



9 October 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>

CECA NW Chairman's 2019 Quarter 2 report

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/CHAIRMAN-S-SECOND-QUARTER-REPORT-SEPTEMBER-2019.pdf>

CECA NW 2019 Quarter 3 Political & Economic Report

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CECA-NW-POLITICAL-AND-ECONOMIC-REPORT-SEPTEMBER-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 Bassett of the Environment Agency and Natalie Webster of Homes England will be attending the CECA NW annual awards dinner as guests of honour.

CECA NW/CITB meeting, Friday 22 November 2019

A meeting is being arranged for CECA NW members, to cover grandfather rights, an initiative to provide employment opportunities for ex-offenders, social value, and an update from CITB. Further details shortly.

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/Costain. 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.

Training & Development

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

- Legal update, 22 October, Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, Warrington
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-legal-update-tickets-72426823579>
- Adjudication, 10 December, Room Four, Legh Street, Golborne

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/>

Construction employers' networking event, 15 October 2019

Greater Manchester Combined Authority & The Manchester College (Openshaw campus) are hosting a construction employers' networking event on 15 October from 16:30 - 19:00? More details:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/employer-and-education-networking-event-construction-and-infrastructure-tickets-69171099621>

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

T Level engagement events

- Repertory Theatre and the Library of Birmingham - Thursday 10 October 2019
- Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium - Thursday 24 October 2019

To book your place: <https://registration.livgroup.co.uk/tlevelsandips/login.aspx>

CITB Employer Update

<http://elink-eu.azuread.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 review 'could axe part of northern route'

The northern leg of HS2 could be scaled back, it has been reported.

The Financial Times said that the Oakervee review is examining the possibility of axing phase 2b of the route from the East Midlands to Leeds and Sheffield.

The review is assessing factors including whether the project should continue, what its cost will be and the route it should take.

CITB: Construction needs breathing space on post-Brexit visas

Construction employers want greater simplicity and a breathing space on planned visa restrictions following the UK's departure from the EU, according to a new report from the CITB.

The research report, Migration and Construction, finds that just 3% of construction employers have the necessary experience in handling visa applications, with two-thirds saying that the process is difficult. Under the new post-Brexit immigration system - due to be introduced in January 2021 - employers will have to learn how to manage visa applications for EU workers. Any system that makes the hiring of migrant workers too bureaucratic, says the CITB, threatens to block the work pipeline, including the government's homebuilding and key infrastructure ambitions.

<https://www.citb.co.uk/about-citb/construction-industry-research-reports/search-our-construction-industry-research-reports/mobility-and-migration/migration-and-construction-2019-report/>

Preliminary work to develop options for Edinburgh Waverley station approved

Scottish government approves £15m investment to develop infrastructure options for Waverley approaches, with funding aiming to move options to next phase.

Sajid Javid announces 'infrastructure revolution'

In his keynote speech to the Tory conference in Manchester, the Chancellor announced the first 14 new schemes and major improvements for existing routes from a £25 billion Government fund for the roads and motorways. He also promised £5 billion for rolling out "full fibre" broadband and the 5G mobile phone network. New schemes will include work to complete the dualling of the A66 Trans-Pennine expressway from Scotch Corner to Penrith and the A46 Newark bypass. Among other schemes will be improvements to the M60 Simister Island interchange in Manchester and construction work on the A428 in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

Department for Transport: 18 new roads move a step closer to completion

A first wave of funding announced has been which will enable 18 new road schemes to move on to the next stage of development. They include £31 million for the Preston western distributor scheme: a new dual carriageway link between the M55 and the A583 is designed to improve travel between the enterprise zone at Warton and the Springfields nuclear facility at Salwick, as well as reduce congestion in Preston and directly lead to the creation of 3,575 houses and the creation of over 500 jobs. Through the Lancashire County Council funded link road, a further 1,745 houses will also be built.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/18-new-roads-move-a-step-closer-to-completion>

Paul Maynard: Market-led rail scheme 'taking longer than anticipated'

A transport minister has admitted that the Department for Transport's (DfT) plan for rail market-led schemes has taken longer than first anticipated.

Speaking at a fringe event at the Conservative Party conference, rail minister Paul Maynard said that it was still working out the "numerous elements to take into account" including who takes on financial risk and what happens to the scheme once it is built.

IHS Markit/CIPS: Construction sector remains in downturn, new figures reveal

Continued Brexit uncertainty and resulting concerns for the economy saw the UK construction sector remain firmly stuck in a downturn at the end of the third quarter, according to the latest monthly IHS Markit/CIPS figures. The report's key figures showed that:

- Commercial activity remains the sector's weakest-performing category;
- Second-quickest fall in new orders for over a decade;
- Employment cut to greatest extent since December 2010.

Pinsent Masons on IR35

IR35 is legislation that allows HMRC to collect additional payment where a contractor is an employee in all but name. If a contractor is operating through an intermediary, such as a limited company, and but for that intermediary they would be an employee of their client, IR35 kicks in.

<https://employmentlawplus.pinsentmasons.com/en/employmentlawplus/hr-network-tv/news-library/2019/october-2019/4-october-2019/ir35--unclear-whether-or-not-you-are-the-end-user/>

Network Rail unveils £10m university funding

Network Rail is investing £10m working with universities to help prepare a railway that can better cope with extreme weather and increased demand. The national rail body has agreed eight framework contracts with the universities of Southampton, Birmingham, Sheffield, Huddersfield, Newcastle, Nottingham, Heriot Watt and Loughborough to help the company deliver its R&D portfolio through the next five years of CP6.

Ports across England given £10m to prepare for Brexit

Sixteen ports across England (Heysham and Liverpool, in the North West) will receive a share of a £10m funding pot to help their preparations for Brexit on 31 October. The Department for Transport (DfT) has revealed the successful bidders of the £10m Port Infrastructure Resilience and Connectivity (PIRC) competition, which offers ports up to £1m each to deliver important infrastructure upgrades. This could include creating more space for HGV parking and container storage as well as improving access for vehicles to help keep traffic and trade flowing smoothly across the border.

CECA: Crossrail 2 Planning Funds "Very Welcome"

CECA has said recent reports that HM Treasury's spending round for the next financial year contain £6 million allocated to the Department for Transport to develop plans for Crossrail 2 as "very welcome." This follows that Chancellor's Spending Round earlier this month, in which the Government promised an "infrastructure revolution" and "continued support for the development of major transport projects, including pushing on work on the Leeds to Manchester route of North Powerhouse R-rail, and driving forward East West rail links in the Oxford to Cambridge Arc."

Twelve renewable energy projects approved

The Government has agreed electricity supply deals for a dozen major renewable energy projects, including the world's largest wind farm off the Yorkshire coast. The projects will provide 6 gigawatts of electricity, enough to power over seven million homes. Schemes include major offshore wind, advanced waste to gas conversion technologies, and remote island onshore wind generation. Three new giant wind farms to be built on the Dogger Bank will involve erection of more than 630 turbines standing 190m high, each built by Siemens in Hull. Work is expected to start in January with three schemes alone triggering £9bn of capital investment between 2020-26 into low carbon infrastructure.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clean-energy-to-power-over-seven-million-homes-by-2025-at-record-low-prices>

Guidance on forward tipping dumpers

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

Green light for £90m gas-fired power station

An application to build a £90m gas-fired power station has been approved by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Consent has been given for the plant, located on Abergelli Farm, north of Swansea, south Wales, and connected infrastructure with a generating capacity of up to 299 MW. Drax submitted an application to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration earlier this year, and after consideration of its assessment, the government has given it the go-ahead.

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/>

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>

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>

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.

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.

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

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>

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%20Sept19.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=Z3V5Lmxhd3NvbkJjZWVhbnVudWVz%3d&recipientid=contact-fe99174d73e0e111bc38101f742e5414-bc2383e7aa1e413882c50f9886c07abe&esid=0e3ef197-a3a7-e911-81e3-00155d713d09

News from ACAS

<https://northwest.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/070936482CB514572540EF23F30FEDED/3938BB9354E8083B3D3F7F9A22A6E02E>

North West - and the North

STAR Procurement: GM Streetscene Alliance update

Procurement for the Alliance contract is now scheduled to begin within 4-6 weeks, with the likelihood of further employer engagement. I will provide further updates as they become available.

Capita appointed for Carlisle southern link road

A £2.5m contract for design services on Carlisle's £112m southern link road has been won by Capita Property & Infrastructure.

The link road is a key priority for Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council, which leaders believe is vital in improving east-west connectivity. In February this year Government announced that it would grant £102m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund for the project.

The route as mapped out runs west from junction 42 of the M6, meeting the A595 at the Newby West roundabout. The intention is to start construction in spring 2021 for completion in 2023. A six-week consultation was held through June and July this year.

St Cuthbert's Garden Village, where up to 10,000 homes could be delivered, is one of the sites that would be enabled by the link road. Draft options for the village are currently out for consultation.

Hughes on board as TfN builds leadership team

David Hughes, a senior transport industry figure, is to join Transport for the North as director of strategy and programme in February 2020.

Funding secured for Irwell bridge

The Hawkins\Brown-designed bridge, linking New Bailey in Salford and Manchester's St Johns, has secured funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Set run from a plot next to Manchester's The Factory arts centre, currently under construction, and New Bailey, the bridge will provide a cycling and walking route over the Irwell to connect the two rapidly developing areas.

Mayfield vision unveiled as plans go in for £1.4bn transformation

The Mayfield Partnership has put forward the first phase of its £1.4bn masterplan next to Manchester's Piccadilly station, featuring a 70,000 sq ft office and the city's first public park for more than a century. The opening phase of the wider masterplan is to feature the 6.5-acre public park around the River Medlock with a 70,000 sq ft speculative office alongside. There will also be a 545-space multi-storey car park delivered as part of phase one.

Heysham energy-from-waste plant to win council backing

Veolia is set to secure the support of Lancashire County Council to build an energy-from-waste plant in Heysham on a site that has been promoted for development for more than a decade.

Warrington advances latest Birchwood Park development

Plans to build a 1,000-space multi-storey car park to serve businesses at Birchwood Park are set to be signed off by the council, along with an AEW-designed warehouse at Appleton Thorn.

Government overrules planners for Drax gas power station

More than 800 construction jobs will be created at the Drax power station after the Government overruled the planning inspectorate to give permission to build four new gas turbines at the site near Selby. It is also proposed to construct up to two battery storage facilities, one per generating unit and each up to 100MW. A new gas pipeline will be built to connect to the existing National Transmission System pipeline 3 km to the east across largely agricultural land. The new gas plant would be engineered to allow carbon capture equipment to be fitted in the future.

Route selected for new River Dee Bridge

A route has been confirmed for the new plans to the River Dee's new A494 bridge between North Wales and the North West of England after 12 weeks of deliberation. The Welsh Transport Minister, Ken Skates, announced that the upgraded bridge would take the new route in a statement which detailed a new river crossing for westbound traffic and the partial reuse of the existing River Dee Bridge for eastbound traffic.

The new bridge will consist of a new offline carriageway for westbound traffic which will be composed of three lanes and a hard shoulder, which will extend from the River Dee to the Queensferry junction, minimising any disruption during the construction process through maintaining a steady flow of traffic. Furthermore, the new bridge will include cycle paths and pedestrian paths so as to encourage alternative, and environmentally conscious, modes of transport while also improving links within business zones. Construction is predicted to commence in 2021 after the finalisation of designs and following a public exhibition process.

Jake Berry: Problems for Bradford if Manchester's £6bn underground station is built?

Bradford may not get a city centre station on the proposed Northern Powerhouse Rail route if a £6bn underground site is built to accommodate high speed rail in Manchester.

Amey/McAlpine green light for M6 junction 19

A joint venture between Amey and Sir Robert McAlpine has got the green light to transform a key motorway junction in Cheshire. Work will get underway next year after the JV signed off a £35.5m design and build contract to remodel junction 19 of the M6, near Knutsford. The project involves building a new bridge through the existing roundabout and over the M6, creating a better flow between the motorway and the A556.

Peel progresses Protos plant

Working with energy provider Waste2Tricity, Peel Environmental has put forward a planning application for a plastics-to-hydrogen facility at the 133-acre site near Ellesmere Port. The £7m facility is said to be the first of its type in the UK to use advanced thermal treatment technology developed by PowerHouse Energy Group, which is based at Cheshire's Thornton Science Park.

TfGM Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS) strategy launch, Friday 18 October 2019

TfGM are launching their CLOCS strategy for Greater Manchester. Full details and registration details can be found here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tfgm-co-invest-in-construction-logistics-and-community-safety-clocs-tickets-72935643473>

Yorkshire Water: AMP7 framework

Yorkshire Water has named 18 winners of £1bn worth of civils frameworks from 2020-2025.

Complex Civils - Design, build and refurbishment of treatment assets including reservoirs and pumping stations. Partners appointed: Barhale Ltd & Doosan Enpure Ltd, Eric Wright Water Ltd, Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd, Interserve Construction Ltd, Kier Integrated Services Ltd, Mott MacDonald Bentley Ltd and Peter Duffy Ltd.

Minor Civils Lot 1 - New build and upgrading works to treatment assets with limited design.

Partners appointed: Amey Utility Services Ltd, Barhale Ltd, Clugston Construction Ltd, Interserve Construction Ltd, JN Bentley Ltd, Morrison Utility Services, Peter Duffy Ltd and Seymour Ltd.

Minor Civils Lot 2 - Specialist works to water retaining structures. Partners appointed: nmcn PLC, Seymour Ltd and Stonbury Ltd.

HS2: Supply Chain events in the North

- Supply Chain North East HS2 event: 24 October in Sunderland:

<https://www.supplychainnortheast.co.uk/events/article/44/0>

Infrastructure investment opportunity to get Northern Powerhouse back on track

A period of “transformative investment” in the North could finally give the Northern Powerhouse the opportunity to fulfil its purpose, according to a new report. The report, by academics from Alliance Manchester Business School and sponsored by Barclays, highlights that a core weakness in the North is the lack of investment in transformative infrastructure, which has the potential to improve the region’s economic growth.

<https://www.alliancembs.manchester.ac.uk/news/infrastructure-investment-opportunity-to-get-northern-powerhouse-back-on-track/>

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.

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

£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.transportforthenorth.com/northernbudget

To view the campaign video, please visit:

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

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.

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.

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.

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

£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)

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

Oldham: Accessible Oldham

Expressions of interest close on 11/10/2019.

Contact: Mark Hayes, Oldham Council, Email: Marc.Hayes@oldham.gov.uk

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

Bury: Preventative Maintenance 2020/21 - 2022/23 (Highways)

Expressions of interest close on 11/10/2019.

Contact: Catherine Kenworthy, Bury Council, Email: c.kenworthy@bury.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/>

Bradford: Forster Square Station Redevelopment

Expressions of interest close on 28/10/2019.

Contact: Alan Parsons, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Email: alan.parsons@bradford.gov.uk

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

Hull: Townscape Heritage Scheme Boundary Treatments

Expressions of interest close on 18/10/2019.

Contact: Mark Homersham Hull City Council, Email: mark.homersham@hullcc.gov.uk

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

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

Preston: Danes House Canal Bridge

Bebington: Resurfacing and Relining Works - Arrowse Park Hospital

Bolton: Provision of improvement Works to Drainage and Wastewater Treatment Works

Wigan: Wigan Council Carriageway Patching

Forestry England: Mountain Bike Trails

Leicester: Sewage Treatment Works

Bakewell: Dam construction work

Bolton: Preventative Maintenance 2020/21 - 2022/23

Douglas: Construction of a Replacement Sewage Treatment Works in Ballaugh

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

Arcadis to pinpoint graphene uses in construction

The University of Manchester's Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre has signed Arcadis help advance graphene applications and processes in the development of construction-related innovations.

Arcadis will also introduce clients and supply chain members to the collaboration process, in a bid to further enhance graphene know-how.

Graphene is a remarkable new material that is electricity conducting while offering high tensile strength in extra thin films. It is up to 200 times stronger than steel and just one atom thick.

First isolated at The University of Manchester several novel applications have already been identified, including next-generation construction materials, use in photovoltaic cells and impermeable paint.

Graphene has been incorporated into traditional concrete production by scientists at the University of Exeter, developing a composite material which is more than twice as strong and four times more water-resistant than existing concretes.

Highways England chiefs are exploring incorporating graphene into assets such as road surfacing and road markings as well as help to drive the development of a low carbon and digital road network.

Graphene is just the first of hundreds of new '2D' or 'layered materials' that promise of a huge array of innovations overcoming constraints from the use of wood, brick, concrete and steel.