



14 August 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 Flyer 2019

The 2019 flyer is now ready - hard copies are being printed, and will be available upon request:

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CECA-NW-Flyer-2019.pdf>

Guests of Honour at CECA NW annual awards dinner, Manchester, Friday 11 October 2019

Barry White, CEO of Transport for the North; Steve Moore, Director of Operations at the Environment Agency; and Natalie Webster of Homes England will be attending the CECA NW annual awards dinner as guests of honour. Due to changes in ministerial positions, Andrew Stephenson MP, former Construction Minister, is no longer able to attend. Please see the link to the awards entry forms (click on the link and all 8 categories open up): <https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CECA-NW-awards-entry-forms-2019.pdf>

The deadline for entries is **13 September 2019**.

To book places at the dinner: https://www.aldercross.com/events.php?event_id=140

In planning....

CECA NW will be holding a meeting this summer for members on housing infrastructure opportunities in the region. Meetings are also being planned with Highways England and United Utilities - further details as soon as they are finalised. 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.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

I am grateful to Cheetham Hill Construction for raising the following issue: The negotiations for our Professional Indemnity Insurance renewal have been more difficult this year, as we have been doing more design and build work that requires PI cover during last year and this year. This has impacted on our renewal cost - almost doubling what we paid last year. That raises the question: Do clients who insist on Design and Build realise that they are paying twice for the cover, because the contractor has to pay a premium and the consultant also has to pay?

CECA is due to produce a guidance note on changes to PI, and seek to influence Association of British Insurers, customers & Government on how this can work in the best interests of all parties. If any CECA NW member is willing to share any experiences of this, please 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

CECA NW Legal Breakfast seminars, with Geraldine Fleming - autumn programme topics

- Liquidated damages, 26 September, Preston
- NEC4, 8 October, Penrith
- Legal update, 22 October, Warrington
- Supply contracts, December tbc

Venues to be confirmed shortly.

CITB: 20-week deadline for short duration grants

Levy-registered employers can receive up to £120 in grant for employees achieving a short duration training course. Here's what they need to know:

- Online grant claims: existing 30 June deadline extended: Employers now have until **Monday 19 August** to claim their grant online for short duration courses completed between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019.
- 20-week deadline: Employers now have 20 weeks from date of achievement to claim their grant on all courses completed from 1 April 2019 to reduce the time between training and receiving payments.
- All claims can be made online here: <https://www.citb.co.uk/levy-grants-and-funding/citb-levy/how-to-register/sign-up-to-citb-online/>

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.

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, date to be confirmed

CECA: Construction Industry Unites to Demand Delay To VAT Changes

The Government must delay the implementation of damaging VAT changes in the construction industry, demands a coalition of the major trade bodies in the sector, in a letter to the Chancellor published this week. The letter calls on the Chancellor to push back the implementation of reverse charge VAT, due on 1 October, by at least six months due to the fact that:

- The timing of these changes could not be worse given they are due to take place just before the UK is expected to leave the EU, quite possibly on 'no-deal' terms;
- Reverse charge VAT will be yet another burden on construction employers on top of other pressures facing the industry, such as material price rises, increased pension contributions and skills shortages; and
- The changes could lead to a loss of productivity, reduced cashflow and in the worst cases, lead to a hit on jobs, tipping some companies over the edge, particularly small businesses.

Commenting, CECA chief executive Alasdair Reisner said: "Civil engineering contractors are extremely worried about the impact of the forthcoming new rules on their immediate cashflow and the impact that this will have on business sustainability. The construction sector is already struggling due to ongoing political uncertainty, with declining workloads for many members. The introduction of the reverse charge VAT may push small contractors into the red, as they do not have the resources to manage the immediate impact of the legislation change. We are therefore calling on Government to delay the implementation of reverse charge VAT and work with industry to help businesses prepare for the new rules in the best possible way."

Please see details on page 3, of the seminar for CECA Midlands & NW members on 12 September.

CSCS Launches New Website Design

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme is pleased to announce the relaunch of its website - www.cscs.uk.com

If you have ever applied for a CSCS card you probably visited the website to assist with your application. CSCS have completely redesigned the website's layout to make sure the information visitors need is easier to access.

Lack of bidders forces HS2 to rethink £1.5bn track deal

HS2 is revising a £1.5bn track and overhead power deal following "increasing concern" from contractors over risk transfer. Project leaders will now hold an open day next month to gauge industry concerns over the scheme. An OJEU notice stated: HS2 Ltd is hosting an Industry Day on 3.9.2019 to re-engage with the market and launch its revised strategy based on market appetite and conditions.

£1bn Silvertown Tunnel procurement suspended after legal challenge

Award of the Silvertown Tunnel design, build, finance and maintain contract has been suspended following a legal challenge from the losing bidder. Transport for London (TfL) has been forced to suspend plans for the £1bn scheme after its reserve bidder, Silver Thames Connect (STC) - a consortium which includes Hochtief, Dragados and Iridium Concesiones de Infraestructuras - issued a legal challenge.

Gatwick Airport to invest £1.1bn over next five years

Gatwick Airport has unveiled its refreshed five-year plan to invest £1.1bn in infrastructure improvements through to 2024. The planned spending at the London airport brings total investment since 2009 to £3.21bn. The re-phased latest plan will see the North Terminal extended with six new departure gates at Pier 6, main runway re-surfacing in 2021 and an additional rapid exit taxiway built. A new 3,250 space car park is also planned for the North Terminal.

Highways England to launch £400m resurfacing framework

Highways England will open a £400m framework for resurfacing concrete on its Strategic Road Network (SRN) after “critical failures” and safety concerns on roads over the last three years. The government body is looking for contractors to develop a “comprehensive response” to the safety risks on legacy concrete, which is exposed or worn down, according to the OJEU notice. The works will be divided across four lots for testing, design, repair and maintenance, and renewals, and will take place between 2020 and 2025. This phase of works is the second of five road investment periods in an overall £1bn resurfacing scheme, which is set to last until 2051.

<https://ted.europa.eu/TED/notice/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:381217-2019:TEXT:EN:HTML&src=0>

Latest ONS figures show 1.3% decline in construction output

The latest ONS construction output figures have been described as a “grim outlook on the state of the construction industry” by public sector procurement organisation the Scape Group.

The figures show a decline of 1.3% in Quarter 2 (Apr to June), which Scape’s chief executive Mark Robinson described as continuing the “biggest quarter-on-quarter decline from the public sector since records began two decades ago,” and that “the economy continues to be affected by infighting in Westminster.” The main points of the ONS report show that:

Construction output decreased by 1.3% in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, largely reversing the increase of 1.4% in Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2019;

- The decrease was driven by a fall of 2.6% in repair and maintenance in Quarter 2 2019, which was due largely to the 6.0% decline in private housing repair and maintenance, with a smaller contribution from the 0.9% fall in non-housing repair and maintenance;
- In new work, the decrease of 0.5% in Quarter 2 2019 was driven by declines in public other new work and private new housing, with public other new work seeing its largest quarter-on-quarter decline since quarterly records began, with a fall of 10.9%;
- Construction output decreased by 0.7% in the month-on-month all work series in June 2019; this was due to a 2.0% decline in repair and maintenance along with flat growth (0.0%) in new work.

Council pauses £129m bypass scheme

Plans for a controversial new £129m bypass have been blocked by Herefordshire Council. The bypass proved to be a key local election issue in May this year, when the previously Conservative-led council moved to no overall control. Several newly elected councillors campaigned against the bypass, and the council cabinet has now decided to ‘pause and review’ the plans, as well as the Southern link road scheme which represents a follow-on second stage of the bypass.

Subcontractors wanted for £400m Dounreay decommissioning

Winning firms on a £400m decommissioning framework at Dounreay are set to highlight work available to subcontractors over the next four years. The Scottish nuclear site and its Decommissioning Services Framework contractors are planning a supply chain event next month to outline work opportunities. Work will centre on construction, demolition and engineering projects that will take decommissioning of the site into a new phase. The event will be held on 5 September in Wick, Caithness and is only available to companies who register in advance. Spaces are limited to 2 per organisation and registration is available here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dounreay-decommissioning-services-framework-supply-chain-event-registration-68583514137>

Government makes £36m R&D funding available for transforming construction

The government has invited businesses to bid in two competitions worth up to £36m to fund collaborative R&D and demonstrator projects. Both competitions focus on modern methods of construction, digital and whole-asset performance. UK Research and Innovation is providing the funding through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund’s Transforming Construction Challenge.

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/426/overview#summary>

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/427/overview#summary>

Lighthouse Club inundated with mental health claims

The Lighthouse Club made a loss last year as payouts to construction workers and their families in need rose by 67%. The industry charity has been swamped with claims as its easily accessible helpline enabled more people to get in touch.

<https://www.lighthouseclub.org/lighthouse-company-supporter/?savealife>

UK set to establish up to ten new freeports after leaving EU

The government has announced plans to create ten freeports in the UK after Brexit. The plan follows a 2018 Mace-led report on the economic benefits of supercharged ports, and the government has now appointed an advisory panel to help establish the ports.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trade-secretary-announces-freeports-advisory-panel-will-ensure-uk-is-ready-to-trade-post-brexite>

Bidding starts for £8bn new national framework

Procure Partnerships has opened prequalification for its new national framework. The body, which stems from Procure North West, has put an £8bn price tag on the new four-year framework, which is to be split into 10 regional lots. Procure Partnerships said that the decision had been taken to roll the regional delivery model out nationally after more than 24 public sector bodies have used the regional North West framework since it was launched 10 months ago. Contractors will have the chance to select from two value banded lots; £4m to £12m, and £12m+. Interested firms have until **12 September 2019** to complete the prequalification process: <https://www.procurepartnerships.co.uk/>

Can increased devolution boost England's cities and regions?

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has launched a new inquiry into progress on devolution in England. The inquiry will scrutinise the impact of recently agreed devolution agreements and ask if the transfer of further powers to England's cities and regions can boost local economies and provision of public services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/housing-communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/progress-devolution-england-inquiry-17-19/commons-written-submission-form/>

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>

Guidance on forward tipping dumpers

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

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 and Ascension Island; Mainland Europe, excluding Germany; wider overseas areas; and the general overseas operational estate.

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>

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

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.

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>

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>

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://sharesystems.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

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>

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.

News from ICES

<http://mailshot.cices.org/Chartered%20ICES%20Newsletter%20JulAug19.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/B06D5AA9780C22622540EF23F30FEDED/5B09F4A67A48B05216FB8100885F948E>

North West - and the North

North West beats London as most active for construction contracts

According to Barbour ABI's latest Economic & Construction Market Review, 36.6% of construction contracts awarded in June were to sites across the North West, beating London as the most active region in the country. The North West's position was bolstered by £1.5bn of works being awarded as part of the Sellafield decommissioning scheme. Overall, £5.2bn worth of contracts were awarded across the UK in June, with 37.2% in infrastructure, 33.1% in residential, and 9% in education. This was a 5.5% increase on May. London came second with 13.7%, marking a 22.6% difference between the two regions. <https://www.barbour-abi.com/economic-and-construction-market-review/>

....but unemployment on the rise

There's been a sharp rise in unemployment in NW - up 21,000 on last quarter. The CBI said the figures were a "warning sign" for the region's economy. They said Government had to invest more in training and infrastructure and do more to grow the NW economy.

Cheshire East rejects Crewe road proposal

Planning permission for an additional road at Grand Junction Retail Park in Crewe was rejected by Cheshire East Council's planning committee. Triton Property Fund, who own and manage the retail park, put in the application in order to "assist the flow of traffic into, around and out of the retail park".

Liverpool to cut 'commuter misery' with £120m Rocket Junction redesign

The city council has put forward a bid to the Government to radically remodel the junction with the M62, including knocking down the Queens Drive flyover, in a bid to cut congestion.

Peel looks to build further hydrogen facilities in £130m deal

Peel Environmental has signed a £130m agreement with Waste2Tricity and PowerHouse Energy to deliver 11 waste plastic to hydrogen facilities, as the developer prepares to submit a planning application for the first scheme at Protos, Cheshire.

Decision due on Darwen EfW plant

Suez Recycling's plan to build a plant capable of processing up to 500,000 tonnes of waste a year is set to be signed off by Blackburn with Darwen council this week.

FirstGroup replaces Virgin to run West Coast route

FirstGroup is to take over the running of the West Coast mainline train route, connecting London Euston to Glasgow Central, from December. Along with Italian firm Trenitalia, FirstGroup said the route would pave the way for an era of high-speed rail. First Trenitalia replaces Virgin Trains, which was barred from bidding to keep the route. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said the bid was part of a shift to a new model for rail.

Potholes

North West councils spent almost £95m repairing the regions roads last year. Despite this compensation claims paid out for vehicle damage caused by potholes increased, costing the tax payer £378,000.

Business leaders call on PM to kick-start devolution, and Northern Powerhouse

Northern business leaders have called on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to kick-start the devolution process to reinvigorate the Northern Powerhouse. One hundred business leaders, from organisations such as property giant Bruntwood, Associated British Ports, Manchester City FC and Siemens, signed the 'Devo 100' letter.

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/uk/we-want-100-per-cent-devolution-across-the-north-business-leaders-urge-boris-johnson-1-9914989>

Next phase of Merseyrail upgrades announced

Closures at stations including Green Lane, Chester, and West Kirby are expected as Merseyrail continues preparing its network for new trains.

Both stations and stretches of railway are to be closed as the network carries out further upgrades which will allow Merseyrail to roll out the new trains from next year.

The closures will take place in September until October, with the longest running at Green Lane, where Chester and Ellesmere Port services will not be stopping at the station between 8 September and 20 October.

Other lines to be closed for periods in the next two months include Birkenhead to Chester; Bache to Chester; West Kirkby to Hoylake; Aintree to Walton; and Southport to Formby.

Cuadrilla applies for extension to fracking timescales

Shale gas exploration operator Cuadrilla is set to apply for a change to one of its planning conditions at Preston New Road, to allow drilling and hydraulic fracturing to continue into 2020.

The company, based in Preston, will write to Lancashire County Council within the next month to seek a scoping opinion as part of the environmental impact assessment for the site.

Highways England: A66 update

We are not yet at the stage where we can release full package information. However, we can confirm that there will be a range of values across the four proposed packages. The values will range from £100 million to £275 million including PCF stage 5 design costs. Please note these figures are outturn costs and include inflation. At 2019 prices the value range is £75 million to £200 million.

.... and set for £3.5m environmentally friendly upgrade

Highways England claims that safer, smoother journeys as well as environmental benefits are on the way along the A66 in Cumbria, thanks to a £3.5m package of improvements. Work along the A66 in west Cumbria includes junction improvements between Workington and Cockermouth and an extension of ground-breaking partnership work with Cumbria Wildlife Trust to enhance wildlife habitats, especially for pollinators like bees, along the route.

EA: £220m marine and coastal defence framework

The Environment Agency has named the contractors it will use to deliver a £220m programme of marine and coastal flood defence work. Work has been split into two lots on the new framework, one covering major projects valued from £5m-£50m and the other smaller jobs worth less than £5m. The new arrangement will run until March 2023.

- £5m-£50m projects (total value £185m over four years)
BAM New Wave Solutions JV, Van Oord UK, VBA (VolkerStevin/Boskalis Westminster/Atkins)
- Projects up to £5m (total value £35m over 4 years)
JN Bentley, BAM Nuttall, Van Oord UK, VBA JV

GMSF delayed again

Greater Manchester's 201,000-home spatial framework looks to have been kicked into the long grass again, although the GMCA's attempts to pin the blame on the Government for the delay have been questioned by those close to the process. The latest delay leaves it unlikely that any final form of the framework will come forward before next year's Mayoral elections, taking place in May 2020.

Everton FC unveils £500m waterfront stadium design

The club expect to submit plans by the end of 2019 and hope to begin a three-year building project as soon as 2020. Designs for the £500m stadium were drawn up by architect Dan Meis. The ground will be built at the Bramley-Moore Dock site on the wider Liverpool Waters development.

£500m Sellafield DDP framework extended to 2026

Sellafield has extended contracts to 2026 with seventeen firms it selected three years ago to deliver its £500m clean-up programme in Cumbria. So far the six alliances and joint ventures on the Decommissioning Delivery Partnership have delivered £385m worth of work and recorded 4.5m hours without a lost-time accident. The future pipeline projects include completing demolition of the infamous 110m tall Windscale pile chimney, scene of Britain's worst nuclear accident, and clearing land and removing the heat exchangers around the redundant Calder Hall reactors and turbine halls. The firms will help to plan the dewatering of the pile fuel storage pond and clean up the large Thorp and Magnox reprocessing plants.

DDP framework

- Lot 1 (Remediation, Pile Fuel Cladding Silo, Pile Fuel Storage Pond, other major projects) Integrated Decommissioning Solutions (comprising Atkins, Altrad Hertel, North West Projects and Westlakes Engineering)
Nexus Decommissioning Alliance (Costain, Mott Macdonald, Nuvia, Squibb Group)
ADAPT (Orano, Doosan, Atkins)
Cumbria Nuclear Solutions (Jacobs, React, James Fisher Nuclear, Shepley Engineers, Westinghouse, WYG Engineering).
- Lot 2 (First Generation Magnox Storage Pond)
The Decommissioning Alliance (Jacobs, Atkins, Westinghouse)
- Lot 3 (Magnox Swarf Storage Silo)
13 Decommissioning Partners (Wood, Altrad Hertel, Shepley Engineers)

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

Labour announces major £3.5bn investment in Mersey tidal power project

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has backed major plans for a £3.5bn investment in the Mersey tidal power project as part of Labour's 'green industrial revolution' proposals to address the climate emergency and boost investment in the north of England. The project will harness the power of the River Mersey and Liverpool Bay to produce clean, renewable energy to power up to a million homes, create thousands of jobs and contribute towards the UK's zero-carbon economy. Labour has previously committed to net zero UK carbon emissions before 2050.

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.

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>

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>

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.

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.

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.

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>

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

Blackpool: Highways - Surfacing and Civils Work (Large-Scale Framework)

Expressions of interest close on 13/09/2019.

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

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

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 Works 2019/20

Expressions of interest close on 23/08/2019.

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/>

NWCH Low Value Construction Framework

Expressions of interest close on 09/09/2019.

Contact: Neil Davies, Manchester City Council, Email: n.davies@manchester.gov.uk

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

Douglas: 19-20 Snaefell Mountain Railway Fell Rail (QUICK QUOTE)

Douglas: S30 Rail Isle of Man Railways Renewals (QUICK QUOTE)

Bolton: Supply of Highways Materials (Various Lots)

Leeds: Fallowfield Loop Path Improvements

Preston: Application of Traditional Surfacing, Surface Patching, Hand Patching and Hot Rolled Asphalt

Lancaster: Salt Ayre Pool Pillar Steel Repairs

Grimsby (ABP): Inspection, Repair and Maintenance of Permanent Way

Chorley: Construction of a Sports Pavilion, Car Parking and Access at Westway Playing Fields

Liverpool: Design and Construction of Kingsway Tunnels Discharge Drainage Pipework Replacement

Warrington: Risley Moss Tower Works

Preston: Traffic Management Framework Agreement

....and finally

New road surface using rubber is trialled on the M1

A new road surface using recycled tyres is being trialled on the M1 motorway by Highways England. A section of road between junctions 23 to 22 on the southbound carriageway of the M1 near Leicester has been laid with the new surface which has been developed by Tarmac.

Highways England is funding trials into the new asphalt mix to see if this environmentally-sound innovation could be the way forward for future road surfaces.

Using waste tyres in roads has both economic and environmental benefits. Some 40m waste tyres are produced every year in the UK, and over 500,000 disused tyres shipped out of the UK each year to be landfilled. EU rules ban the disposal of tyres in landfill sites. Therefore the tyres generally go to the Middle East and Asia. There are over seven million tyres filling one Kuwaiti landfill site which is so vast that the 'tyre graveyard' is now visible from space.