: £5m write off after end to PFIs

Highways England took a £4.9m hit when chancellor Philip Hammond killed off future PFI agreements last October. The surprise announcement in the autumn statement meant the agency had to scrap its plans to set up arrangements for two major schemes. It was forced to write off £2.7m spent developing the PFI business plan for the A303 project and £2.2m on the plan for the Lower Thames Crossing, according to its accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019.

Highways England: 26 schemes to start this year

Highways England has confirmed plans to start 26 schemes this year in what will be one of the biggest years of starts in the present Road Investment Strategy (RIS). Around 26 projects are planned to start construction although several projects have been pushed back into RIS 2. The A19 Downhill Lane junction improvement has slipped, and the A5036 Princess Way - access to Port of Liverpool has been delayed a year because of a legal challenge. Two schemes on the A69, which were proposed as a result of the Northern Transpennine Strategic Study, are currently under review. Between 2015-2020 Highways England originally planned to start 112 major schemes. After agreeing on changes with the Department for Transport, 70 projects will have been started in RIS1 in their current form.

Major project starts 2019-2020:

- Bypass/grade separation*
 - A63 Castle Street
 - A585 Windy Harbour - Skippool
- Dualling*
 - A303 Sparkford - Ilchester dualling
 - A30 Chiverton to Carland Cross
- Junction improvements*
 - A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet
 - M621 junctions 1-7 improvements
 - M6 junction 19 improvements
 - M6 junction 10 improvement
 - A46 Coventry junction upgrades
 - A45/A6 Chowns Mill junction improvement
 - M2 junction 5 improvements
 - M271/A35 Redbridge roundabout upgrade
- M3 junction 10-11 improved sliproads
- M3 junction 12-14 improved sliproads
- M42 junction
- A34 Oxford enhancements
- Smart Motorway*
 - M56 junctions 6-8
 - M3 junctions 9-14
 - M62 junctions 20-25
 - M40/M42 interchange
 - A1(M) junctions 6-8
- Widening/capacity*
 - A1 Scotwood to North Brunton
 - A19 Norton to Wynyard
- Trans-Pennine Upgrade*
 - A61 Westwood Roundabout

Highways England: groundbreaking contracts to deliver major upgrades

The first in a series of contracts with supply chain partners to carry out up to £8.7bn of work on England's motorways and major A-roads have been signed. Highways England has signed a £61.4m contract with supply chain partner Geoffrey Osborne Ltd to deliver a major upgrade that will transform a bottleneck on the A46 in Coventry. And, in the south east, a £52.4m contract has been awarded to VolkerFitzpatrick to deliver a series of improvements along the A27 near Lewes in East Sussex. As part of the government's Road Investment Strategy, Highways England is developing a scheme to improve the junctions along the A46, which includes the Binley and Walsgrave junctions, while on the A27 it will upgrade various junctions along a nine-mile section of the A27 between Lewes and Polegate, creating a new dual carriageway on a short section west of Polegate, with enhanced walking and cycling facilities along the whole stretch.

Severn Trent: AMP7 Capital Delivery Build Only framework

Severn Trent has confirmed the latest round of winning contractors under its £2bn AMP7 water construction spending round Winners of Lot 3 have been confirmed as:

- Barhale limited & Doosan Enpure Limited
- Coffey Construction Limited
- Eric Wright Water Limited
- FLI Water and Glaswell & Last
- J.N. Bentley Limited
- Kier Integrated Services limited
- nmcn PLC

Severn Trent has changed the way it will carry out the work between 2020 and 2025

Environment Agency: extra £2.9m funding to make homes more flood resilient

Communities across England are set to be better protected against the impacts of flooding as a result of almost £3m of government investment, environment minister has Thérèse Coffey confirmed. Following a competitive evaluation process, three projects across Yorkshire, Devon and Cornwall and central England have been chosen to receive up to £700,000 each to boost research into, and uptake of, property-level measures which can better protect homes and businesses from flooding. The funding will go towards new research initiatives, demonstration centres and advice portals which will help people to learn about the benefits of installing measures in their homes which can significantly reduce the potential impacts of flooding. The remaining money will be used to fund further research, support project delivery and evaluation as well as initiatives to share the findings and lessons learned from the three projects across the rest of the country.

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.**

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 while companies interested in signing up for 2019 can contact 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>

Guidance on forward tipping dumpers

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

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>

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.

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>

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>

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>

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

The Construction Industry Training Board is planning a new “big, bold” careers campaign in a bid to attract a new generation of workers into construction. The move is part of the board’s latest three-year plan which highlights how it will spend the £614m of levy income collected between 2019/20 to 2021/22. The plan outlines the ‘Big Six’ skills challenges identified by CITB research. They include:

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

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

CMA guidance on competition law for the construction industry

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

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

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

Briefing from Pinsent Masons

https://alerts.pinsentmasons.com/rs/vm.ashx?ct=24F76F18D3E143A9CCDD89ACD0299318DBF355B2DF8E0BD15EE5636069FFCB1CDB7A3A9C8&utm_source=Emergence&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=52737ff3-17ab-46aa-9ae6-5db56eed5e4a

News from ICES

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

News from People's Health (from B&CE)

http://elinkeu.clickdimensions.com/m/1/11894794/p1-b19199-86c970b71f8342a7ab575381adf13f6b/1/117/589dc2f9-1b4f-4be4-aea3-6bfa89e3dd0b?_cldee=Z3V5Lmxhd3NvbkbjZWNhbncuY28udWs%3d&recipientid=contact-fe99174d73e0e111bc38101f742e5414-bc2383e7aa1e413882c50f9886c07abe&esid=0e3ef197-a3a7-e911-81e3-00155d713d09

News from ACAS

<https://northwest.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/F4007CECCE47FE7C2540EF23F30FEDED/08A3825C18C6916F6D5E5F9A8728A5A6>

North West - and the North

A59 KRN Improvements - A59 Northway / Liverpool Road South / Dover Road Junction

This procurement exercise is for the delivery of a Civil Engineering Works project; A59 Port Capacity on behalf of Sefton Council. The A59 Northway/ Dover Road / Liverpool Road South junction forms the gateway to Maghull from Switch Island and the National Road Network. The junction is located approximately 700m north of Switch Island. All northbound journeys into Maghull currently pass through this junction, which suffers congestion in peak periods. The scheme will consist of a major upgrade of the layout of the Dover Road / Liverpool Road South / A59 junction, comprising of a new double stop line arrangement along the A59, the re-alignment of both Dover Road and Liverpool Road South arms and the widening on the northbound approach to the Dover Road Junction, to accommodate an extended right turn lane to Dover Road. Closing date: **19 August 2019**

https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/d2957b24-9180-43d5-82be-12ebd5a43990?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2019-07-20&utm_source=SavedSearch

Crewe HS2 hub consultation gets under way

Cheshire East has launched two consultations for the future of Crewe station, including options for a road bridge and the potential to bring forward up to 3.8m sq ft of commercial space along with 3,700 homes. The first consultation focusses on the area action plan, an area which stretches from Basford Hall sidings, across Weston Road to Second Avenue; along Gresty Road, South Street and Mill Street; and as far as Manchester Bridge along the A532.

Masterplan for Stockport Town Centre West revealed

Stockport Council has revealed details of its plans for Town Centre West, a sizable regeneration area which is set to include 3,500 homes, 1m sq ft of employment space and social infrastructure, delivered as part of the creation of the Mayoral Development Corporation.

FEC confirms 1,000-home Red Bank land buy

The developer has confirmed the acquisition of a 20-acre plot including railway arches and the Red Bank Viaduct as part of its wider £1bn Northern Gateway masterplan for north Manchester, paving the way for the first 1,000 homes in the emerging neighbourhood.

Amazon confirms opening of £68m Merseyside centre

Online retailer Amazon has confirmed it is to open a sortation centre at Haydock, this September. The £68m site will create 250 jobs, substantially less than was previously forecast. However, the US firm said it will increase headcount when seasonal demand, such as Christmas and peak times, require.

Sheffield unveils ambitious new plan for city region's rail networks

The Sheffield city region has outlined its ambitious vision for how the region will be better connected by both high speed and conventional rail networks into the future, including plans for three new stations. Their *Integrated Rail Plan* (see link below) says that, while the benefits of national investment in HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) should be maximised, there needs to be ongoing, complementary investment in the local and regional rail and road networks. By doing this, the region's transport chiefs say the plan can best improve capacity, reliability, affordability, and journey times for communities and businesses across the Sheffield city region. Key elements of the plan include:

- A proposed new Barnsley Dearne Valley railway station, with the preferred location on a site in Goldthorpe;
- The creation of a new Midland Main Line station in Rotherham;
- An East Coast Main Line railway station at Doncaster Sheffield Airport;
- An extension of the Tram-Train, the upgrade of the Hope Valley Line; and significant upgrades of the railway stations at both Sheffield and Chesterfield, to accommodate HS2 services.

https://d2xjf5riab8wu0.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SCR_Integrated_Rail_Plan.pdf

CECA NW member, VJ Donegan: 8 consecutive RoSPA Golds

VJ Donegan & Company Managing Director, Val Donegan said: “We are delighted to hear that once again we have received a Gold Award. This is our 8th Gold Award in a row so we must be doing something right. The demands on the industry are ever increasing, and during periods of financial challenges, in particular, it would be easy to allow standards to drop. We are committed to improving our procedures and standards, and our receiving this award is a huge pat on the back for all our staff. Our Health and Safety Manager, Debby Littlewood is the driving force behind our quest for continuous improvement, and I congratulate her and the staff for the efforts they have made to enable us to achieve this prestigious award once again.”

£250m masterplan revealed for Huddersfield

A ten-year £250m masterplan to regenerate six areas across Huddersfield to “create a thriving, modern-day town centre” has been launched. Kirklees Council has launched the Huddersfield Blueprint, which focuses on regenerating six focus areas in the town centre: Station Gateway, St Peter’s, Kingsgate and King Street, New Street, the Civic Quarter and the new Cultural Heart.

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”.

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/>

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".

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>

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

Sefton: A59 KRN Improvements - A59 Northway / Liverpool Road South / Dover Road Junction
Expressions of interest close on 19/08/2019.

Contact: Jane Taylor, Sefton Council, Email: jane.taylor1@sefton.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

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/>

Bradford: Framework for General Highways Structures Works 2019

Expressions of interest close on 12/08/2019.

Contact: Nikki Morton, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Email: nikki.morton@bradford.gov.uk

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

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

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 31/07/2019.

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

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

Darlington: Highways Surfacing Framework
Expressions of interest close on 27/08/2019.

Contact: Claire Weatherburn, Darlington Borough Council, Email: claire.weatherburn@darlington.gov.uk
Register via NEPO: <https://www.nepo.org/>

Also, further details can be provided of the following upon request:

Preston: Traffic Management Framework Agreement

Bolton: Supply of Highways Materials (Various Lots)

Leeds: Fallowfield Loop Path Improvements

Widnes: Waterloo Centre - Demolition

Preston: Application of Traditional Surfacing, Surface Patching, Hand Patching and Hot Rolled Asphalt
Highways England, Warrington: M60 J17-J16 28/5B Park Farm Overbridge

Preston: Sherwood Way & South Drive Park Pitch Drainage

Mansfield: Minewater Treatment Civil Engineering, Refurbishment & Minor Works

....and finally

Theresa May tells Boris Johnson to make Northern Powerhouse a "top priority"

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/politics/theresa-may-backs-power-up-the-north-campaign-and-tells-successor-boris-johnson-to-make-northern-powerhouse-a-top-priority-1-9894711>