

13 November 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 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 Foundations**

A social event is being planned before Christmas - watch this space. All welcome - interested parties should contact Jacqueline Vail: [jacquelinevail@ceca.co.uk](mailto:jacquelinevail@ceca.co.uk)

### **PII renewal**

Following a meeting with Lockton Insurance, we will be arranging a seminar to assist CECA NW members at their Manchester office in January. Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson.

### **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>

### **CECA NW/CITB training & recruitment workshop, Leyland Junction 28 M6, 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 & an update from CITB. Further details shortly.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/citbceca-north-west-training-and-recruitment-workshop-tickets-77484537337>

### **In planning....**

CECA NW will be holding a meeting shortly 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.

### **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:**

Adjudication, 10 December, Room Four, Legh Street, Golborne. To book places:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-adjudication-tickets-78374418997>

### **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.

### **Construction Ambassador training**

Cumbria LEP offices in Penrith on Wednesday 11 December.

To book places, please contact Monica Costelloe of CITB: [monica.costelloe@citb.co.uk](mailto:monica.costelloe@citb.co.uk)

### **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](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)

### **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

### Oakervee review backs HS2

The Oakervee review into HS2 is recommending that the project go ahead in full despite rising costs. According to a leak to The Times, Oakervee has concluded that the £88bn project goes ahead in full but he criticises HS2 procurement for shouldering all the risk with little gain. The leaked document, written by the former HS2 chairman, is critical of procurement saying that prices have been significantly inflated by contractors. Oakervee is understood to recommend changing the excessively expensive contracting model and floats the possibility of re-procuring works for best value. He also calls on the Government to update and publish a revised business case for the project as a whole.

### General Election: Environment takes centre stage

A recent opinion poll found that 65% of Britons believe climate change is the biggest issue facing the world and for 54% it would affect how they voted in December's general election.

Sajid Javid has promised £20bn on low carbon infrastructure, while John McDonnell has raised the stakes to £250bn over ten years to tackle climate change, while the Green Party would spend £100bn every year to decarbonise.

### APPRG calls for new national railway body

The all-party parliamentary rail group (APPRG) has called for a new national railway body as it delivered its report for consideration alongside the conclusions of the ongoing Williams Review.

A parliamentary inquiry took place in June and July earlier this summer, with contributions from Arriva Trains UK, FirstGroup, Jonathan Tyler, the Office for Rail and Road, Network Rail, the Rail Delivery Group, the Rail Freight Group and the Urban Transport Group.

Much of the Williams Review input by various stakeholders and evidence received to the group's inquiry has focused on a new arm's length body or a "guiding mind."

However, the APPRG's report Rail Reform: A Guided Mind goes a lot further, and says that:

- There's a logical rationale for a new national body to create a professional 'controlling mind' to make key decisions, ensuring consistency of thinking and approach.
- It would appear viable to have a new centralised national 'controlling mind' or to have decisions and related powers moved closer to local markets. It does not appear possible to have both, however.
- De-centralisation rather than devolution is the logical path. The circle could be squared if all decisions and powers delegated to regions and cities relate to implementation.
- There needs to be clear alignment, and potential dis-alignment, of incentives between track and train.

[http://www.infrastructure-intelligence.com/sites/default/files/article\\_uploads/APPRG%20report%20\\_Rail%20Reform\\_A%20Guiding%20Mind\\_0.pdf](http://www.infrastructure-intelligence.com/sites/default/files/article_uploads/APPRG%20report%20_Rail%20Reform_A%20Guiding%20Mind_0.pdf)

### £18m for consortium to develop compact nuclear power stations

A consortium including BAM Nuttall and Laing O'Rourke has secured Government match funding to develop the next generation of compact nuclear power stations.

The new small-scale power stations are being designed to be manufactured in sections in regional factories, before being transported to existing nuclear sites for rapid assembly inside a weatherproof canopy. This would slash costs by avoiding weather disruptions and secures gradual efficiency savings by using streamlined and standardised manufacturing processes for its components.

The radical energy proposals are being worked up to help meet the Government's 2050 net zero-carbon target. The Government's UK Research and Innovation will provide £18m of match funding to the consortium of companies designing the new nuclear reactors.

### **Bidding opens for £900m gas mains replacement programmes**

Two regional gas network companies are inviting contractors to bid for major programmes of gas main replacement work in Scotland and the South of England. The programmes will run from 2021-2026 and will be worth £700m in the southern region of England, including London, and more than £200m in Scotland. Each area will be broken up into several sub-areas where one contractor will be selected to deliver the works.

Southern Gas Networks:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Horley:-Gas-distribution-ancillary-work./Y5N266DGF7>

Scottish Gas Networks:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Edinburgh:-Gas-distribution-ancillary-work./ES4F2RY2KY>

### **Crossrail misses 2020 opening and needs extra £400m**

Crossrail will not open in 2020 and its cost will rise further, the project's head has confirmed. Chief executive Mark Wild claimed in a progress update released this morning that the line would open "as soon as practically possible" in 2021. "Our latest assessment is that the opening of the central section will not occur in 2020, which was the first part of our previously declared opening window," he said. The line was scheduled to be up and running sometime between October 2020 and March 2021. In September, a statement from Crossrail had said the October 2020 opening was still a possibility. More information on completion will be provided early next year, according to the latest statement. The project will also cost between £400m and £650m more to complete than previously thought.

### **Construction recession avoided as new work increases by £253m**

There was a £253m increase in new construction work between July and September, Office for National Statistics (ONS) data has revealed. The sector has avoided recession as output rose by 0.6 per cent in the quarter, bouncing back slightly from the previous quarter's 1.2 per cent decrease from April to June. The increase was primarily driven by a 1.4 per cent rise in new work.

### **RICS: Growth in workloads moderate amidst stable outlook**

RICS Q3 2019 Construction & Infrastructure survey highlights:

- Workloads moderate across most sectors and geographic regions
- New hiring continues despite lack of new business enquiries and rising labour costs
- Brexit uncertainty takes its toll on investment intentions

[https://www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/news/press-releases/rics\\_uk\\_construction\\_and\\_infrastructure\\_survey\\_q3-2019.pdf](https://www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/news/press-releases/rics_uk_construction_and_infrastructure_survey_q3-2019.pdf)

### **RIA: More than half of rail businesses expect industry to stagnate in 2020**

A newly published survey of rail businesses by independent polling company ComRes has highlighted serious concerns about the coming year, as the rail sector faces continued uncertainty.

The poll of 174 business leaders in the rail industry, carried out on behalf of the Railway Industry Association (RIA), found that:

- More than half of businesses, 53%, do not expect the industry to grow in the coming year whilst 28% expect the industry to contract; and
- Two in five (39%) rail industry leaders said they did not expect their business to grow, with 18% saying their business is likely to contract.

### **CCS framework winners announced**

The winning contractors have been revealed for the £30bn framework for the government's central procurement arm. The Crown Commercial Service's (CCS) framework will run for seven years and is the most valuable framework yet launched in the UK. There were 128 suppliers, named across 31 of 38 sub-lots, awarded today. The CCS expects to award the remaining lots in due course. The CCS said 57 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were among the winners.

### **CECA: All Parties Must Back Infrastructure For Growth At GE 2019**

Civils contractors have called on all parties in the UK to back infrastructure as the best means of delivering economic growth at the 2019 General Election. As the UK prepares to go to the polls ahead of a likely General Election in December, the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) has said that any incoming government must commit to an ambitious infrastructure agenda if the economy is to succeed once Britain has resolved its future relationship with the European Union. Priorities specific to the North West include:

- Recognition of the specific needs of west Cumbria. Without a commitment to the upgrade of the Cumbrian coast rail line (that is not dependent upon private finance), the West Cumbria mine will not be feasible, and it will hamper any plans for the development of Moorside, given limited transport alternatives through the national park
- Continued and increased support for Northern Powerhouse Rail, and its interconnections with HS2
- A genuine commitment to nuclear - and the need to address preferred bid status for Moorside (and Wylfa), as well as development of small modular reactors (SMRs)

### **Scottish Water opens bidding for £5.2bn infrastructure framework**

Scottish Water has formally opened bidding for a major infrastructure framework that could be worth up to £5.2bn over 12 years. The water business is planning to divide up work into four major lots: two covering repair and maintenance and capital works of infrastructure and two covering M&E works. Under the procurement plan frameworks will be awarded for 2021-27, with a further extension option for 2027-2033. Strategic contractor partners will be required to offer a design and build capability.

*Scottish Water framework plan over two six-year periods:*

- Lot 1: Repair and maintenance for infra water and wastewater (Value £900m)
- Lot 2: Capital investment for infra and civils (Value £1.6bn)
- Lot 3: R&M for M&E (Value £700m)
- Lot 4: Capital investment for MEICA (Value £2bn)

Bidders have until **27 November** to complete PQQs. Information is available from: <https://www.delta-sourcing.com/respond/384C598X8M>

### **£250m housing infrastructure funding for Midlands, South East and East Anglia**

Six councils (Leicestershire, Rutland, Surrey, Suffolk, Kent and Oxfordshire) have been awarded more than £250m for vital infrastructure projects needed to pave the way for over 20,000 new homes. This investment, from the Housing Infrastructure Fund, will pay for roads, schools, public transport and utilities in the Midlands, East of England and South East.

### **Guidance on forward tipping dumpers**

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

### **Rate of construction-worker injuries rises for first time in five years**

The rate of non-fatal injuries to construction workers has risen for the first time in five years, according to the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) latest statistics. Reported non-fatal injuries per 100,000 employees in the sector rose marginally, from 359 in 2017/18 to 366 in 2018/19.

This placed construction considerably above the all-industry average of 254 injuries per 100,000 employees, though well below the most hazardous sector in this category, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities, with a rate of 960 injuries.

However, the total number of reported non-fatal injuries in construction decreased by 1.2 per cent, from 4,932 to 4,872. This marks the continuation of a downward trend in total non-fatal injuries, a figure that stood at 5,449 in 2014/15. The number of construction prosecutions by the HSE reached a new low in 2018/19, with 158 cases compared with 202 in the previous 12-month period.

### **Construction firms fined £36m for breaking competition law**

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has issued three firms with fines totalling more than £36m for breaking competition law by being part of an illegal cartel supplying concrete drainage products for building projects. Northern Ireland-based firm FP McCann Ltd is facing a fine of more than £25m for its part in the scheme. Derbyshire-based Stanton Bonna Concrete Ltd is due to pay more than £7m, and Somerset-based CPM Group Ltd are due to pay £4m. The fines have been imposed after the CMA found that the companies broke competition law by taking part in an illegal cartel covering the UK. From July 2006 to March 2013, they agreed to fix or coordinate their prices, shared the market by allocating customers and regularly exchanged competitively sensitive information (see page 9 for guidance).

### **Hinkley Point first site hit by freelance tax changes (IR35)**

The £22bn Hinkley Point C new nuclear power station site is one of the first major testing grounds for looming freelance tax rules. HMRC IR35 rules are changing next April making contractors liable for determining the tax status of off-payroll professionals. 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/>

### **Smart motorways review announced amid safety fears**

Transport secretary Grant Shapps has announced a review of smart motorways. Mr Shapps told the House of Commons that the Department for Transport (DfT) would carry out a review of the safety of smart motorways, amid fears over the risks posed to motorway users involved in vehicle accidents and breakdowns. The announcement followed comments from Highways England chief executive Jim O'Sullivan, who said the organisation would not be building any more smart motorways with a dynamic hard shoulder, because drivers found the system too complicated.

### **HS2 streamlines procurement process for subcontractors with standardised PQQ**

HS2 has announced it has streamlined the procurement process for subcontractors working across its four main civils contracts. The joint ventures working on the major rail scheme have created a standardised pre-qualification (PQ) process. Subcontractors bidding for work will only need to undergo one PQ process to bid for on different parts of the route.

Joint ventures Balfour Beatty / Vinci / Systra (BBV), Bouygues / VolkerFitzpatrick / Sir Robert McAlpine (Align), Costain / Skanska / Strabag (SCS Railways), Effiage / Kier (EK) worked together as part of HS2's Collaboration Hub to develop the system designed to avoid duplication and cut costs.

Build UK, the Civil Engineering Contractors Association and High-Speed Rail Industry Leaders Group (HSRIL) also assisted in creating the new standardised PQ (called the Common Assessment Standard).

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/construction-pre-qualification-system/>

### **Demos report: Value Added - how better government procurement can build a fairer Britain**

The government should use its significant procurement spend to bring about a fairer economy and give more opportunities to SME firms, especially when appointing external suppliers, says a new report by Demos. With current spend on external suppliers at £284bn, procurement is the UK government's largest expenditure, equal to 13.4% of the UK's GDP. Influencing how this money is spent represents a significant opportunity for government to shape the nature of business and the wider economy, says the report, which looks at how central government could use public procurement more strategically to bring about a fairer economy and more efficient, effective government.

<https://demos.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UK-CLOUD-04.10-2.pdf>

### **Augmented reality set to bridge the visualisation gap**

Network Rail has contributed its design data to an app that enables passengers to use augmented reality (AR) to see what proposed replacement footbridges at stations will look like when complete - with the app bringing architects designs directly to passengers' smartphones.

The new app will support Network Rail's engagement with passengers while delivering footbridges across the network throughout Control Period 6 (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024) and beyond.

### **£640m flood scheme set for final investment**

The largest-ever investment in a UK flood-protection scheme is set to take place, as a key funder announced it would approve its share of the £640m package. Surrey County Council announced its intention to formally agree a £270m contribution to the River Thames Scheme, which is designed to reduce the flood risk to 15,000 properties. The scheme will create three flood-alleviation channels alongside the River Thames and improve capacity at three weirs. It will run from Datchet in Berkshire through Surrey to Teddington.

### **CECA Welcomes Publication Of Rail Enhancements List**

The UK Government has published the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline (RNEP), showing upcoming rail upgrades for the coming five years. The update supplies information on the RNEP schemes being funded by the Control Period 6 (CP6) enhancements budget. The CP6 budget covers 2019 to 2024.

For each RNEP scheme the Department for Transport only commit to the next stage of development. Schemes being created are listed within Network Rail's Enhancement Delivery Plan.

CECA believes the publication of this list is welcome, and would like to hear members' views on the document - please contact CECA Rail Director Bill Free directly if you are a CECA member working in the rail sector and would like to input your views.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/839354/Rail\\_Network\\_Enhancements\\_Pipeline\\_Publication.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/839354/Rail_Network_Enhancements_Pipeline_Publication.pdf)

### **RIS2 Update**

In less than a year, the government's Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) will commence.

Starting in April 2020 and running for five years, this investment period will deliver important road schemes set out by Highways England and the government.

Continuing the work from the inaugural Road Investment Strategy, the investment will be more than ever before, eclipsing the previous £15 billion funding by more than £10 billion.

### **CECA Publishes New Dayworks Schedules**

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) has published a new version of the Schedules of Dayworks Carried out Incidental to Contract Work, the standard industry contract for the construction of infrastructure schemes.

The new two volume version can be used for either, i) pricing of work undertaken on a daywork basis where no other schedules are included with contract documentation, using volumes 1 & 2, or ii) pricing of standalone projects where appropriate, using only volume 2.

The new titles are Volume 1 - Schedules of Dayworks Carried Out Incidental to Contract Work Including Rail Equipment Items and Volume 2 - Schedules of Contractors Equipment Rates for use on Construction Contracts Including Rail Equipment Items.

Rates and prices included in Vols 1 & 2 of the Schedules apply to work carried out on a Daywork basis on or after the date of publication. Equipment rates have been recalculated to reflect current costs and rail equipment items have been included to fully reflect the range of works undertaken.

The publication is available from CECA at 1 Birdcage walk, London SW1H 9JJ and cost £20.00 to CECA members and £45.00 to non-members. It is available to buy online in hard copy only.

### **£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.

### **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)

### **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 Rail, and driving forward East West rail links in the Oxford to Cambridge Arc."

### **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 People's Health (from B&CE)**

<https://elink.clickdimensions.com/m/1/11894794/p1-b19291-e1ab31301ef6427981d564a5a4075660/1/127/a68cca09-d4e4-4354-8e70-1176dda1ebd7>

### **Build Environment Networking: 2020 events calendar**

<https://www.built-environment-networking.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2020-Calendar.pdf>

### **News from ACAS**

<https://northwest.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/5BB4733A03F40A712540EF23F30FEDED/BBB5FA4C1195D0B7942A2DF08F503B7C>

## North West - and the North

### **STAR Procurement: GM Streetscene Alliance**

Procurement for the Alliance contract is now underway. It is due to appear on The Chest this week, but is available via TED. **The deadline is 11 December 2019.**

Stockport and Bury Council are looking to develop a framework agreement for delivery of highway related services. For Stockport Council the expectation is that a 4-year contract (with the option to extend by 4 years and then an additional extension for 2 years) will be formed with the top ranked bidder under each lot. For Bury Council the expectation is that a 3-year contract (with the option to extend by 1 year) will be formed with the top ranked bidder under each lot.

### **St Helens Council to press ahead with £40m Parkside Link road project**

Councillors will be asked to endorse plans to press ahead with the £40 million Parkside Link Road project this week. The scheme will see the construction of a new road from the former Parkside Colliery site in Newton-le-Willows to Winwick Lane, adjacent to Junction 22 of the M6 motorway, by-passing congestion at Winwick. Crucially, the road will deliver improved access to the Parkside site, with both St Helens and Warrington councils believing this has the potential to unlock significant development opportunities. In order to facilitate the construction of the link road, several areas of mainly agricultural land have been identified by the council for acquisition. A report set to go before cabinet this week says the total scheme value, including land costs, is £39.8 million. This excludes initial scheme development costs.

### **Sirius Minerals seeks \$600m funding for Yorkshire polyhalite mine**

Sirius minerals has unveiled its new multi-million-pound funding plans, as it seeks to get its £3bn polyhalite mine project back on track. The company announced its new funding plans to the stock exchange, designed to get its multi-million pound mine over the finish line.

The company's project development and financing strategies to date have been built around two key objectives; to achieve first polyhalite as soon as possible due to the transformative effect that this will have on the project's risk profile and, second, to be in a position to ramp up to full production as quickly as possible to generate returns for shareholders.

### **Green light for £175m Woodhouse Colliery**

Plans for the first deep coal mine to be built in the UK for decades will go ahead after the government decided not to intervene. The £175m mine project to be known as Woodhouse Colliery got the thumbs up from the local council in May but was called in by Government for further scrutiny. Radical designs for surface infrastructure on a brownfield site near Whitehaven in west Cumbria will minimise any potential impact from noise, dust and light. Construction phases are expected to start in early 2020 with deep coal mining starting 24 months later. WCM will move mined coal via a buried 2.2km long conveyor to a train loading facility, with its own dedicated siding, on the Cumbria Coast railway line.

<https://www.westcumbriamining.com/local-news/wcm-project-update-newsletter-november-2019/>  
A supplier's day is planned for February 2020 - further details in due course.

### **SSE confirms closure of Fiddler's Ferry Power Station**

SSE can confirm that the remaining units at its coal-fired Fiddler's Ferry Power Station in Warrington, Cheshire, will close by 31 March 2020, following the completion of collective consultation with employees and trade unions. SSE announced its proposal to close the station in June this year. Fiddler's Ferry is the last remaining coal-fired power station in SSE's generation fleet, with a total capacity of 1,510MW from its three operational units. Unit 1 at the site was closed in March 2019. Fiddler's Ferry has had limited success in the Government's Capacity Market auctions and its current contract ended in September 2019. Its financial performance has deteriorated to unsustainable levels, with losses of around £40 million in SSE's last financial year.

We are seeking to arrange a meeting for CECA NW members to understand the decommissioning programme - further details in due course.

### **Salford on track with £20m Trafford Road cycleway**

Work on the cycleway linking MediaCityUK, Salford Quays, Ordsall and Old Trafford is set to start next summer as the council progresses the £20m scheme to the detailed design stage. The £20m scheme will run the length of Trafford Road from the M602 roundabout down to Salford Quays, and is proposed to link into Greater Manchester's wider Bee Network cycling and walking scheme.

### **Gulliver's World latest leisure plans**

Gulliver's World has revealed plans for a Centre Parcs-style holiday village next to its theme park near Warrington. Advised by County Planning, the theme park operator is drawing up plans for the woodland-themed development, which will include 79 holiday lodges, group accommodation, caravan and camping pitches, a spa and treatment centre, a pet resort, and a welcome suite. The development is pitched at families to take advantage of the growing market for UK-based short breaks.

### **Peel eyes 2020 start for £150m Protos plant**

Peel Environmental and Progressive Energy are set to start work next year on the £150m bio-substitute natural gas plant near Ellesmere Port after securing planning permission.

### **Call for funding to clean-up brownfield sites in Liverpool City Region**

Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram has urged the Government to provide £200m funding to clean up brownfield sites across Liverpool City Region and make them ready for development.

### **New waterfront museum plans approved for failing Spaceport site**

A new waterfront museum will open in Wirral, after it was approved by planners. Eureka! The National Children's Museum will replace Spaceport at Seacombe ferry and is expected to attract almost 200,000 visitors a year.

### **Costain starts Preston Western Distributor project**

Costain has officially started construction of the £207m Preston Western Distributor scheme for Lancashire County Council. Costain was appointed contractor for the job back in February 2016 on a contract worth £110m. Construction has been delayed by a combination of planning and funding issues. Work is scheduled for completion in 2023.

### **Bidding underway for £1bn A66 dualling design contract**

A £45m contract to design the £1bn transformation of the A66 northern trans-Pennine route is now open for bids. Highways England is developing plans to fully dual the remaining single carriageway sections of the A66 which links the M6 at Penrith in Cumbria and the A1(M) at Scotch Corner in North Yorkshire. The project involves dualling the remaining 18 miles of the 50-mile route.

<https://ted.europa.eu/TED/notice/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:504940-2019:TEXT:EN:HTML&src=0>

### **Copeland MP to chair panel on small scale nuclear developments**

Copeland MP Trudy Harrison is to chair a panel discussion at a major conference on the commercialisation of small nuclear technology. Mrs Harrison has been invited to oversee a debate including MPs and Peers at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Commercialisation of the Small Nuclear 2 conference, which takes in London on December 2. The MP is a supporter of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), which are set to be the focus of the conference.

<https://www.timesandstar.co.uk/news/18000546.copeland-mp-chair-panel-small-scale-nuclear-developments/>

### **Keighley station set for £4m upgrade**

Network Rail has announced an investment of over £4m into the upgrade of Keighley station, improving services and experiences for the 1.7 million annual passengers.

The station building will undergo transformation, as well as the footbridge and entrance, making it brighter and more inviting, whilst protecting its Grade II listed building heritage.

### **£200m Heysham waste incinerator approved**

Veolia has gained planning for a £200m Energy Recovery Facility at Heysham in Lancashire. The energy from waste plant will process up to 160,000 tonnes of rubbish a year creating enough electricity to power 60,000 homes, as well as economic benefits for the local community. Around 350 construction jobs are expected to be sustained during the build programme. The Heysham Gateway project will be built on a 10-acre plot next to Imperial Road near the Lancaster West Business Park.

### **Tameside agrees funding deal for 2,350-home garden village**

The council has agreed a funding deal with Homes England to bring forward the opening stages of Godley Green garden village, set to bring nearly 2,500 houses to the borough. With a funding agreement now signed off by the council, work on the garden village is in line to begin in early 2021, with construction of the first homes getting under way that summer.

The council has agreed to draw down £10m from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund to deliver the opening phases of the garden village, including infrastructure works.

Under a timeline set out as part of the funding, a developer or housebuilder will be picked in May 2020, with an outline planning application for the whole site to following in November that year.

### **Consultation on £85m Eden Project North begins**

Eden Project North has launched a series of public consultation events into its plans for an £85m attraction at Morecambe Bay, as it targets a planning application submission in 2020. Like the Eden Project in Cornwall, Eden Project North would be built in a series of zones aimed at creating an immersive visitor experience.

### **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.

### **Transport for the North seeks funds for A595 upgrade**

As part of Transport for the North's £700m pan-Northern bid, they are calling for funding to enhance A595 in Cumbria. Working with Cumbria County Council. This important scheme would improve reliability and reduce journey times for residents and businesses.

<https://transportforthenorth.com/major-roads/national-roads-fund/>

### **Passengers and freight will see improvement in Cumbria following major investment**

Just under two miles of worn out track will be removed and replaced between Drigg and Bootle as part of the £2.8m Great North Rail Project. This includes the upgrading of railway stone and drainage.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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

### **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.

### **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)  
I3 Decommissioning Partners (Wood, Altrad Hertel, Shepley Engineers)

## Tenders

Cumbria: CSLR - Potential Principal Contractor Information Event

Expressions of interest close on 21/11/2019.

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/>

Blackpool: Extension to Carlton Cemetery Phases 1 & 2

Expressions of interest close on 06/12/2019.

Contact: Helen Thompson, Blackpool Council, Email: [helen.thompson@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:helen.thompson@blackpool.gov.uk)

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

Kendal: Parkside Road - New Car Park & Access

Expressions of interest close on 06/12/2019.

Contact: Paul Scullion, South Lakes District Council, Email: [pscullion@lsh.co.uk](mailto:pscullion@lsh.co.uk)

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

Skelmersdale: EoI for bridge repairs in Tawd Valley Park

Expressions of interest close on 15/11/2019.

Contact: James Aldred, West Lancashire Borough Council, Email: [james.aldred@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:james.aldred@westlancs.gov.uk)

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

Blackburn with Darwen: Highway Asset Management System

Expressions of interest close on 15/11/2019.

Contact: Peter Hughes, Blackburn with Darwen, Email: [peter.hughes@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hughes@blackburn.gov.uk)

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

Nottingham: Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Framework

Expressions of interest close on 06/08/2020.

Contact: Paul Ritchie, Nottingham City Council, Email: [paul.ritchie@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:paul.ritchie@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

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

Nottingham: Structural Painting of Trent Bridge

Expressions of interest close on 22/11/2019.

Contact: Penny Taylor-Jones, Nottingham City Council,

Email: [Penny.Taylor-Jones@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Penny.Taylor-Jones@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

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

North Yorkshire: Civil Engineering Framework

Expressions of interest close on 04/12/2019.

Contact: Patricia Murphy, North Yorkshire County Council, Email: [patricia.murphy@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.murphy@northyorks.gov.uk)

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

Barnsley: Provision of Highgate Railway Bridge Bearing Replacement and Concrete Repair

Expressions of interest close on 26/11/2019.

Contact: Tim Whitham, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Email: [timwhitham@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:timwhitham@barnsley.gov.uk)

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

Barnsley: Grange Lane Waste Transfer Station - Remedial Works to Floor Slab

Expressions of interest close on 25/11/2019.

Contact: Pete Bradley, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Email: [pete.bradley@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:pete.bradley@barnsley.gov.uk)

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

Craven: Gallow Syke Flood Water Storage  
Expressions of interest close on 22/11/2019.  
Contact: Craven District Council, Email: jonathan.austin@pendle.gov.uk  
Register via YORtender: <https://www.yortender.co.uk/>

Bradford: Harrogate Road/New Line Junction Improvement Scheme  
Expressions of interest close on 27/11/2019.  
Contact: Alan Parsons, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Email: alan.parsons@bradford.gov.uk  
Register via YORtender: <https://www.yortender.co.uk/>

Sunderland: Civil Engineering and Infrastructure Works Framework  
Expressions of interest close on 22/11/2019.  
Contact: Andrew Raft, Sunderland City Council, Email: andrew.raft@sunderland.gov.uk  
Register via NEPO: <https://www.nepo.org/>

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

Bootle: Southport East West Link & Coastal Path Cycle Improvement Scheme  
Preston: Surface Carriageway Road Planing (SUPPLIER INFORMATION DAY)  
Wakefield: YPO – 000881 Ground Maintenance Services  
Clitheroe: Primrose Lodge Blue and Greenway Project  
Oldham: Accessible Oldham  
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**

#### **Skanska trials graphene enhanced super-tough blacktop**

Skanska will be trialling new graphene-enhanced asphalt on a road in Oxfordshire for its potential to tackle the pothole scourge. The trial in Curbridge, Oxfordshire will see whether the new wonder material lives up to claims that it improves the lifespan of road surfaces.

Skanska will lay an asphalt concrete with a proprietary innovative graphene-enhanced super modifier to refurbish the two upper layers of a 750m long section of road.