

CHAIRMAN'S FIRST QUARTER REPORT, JUNE 2019

Oliver Tolputt, Chairman, CECA NW

I am pleased to provide the following report of the first quarter, in my first year as Chairman of CECA NW, together with details of plans for the rest of the year. I am grateful for the support I have received from my fellow CECA NW directors as well as the Executive Committee and the NW membership, in delivering a programme to continue to meet members' needs and aspirations.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to CECA NW to our latest associate member, BDB Special Projects. I would also like to congratulate CPUK Civils & Remediation for winning the Inspiring Change award for its work with ex-offenders. It is the second consecutive winner from the North West, after DXI's success in 2018.

Geraldine Fleming of Driver Trett has delivered four seminars for CECA NW in the first two quarters of 2019, and four more sessions are being arranged for the autumn. We are also planning a joint seminar with CECA Midlands on reverse charge VAT.

We have a meeting arranged with STAR Procurement for members to find out more about the GM Streetscene Alliance, and are planning meetings with West Cumbria Mining, Highways England and Homes England. We recently met the Chief Executive of Cumbria LEP, to identify how their priorities align with those of our members. The 2019 CECA NW flyer is set to go to print and work is also underway on the 2019 CECA NW video, promoting the industry to schools and colleges.

For some time, now, we have discussed the need both to improve the image of civil engineering, and to attract more young people in to the industry, and I am pleased to report that our Schools & Colleges Co-ordinator is now in post, and has made contact with all CECA NW member companies, and is lining up visits with them. The aim is both to establish just how much work is being done by our members across the region with schools and colleges, and to identify how best CECA NW can provide assistance.

The CECA NW Foundations group provides a network for people new to the industry, and recently held a seminar on design innovation and wellbeing. An autumn seminar is being planned and all are welcome, of any age and experience, and I would urge members to make colleagues aware of them and encourage them to attend. We have also held a meeting for SMEs to discuss common issues.

We have held the second CECA North by NW dinner in Penrith, with numbers slightly higher than last year. The feedback has been very positive, and we had an excellent after dinner speaker in Alfie Moore. Now that the 2019 Golf Day is being run jointly with the CICES, I am pleased to report that numbers are significantly up on 2018, with 11 teams entered. The CECA NW Annual Awards Dinner in October is progressing well, with guests of honour that include Construction Minister, Andrew Stephenson MP; Barry White, CEO of Transport for the North; and Steve Moore, Director of Operations at the Environment Agency. I look forward to seeing you there. There are 8 awards categories, and I would urge members to submit their entries as soon as possible.

Financially, we are in good shape, and have a robust business plan for 2019, as we continue to report an increase in turnover year on year. I hope you will agree that we are continuing to make progress, but we are always looking to improve what CECA offers to our members even further. I would stress, however, that CECA NW is **your** Association and, rather than second guess what your business needs are, I would urge you to contact CECA NW Director, Guy Lawson or myself, with any suggestions for us to implement on your behalf.