

7 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](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 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>

## **Guest of Honour at CECA NW annual awards dinner, Manchester, Friday 11 October 2019**

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. 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](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](mailto:admin@cecamidlands.co.uk)

### 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](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, date to be confirmed**

#### **Johnson: Infrastructure investment proposals**

Boris Johnson has made his first speech to Parliament as prime minister and set out what his government will be aiming to achieve. A theme running through the prime minister's speech was a pledge to deliver a new Golden Age that, by 2050, would make the UK "the greatest and most prosperous economy in Europe".

Investment in road and rail, broadband and 5G, Mr Johnson said, would see the UK "boast the most formidable transport and technological connectivity on the planet. We will announce investment in vital infrastructure, fibre rollout, transport and housing that can improve people's quality of life, fuel economic growth and provide opportunity."

In response to a question from Conservative MP Andrew Percy asking the prime minister to quickly commit to the Northern Powerhouse Rail plan, Mr Johnson said it was "truly exciting" and "we should definitely be doing it".

However, the prime minister deflected questions about high-speed rail and Heathrow's third runway. Asked by Mr Percy if he would "commit quickly" to HS3, the proposed east-west line connecting cities in the north of England, the prime minister responded: "I have asked Doug Oakervee, the former chairman of Crossrail, to conduct a brief six-week study of profiling of the spend on HS2, to discover whether such a proposal might have merit."

Similarly, in answer to Green MP Caroline Lucas, Mr Johnson said he would "study the outcome of the court cases" relating to Heathrow expansion "with a lively interest".

#### **.....and pledges to fund Northern Powerhouse Rail between Manchester and Leeds**

Prime minister Boris Johnson has committed to delivering the TransPennine rail link between Manchester and Leeds. In a speech in Manchester, Mr Johnson said that one of his top priorities is investment in improving connectivity throughout the country. The new prime minister said that he would ensure the TransPennine rail route, which is a key section of the Northern Powerhouse Rail project-designed to provide better rail connections in Northern England, would go ahead.

#### **Grant Shapps appointed transport secretary, Theresa Villiers environment secretary**

Theresa Villiers is the new environment secretary, while former housing minister Grant Shapps is now Secretary of State for Transport in Boris Johnson's government, with Paul Maynard as Under Secretary of State for Transport. Esther McVey has been appointed housing minister by Johnson while Robert Jenrick becomes Housing and Communities Secretary.

#### **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.**

#### **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-brexit>

### **UK construction output declines for third consecutive month**

Brexit and political uncertainty are continuing to hit confidence in the construction industry, as the latest PMI figures show the longest period of decline since 2016. The latest IHS Markit/CIPS UK Construction Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 45.3 in July, up from June's 10-year low of 43.1, but still below the 50.0 no-change value for the fifth time in six months. The worst performing category was commercial construction, closely followed by civil engineering activity. Risk aversion among clients in response to Brexit uncertainty continued to hold back work on commercial projects, according to anecdotal evidence.

### **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/>

### **HS2: £7.4bn spent to date**

A total of £7.4bn has been spent on HS2 to date, it has been revealed. Department for Transport parliamentary undersecretary Baroness Vere of Norbiton disclosed during a House of Lords discussion that the figure had increased from the £5.5bn stated by the government earlier this year. The lower figure only related to cash spent by both HS2 Ltd and the Department for Transport between April 2009 and the end of March 2018.

### **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.

### **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.

### 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

### 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)

### 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>

### **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>

### **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>

### **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)

### **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://elinku.clickdimensions.com/m/1/11894794/p1-b19199-86c970b71f8342a7ab575381adf13f6b/1/117/589dc2f9-1b4f-4be4-aea3-6bfa89e3dd0b?\\_cldee=Z3V5Lmxhd3NvbkbjZWVhbnCuY28udWs%3d&recipientid=contact-fe99174d73e0e111bc38101f742e5414-bc2383e7aa1e413882c50f9886c07abe&esid=0e3ef197-a3a7-e911-81e3-00155d713d09](http://elinku.clickdimensions.com/m/1/11894794/p1-b19199-86c970b71f8342a7ab575381adf13f6b/1/117/589dc2f9-1b4f-4be4-aea3-6bfa89e3dd0b?_cldee=Z3V5Lmxhd3NvbkbjZWVhbnCuY28udWs%3d&recipientid=contact-fe99174d73e0e111bc38101f742e5414-bc2383e7aa1e413882c50f9886c07abe&esid=0e3ef197-a3a7-e911-81e3-00155d713d09)

### **News from ACAS**

<https://acasnational.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/75D1FB5A0401849D2540EF23F30FEDED/CA07B8C57E8CCF81667CCDA886AB700A>



## **North West - and the North**

### **Toddbrook Reservoir, Whaley Bridge**

Almost all of Whaley Bridge's 6500 residents had to be evacuated after part of a reservoir wall collapsed. The Toddbrook Reservoir dam in Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, suffered severe damage to part of its wall, which partly collapsed, following torrential rain. A multi-agency response from the Canal & River Trust (which owns the reservoir) and its main contractor, Kier, Environment Agency, Derbyshire County Council and the emergency services have since stabilised the dam.

### **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

### **Liverpool City Region approves £6 million to revitalise town centres**

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority approved up to £6 million - up to £1 million for each of its six local authorities - to support plans to revitalise town centres across the Liverpool City Region.

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

### **Burnham: Manchester to go underground?**

Manchester is so congested, the mayor reckons we need an underground tube system in order to solve its crippling transport congestion, Andy Burnham has said. Speaking at an event on the future of rail services, the mayor called for a 'Crossrail for Manchester', arguing it makes no sense to build all our infrastructure at ground level. (Anyone remember the proposed Picc-Vic line in the 1970s?)

### **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.

### **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.

### **NIC unveils framework to help guide better decision-making on future procurement**

The procurement of infrastructure projects risks being constrained by lack of evidence on long-term investment outcomes and could have strategic implications for the UK's ability to meet growing demand for infrastructure services and its net zero emissions targets, according to a new report by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC).

The NIC says the lack of a strong evidence base on infrastructure procurements has led to the focus on a single measure of performance, usually short-run cost. As a result, it claims that future procurement decisions risk being made on the basis of opinion and judgement, limiting the scope for lessons to be learned to improve future practice.

Launching a framework to assess private financing and traditional procurement, the NIC said the public sector must do more to understand the benefits and downsides of different procurement options and improve its project data management. Doing so, they say, will also address existing concerns about transparency and public accountability and improve the public sector's chances of securing the private financing UK infrastructure will need up to 2050.

<https://www.nic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Evaluating-the-Performance-of-Private-Financing-and-Traditional-Procurement-July-2019.pdf>

### **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

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](mailto: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](mailto:clare.redpath@cumbria.gov.uk)

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

Liverpool: Carr Lane car park redevelopment

Expressions of interest close on 07/08/2019.

Contact: Craig Garsed, Liverpool City Council, Email: [craig.garsed@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:craig.garsed@liverpool.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/>

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](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/>

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](mailto:n.davies@manchester.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](mailto:nikki.morton@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](mailto: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)

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

Manchester: Metrolink Communications Network Upgrade Project (AMENDED DEADLINE)

**....and finally**

**Manchester Ship Canal is 125 years old**

125 years on: A historic snapshot of the Manchester Ship Canal

<https://www.peel.co.uk/125-years-on-a-historic-snapshot-of-the-manchester-ship-canal/>