

18 September 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 Routes to Market 2019

Want to know what's planned for the region, and who's doing what? Our Routes to Market research is an invaluable resource for CECA NW members:

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/members-area/briefing/ceca-north-west-routes-to-market-september-2019/>

CECA NW Flyer 2019

The 2019 flyer is now ready - hard copies are available upon request:

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

CECA NW 2019 video

The new video, to promote careers in the industry, is now available on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/myeRhpZRsvM>

Transport for the North meeting, 17 September 2019

Guy Lawson and Chris Jackson met Peter Molyneux, Major Roads Director at Transport for the North.

CECA NW Executive Committee meeting, Wednesday 2 October 2019

The next meeting of the CECA NW Executive Committee takes place at 08.30 for 09.00, at Brockholes, Preston New Rd, Preston PR5 0AG. It will be followed by a workshop with Alasdair Reisner on the future of infrastructure funding. All are welcome, whether committee members or not, but please contact Guy Lawson to book your place.

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

Barry White, CEO of Transport for the North, Steve Bassett of the Environment Agency and Natalie Webster of Homes England will be attending the CECA NW annual awards dinner as guests of honour.

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 autumn for members on housing infrastructure opportunities in the region. Meetings are also being planned with Highways England and United Utilities. 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 Legal Breakfast seminars, with Geraldine Fleming - autumn programme topics

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- Liquidated damages, 26 September, Holiday Inn Express, Bamber Bridge, Preston
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-liquidated-damages-tickets-72425080365>
- NEC4, 8 October, North Lakes Hotel, Penrith
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-nec-4-tickets-72426502619>
- Legal update, 22 October, Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, Warrington
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-legal-update-tickets-72426823579>
- Supply contracts, December tbc

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.

CITB NW autumn 2019 update

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/ATSnHZKJLuGil/>

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

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

HS2 to be delayed by up to five years as cost spirals to up to £88bn

Completion of the first phase of HS2, between London Euston and Birmingham, could be delayed by five years until 2031, the government has announced, and the cost of the high-speed rail network has soared to up to £88bn.

Network Rail route director appointments

Network Rail's regional directors have each confirmed a series of appointments to their senior management teams as the company's 14 new routes are now live. The 14 new routes each take responsibility for operations, maintenance and minor renewals in their respective areas, and managing the day-to-day delivery of train performance and relationships with their local train operating companies. In the NW, they are:

North West and Central region (led by Tim Shoveller, managing director):

James Dean: route director, West Coast Mainline South;

Phil James: route director, North West;

Dave Penney: route director, Central (Dave Penney will take up his position in the new year. David Golding will be acting route director for the Central route in the interim)

Pagabo major projects framework

Pagabo is opening for tender its Major Works framework, suitable for projects valued at over £5m. Around a dozen contractors will be battling to retain places on the framework, which now spans six regions and three project value bands. Submission deadline for the Major Works framework is **31 October**. More information is available from <https://www.pagabo.co.uk>

£62m released for 13 flood defence projects

Thirteen flood defence projects across Yorkshire, Cumbria, the North East and the South East will receive £62m of central Government funding. Many of the projects are located in communities that suffered from flooding during winter 2015, with over 9,000 homes due to benefit from improved defences. The extra funding is in addition to the government's commitment to invest a record £2.6bn over six years up to 2021 to better protect 300,000 homes across the country.

Funding will support the development of 11 projects in the Northern Powerhouse, including seven in Yorkshire, four in Cumbria and Lancashire and two in the North East.

In the NW, the projects are at Egremont, Flimby, Kendal and Preston/South Ribble.

Common Challenges, Shared Response: new report on digital maturity in UK infrastructure sector

A new report by the Digital Transformation Task Group has been published, providing a data-driven snapshot of digital maturity from the UK's Infrastructure Client Group. Titled Common challenges, shared response, the report prepared by Mott MacDonald and sponsored by the Infrastructure Client Group and Institution of Civil Engineers, identifies best practice from the ICG and highlights areas where collective action is needed to remove blockers and accelerate progress across the energy, transport and water sector.

<https://project13.mottmac.com/2019/>

PM sets out plans to give the north more control of rail services

Boris Johnson has set out his intention to allow northern mayors and combined authorities to take more control over their services. The new plans could mean that local people will have more power over how their trains are run, including the frequency and fares, as well as allowing them to hold local providers to account. The news came less than 48 hours after five regional mayors had joined forces to demand more local powers from the prime minister, at a summit organised by the NIC.

....after regional mayors join forces to demand more local powers

Five of England's metro mayors and leaders from cities across the country gathered in London to set aside their political differences and demand the prime minister puts more power into their hands. The cross-party group are calling for further control over local transport and additional funding to help them transform connectivity in England's urban centres, in line with recommendations in the National Infrastructure Assessment. The leading regional politicians travelled to the capital for a summit organised by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC).

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, said: "Detached, London-centric decision making in Whitehall has had its day - it's time to hand over the reins of power and let cities and regions define their own destinies. Our message to the Prime Minister is clear - the time has come for substantial devolution and funding to city regions to unlock our full potential. I'm proud to join mayors from all over the country and different parties in making this call on the government today."

New construction minister announced

Nadhim Zahawi has been appointed as the new construction minister, taking on the role from Andrew Stephenson, who was appointed as construction minister on 5 April but was moved out as part of Boris Johnson's cabinet reshuffle. The Conservative MP for Stratford-on-Avon, elected in May 2010, had previously been a junior minister in the Department for Education since January last year.

IPPR: London still getting more transport investment per capita than the North

The IPPR has claimed that the North is set to continue receiving significantly less transport funding per person compared to London, despite already missing out on £66bn transport funding over the last decade. The report shows a comprehensive picture of planned spending included in the most recent edition of the National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline - a list of the government's planned infrastructure projects between now and 2033.

While the capital will receive £3,636 per person, says the IPPR, the North will receive just £1,247 per person and within the North, Yorkshire and the Humber will see just £511; the North East £519; and the North West £2,062 per person.

<https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/transport-investment-in-the-northern-powerhouse-2019-update>

ICE Project 13 event, Manchester, 5 November 2019

Project 13 is an industry-led movement to improve the way high performance infrastructure is delivered. It is about moving from transactional business models to collaborative enterprise models to boost certainty and productivity in delivery, improve whole life outcomes in operation and support a more sustainable, innovative, highly skilled industry: <http://www.p13.org.uk/>

Light refreshments will be available from 08:00 with the event to start at 08:30.

This is a joint event with ACE, CECA, CICES, CIHT. To book:

<https://www.ice.org.uk/events/ice-project-13-manchester>

Bidding race starts for £40m M1-A6 link road

Central Bedfordshire Council has opened bidding for its planned 2.7-mile M1-A6 link road project. The new strategic link road to the north of Luton will run from the A6 Barton Road to junction 11a of the motorway. It will include building a new section of dual and single lane carriageway and a bridge over the railway mainline into London. There will be junctions to a proposed new Rail Freight Interchange at Sundon and to proposed new housing developments. Subject to planning permission and funding, construction will commence in March 2020 on the two-year project. Prequalification documents are available from the council's procurement site:

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/centralbedfordshire.aspx/Home>

Guidance on forward tipping dumpers

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

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.

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>

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>

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>

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 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://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

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/61D6FB2D38C29EE72540EF23F30FEDED/891408F34B56B4690367819F23434F99>

North West - and the North

ACS celebrates IIP National Gold Award shortlisting

CECA NW member, ACS Construction Group is delighted to announce that they have been shortlisted for the Employer of the Year: Gold (50 to 249 people) Award at the national Investors in People Awards 2019. After retaining the Gold standard Investors In People accreditation earlier this year, they will receive further recognition for their dedication to people management and development.

Initially awarded Gold in 2013, the latest assessment was far more rigorous as they had to stand up to the IIP version 6 (v6) standard. ACS has been recognised for being ahead of the Construction sector average on all nine indicators and that the organisation is above the overall Investors In People average on all nine indicators. A particular reference was made regarding the exceptionally strong culture that runs throughout the company which is demonstrated through collective and individual performance. Being named as a global leader in supporting our people to do their best work and have a healthy work life balance is a fantastic achievement and everyone at ACS is incredibly proud to be recognised for this.

Shortlist revealed for £800m Salford masterplan

The search for a development partner to deliver the 240-acre Salford Crescent masterplan has narrowed to four parties, including partnerships between some of the region's biggest players.

Bruntwood with Capital & Centric; Peel with Urban Splash; English Cities Fund, made up of Muse Developments, L&G and Homes England; and Robertson have been shortlisted, with the preferred development partner due to be selected by the end of the year.

The 240-acre site covers much of the University of Salford's existing campus, areas around the Crescent, Peel Park, and Frederic Road North.

Baltic Triangle station leads £173m transport investment

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is to invest nearly £173m in 18 transport and infrastructure schemes, including the creation of new train stations in the Baltic Triangle and at Headbolt Lane, along with major interventions in the region's cycling network.

£300m A1 widening around Gateshead goes in for planning

Plans for up to £300m of improvements to the A1 around Gateshead have been submitted to the planning inspectorate. Highways England is planning to widen a 2.5 mile stretch of the A1 dual carriageway between Birtley (junction 65) and Coal House (junction 67). The project will involve widening of the A1 south of Gateshead to four lanes on the southbound carriageway and three lanes with lane gain on northbound carriageway to provide additional capacity. Works will include replacing the Allerdene railway bridge, which carries the A1 over the East Coast Mainline.

Leaders across the North demand a 'Northern Budget' to deliver infrastructure boost

Leaders from across the North of England have called on the Government to commit to a 'Northern Budget' in order to deliver a boost to the region's economic fortunes. It includes:

- Commitment to a £7 billion Northern Infrastructure Pipeline - a list of shovel-ready road and rail projects to be delivered by the mid-2020s
- Commitment to build the full £39 billion Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) network by 2040
- Commitment to £1 billion for Transport for the North over the next three years to deliver on its vision, including funding for the development of Northern Powerhouse Rail and other road and rail schemes

For more information on the Northern Budget, please visit:

www.transportfornorth.com/northernbudget

To view the campaign video, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6FqYaFRWjU&feature=youtu.be>

Knowsley to invest £2m in cycling routes

The council is to sign off a cycling and walking project to link Prescot to Cronton via the planned Halshead Garden Village. The route will Cronton and Prescot via Stadt Moers Park, and will tie into out routes being brought forward by Halton Council, continuing into Widnes and the Trans Pennine Trail. The major interventions include an on-road cycleway from the junction of Liverpool Road and Manchester Road through to Carr Lane in Prescot; a newly-constructed off-road cycle link between Carr Lane and Stadt Moers Park; and a cycle link between the park and Pottery Lane.

TfN: £700m funding bid for 16 northern road projects

Transport for the North has submitted a bid for a £700m investment in the region's roads over the next five years. The schemes are:

Major Road Network schemes

- A595 Improvement Scheme (Bothel) - Cumbria County Council
- A1079 Improvement Scheme - East Riding Council
- A582 Dualling - Lancashire County Council
- Blyth Relief Road - North of Tyne Combined Authority/North East Combined Authority
- Durham Northern Relief Road - North of Tyne Combined Authority/NECA
- Sunderland Transport Corridor - North of Tyne Combined Authority/NECA
- Tyne Bridge & Central M'way - North of Tyne Combined Authority/NECA
- Shalesmoor Gateway - Sheffield City Region
- A689 Corridor Improvements - Tees Valley Combined Authority
- A34 Cheadle - Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- A650 Tong Street - West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Dawsons Corner Jct & Stanningley Bypass - West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Large Local Major schemes

- Kendal Northern Access Route - Cumbria County Council
- The Rocket Junction - Liverpool City Council
- Wigan East-West - Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- A1237 Dualling (Phase 2) - City of York Council

Burnham refuses to back plan for high speed rail station

Wrangling over the details of the Northern Powerhouse Rail scheme and how it will connect with the HS2 route between London and the North has caused tensions between transport officials and northern political leaders. And the lack of agreement has led to fears that the arrival of high speed rail in the North could potentially be delayed beyond the long-promised date of 2033. A major bone of contention is how Manchester's Piccadilly station should be extended to accommodate the 250mph HS2 trains from London and NPR trains to Liverpool, Leeds and the rest of the North.

Analysis by TfN, HS2 Ltd and Network Rail suggests a six platform, 400 metre station could be built above ground - extending the proposed HS2 station at the site by two platforms - for an extra £570m compared to the original HS2-only scheme. But officials in Greater Manchester, led by Labour metro mayor Andy Burnham, refuse to back this and have argued strongly for an underground station to accommodate Northern Powerhouse Rail.

Plans progress for new waste-to-energy plant in Preston

Plans for a £200 million waste-to-energy plant on the outskirts of Preston, UK, have moved one step closer to fruition. Preston City Council's planning committee voted not to object to the proposals put forward by infrastructure development, asset management and investment company Miller Turner. The firm plans to build the plant at Red Scar industrial estate. Lancashire County Council's development control committee will make the final decision on whether the facility can be built.

£120m plan to replace Liverpool flyover with tunnel

A £120m plan to radically redesign Liverpool's Rocket junction at the M62 has been submitted to the Department for Transport. Transport for the North has included Liverpool City Council's scheme as one of four major projects within a £700m programme of works identified as critical to growth in the north of England. The major upgrade to the Rocket Junction would see the existing Queens Drive Flyover demolished and replaced with a new roundabout and dual-lane underpass.

£22m upgrade for A64 in North Yorkshire

Highways England has outlined more than £22m investment on the 55-mile A64 Yorkshire coastal route over the next 12 months. Resurfacing, drainage, junction upgrades as well as major safety improvements are being planned for the A64 between the A1(M) at Bramham and Seamer in Scarborough. Around 25 schemes are being carried out along the 55-mile route including safety improvements at Crambeck and Rillington between now and the end of March next year.

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.

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.

£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)

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>

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>

Tenders

Manchester: Surfacing of Carriageways & Framework for Proprietary Surface Treatments to Carriageways and Footways

Expressions of interest close on 07/10/2019.

Contact: Stephen Polese, Manchester City Council, Email: s.polese@manchester.gov.uk

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

Carlisle: St James's Park Refurbishment

Expressions of interest close on 04/10/2019.

Contact: Dawn Reid, Carlisle City Council, Email: dawn.reid@carlisle.gov.uk

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

Skelmersdale: Demolition works

Expressions of interest close on 27/09/2019.

Contact: West Lancashire Borough Council, Email: purchasing@westlancs.gov.uk

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

Ashbourne: Business Park Link Road

Expressions of interest close on 10/10/2019.

Contact: Stuart Etchells, Derbyshire County Council, Email: stuart.etchells@derbyshire.gov.uk

Register via East Mids Tenders: <https://www.eastmidstenders.org/>

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

Wigan: Resurfacing of Beech Walk Play Area

Douglas: Construction of a Replacement Sewage Treatment Works in Ballaugh

Homes England: Basford East Primary Infrastructure Works

Ormskirk: Ormskirk Rail to Bus Stations Cycle Works

Manchester: Highways Maintenance Defect Repairs

Grimsby: Inspection, Repair and Maintenance of Permanent Way

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

Manchester, Great Places Housing: Groundwork Contractors, Drainage Subcontractor & Tarmac Work Contractor

...and finally

World's largest crane on site at Hinkley Point

The world's largest crane has started work on the Hinkley Point nuclear power station site.

The massive crane, called Big Carl after Carl Sarens the father of the Belgian family business that made it, is able to carry 5,000 tonnes in a single lift. The 250m tall crane has been developed to support the growth of modularisation in big construction.

<https://www.heavyliftnews.com/time-lapse-video-of-big-carl-boom-and-jib-lift/>