



6 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 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 Foundations

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

Guy Lawson is meeting Lockton Insurance on Monday to discuss difficulties facing members regarding PI renewal.

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.

Tomorrow's Engineers Week 2019: Events & Resources, 4-8 November 2019

<https://www.allaboutstem.co.uk/2019/10/tomorrows-engineers-week-2019-events-resources/>

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

CITB NW autumn 2019 update

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

Ex-offenders - speed interviews with HMP Hindley

Inspiring Change award winners, CPUK C&R and its partners recently held speed interviews at HMP Hindley to recruit groundworkers. More are planned - firms keen to address the industry's skills shortage should contact Paul Pritchard of Novus: t: 0161 674 1300 e: ppritchard@novus.ac.uk

NW Contractors' Training Group - free for all CECA NW members

The Group provides access to CITB funding to support training, and its members receive free or substantially discounted training. If you are interested in joining the Group, please let Gill Steele know: mgtpsteele@hotmail.co.uk

CITB Employer Update

<http://elink-eu.azure.send.com/m/023a3170cc3440b2b5de2b317aba2411/610813C4/A6E289F7/102018n>

Sponsoring the Civil Engineering Challenge

We are sponsoring resource packs to enable scouts and guides to achieve the Civil Engineering badge, developed by Pippa Higgins of Vinci. Please let me know if you would like more information. We are now funding over twenty groups to undertake the civil engineering challenge.

Policy & Industry Affairs

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)

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. Please see the attached spreadsheet.

HS2: General Election to delay Oakervee Review

The formal notice to proceed with HS2 construction work could be delayed until the new year, it has emerged. The notice, should the project be given the go-ahead, will not be granted until a decision has been made based on the findings of the Oakervee Review, which is unlikely to be made public for several weeks.

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/sfpsgpublications/>

Civils hit hardest in workload downturn

Construction buyers reported another fall in work volumes in October making it six successive monthly drops. While the rate of contraction was the slowest in three months, authors of the bellwether Markit/CIPS UK Construction Total Activity Index said the industry is now preparing for a longer-term drop in demand. The index registered 44.2 in October - up from 43.3 the previous month but still below the 50 no-change threshold. Civil engineering was the worst performing sector with business activity falling at the fastest rate for ten years.

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/>

....and HS2 Leeds route could go via Manchester to save £10bn

A plan for direct train links between Manchester and Leeds is being considered as part of the Oakervee review of HS2. Trains from London would run through Birmingham to Manchester and then to Leeds, creating a journey time between Manchester and Leeds of just 20 minutes. The plan is an alternative to the proposed HS2 route, which splits into east and west legs after Birmingham. The eastern line, which goes to Leeds via Toton, a new station between Nottingham and Derby, is at risk of being dropped, saving up to £10bn. Northern Powerhouse Rail, a proposed network of new and upgraded lines billed as "the region's single biggest transport investment since the Industrial Revolution", would also be reduced in scope as the direct link from Manchester to Leeds replaces part of it. According to sources close to the HS2 panel, led by the former HS2 chairman Douglas Oakervee, the proposal is "one of 13" options being considered.

Changes to PWLB borrowing will affect local authority housing infrastructure financing

Local authorities are likely to seek alternative sources of finance for new infrastructure or housing following the increase to the cost of borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB).

The UK Debt Management Office (DMO) has increased the margin charged on local authority PWLB borrowing by one percentage point for new loans from 9 October 2019.

<https://www.dmo.gov.uk/media/16115/hmt-letter-9-october-2019.pdf>

Bury firm announces plans for Europe's first 'liquid to gas' cryogenic battery

British battery pioneers plan to build Europe's largest energy storage project using a cryogenic battery that can store renewable energy for weeks rather than hours. The device will be built on the site of an old fossil fuel plant near Bury to power up to 50,000 homes for up to five hours.

Unlike traditional lithium-ion batteries, which typically store electricity for a few hours, the "cryobattery" will be able to store energy for months. The UK's first full-scale cryobattery, developed by Highview Power, uses renewable electricity to chill air to -196C, transforming it into a liquid that will be stored in large metal tanks. When renewable electricity levels are low the liquid can be turned back into gas, which is used to turn a turbine and generate electricity - but without burning the gas and releasing emissions. Highview Power claims its cryobattery will be the largest project in Europe capable of long-term energy storage. The full-scale "liquid air" battery has a capacity of 50MW or 250MWh over a five-hour release time. It follows the success of a 5MW pathfinder project built next to a landfill site at Pilsworth near Bury, in summer 2018 with £8m of funding from Innovate UK.

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.

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>

£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

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.

KPMG: Construction insolvencies rose by 55% in three months

The number of construction firms falling into administration rose by over half during the third quarter of the year. According to KPMG restricted access to finance, rising input prices and project delays caused by political uncertainty have started to take their toll. Administrations in the sector jumped up from 49 in the second quarter to 76 in the third quarter of this year.

Procurement pilots set to save contractors and supply chain SMEs £25m

CITB and construction employers are piloting four schemes to improve procurement practices for homebuilding and infrastructure projects set to achieve £25m savings. The Improving Performance Through Better Procurement Approaches commission will see just under 12,000 construction workers trained, half of which to be from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), within the housing, infrastructure and local authority-led construction sectors in England, Scotland and Wales.

The four pilot projects are set to receive £3m in funding in total, but are expected to achieve £25m in savings, involving 1,900 construction employers and focusing on collaboration to mitigate risk, as well as an emphasis on quality and whole life outcomes, not just time spent.

<https://www.citb.co.uk/about-citb/news-events-and-blogs/uk/2019/10/procurement-pilots-set-to-save-construction-contractors-25m/>

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/>

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.

£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

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

News from CICES

<http://mailshot.cices.org/Chartered%20ICES%20Newsletter%20OCT19%20V2.html>

Build Environment Networking: 2020 events calendar

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

News from ACAS (national)

<https://acasnational.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/9F85E6B7EECF3BB72540EF23F30FEDED/CA07B8C57E8CCF81667CCDA886AB700A>

News from ACAS (North West)

<https://northwest.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/1780228C13AD5F6B2540EF23F30FEDED/595BCEADDF91857DFCACEB58A033025D>

North West - and the North

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.

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/ud?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/>

Carlisle extension to Borders Railway making positive progress

Borders Railway trains could soon be travelling down as far as Carlisle, after campaigners for the line extension were told their goal is "moving closer" at their campaign group's annual general meeting. The Campaign for Borders Rail (CBR) have been campaigning for the Carlisle extension for number of years, and were told during their meeting by MSP Christine Grahame that their case for extending the line to Cumbria was "rock solid".

Rochdale reveals railway station regeneration

The council will release a masterplan in the New Year for the area around the town's railway station with the potential to provide thousands of homes and commercial space. WSP has been appointed to work up the Station Gateway masterplan, featuring major housing developments along with improved public realm and connectivity to the town centre.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Region's Green Belt shrinks by 3,400 acres

The North West has seen a loss in designated Green Belt land of 3,410 acres over the past year, according to the Government's latest Green Belt report. The majority of losses came from a combined area of Manchester, Liverpool, and West Yorkshire, which lost 3,237 acres between the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years, the second largest loss in the area in the past decade, following a loss of 11,787 acres between 2016 and 2017.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nottingham: Rural Footpath Construction

Expressions of interest close on 08/11/2019.

Contact: Holly Fisher, Nottingham City Council, Email: Holly.Fisher@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

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

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 13/11/2019.
Contact: Alan Parsons, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Email: alan.parsons@bradford.gov.uk
Register via YORtender: <https://www.yortender.co.uk/>

Bradford: Forster Square Station Redevelopment
Expressions of interest close on 04/11/2019.
Contact: Alan Parsons, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Email: alan.parsons@bradford.gov.uk
Register via YORtender: <https://www.yortender.co.uk/>

Rotherham: Environmental Improvement Works
Expressions of interest close on 01/11/2019.
Contact: Annette Norfolk, Rotherham MBC, Email: annette.norfolk@rotherham.gov.uk
Register via YORtender: <https://www.yortender.co.uk/>

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

Bebington: Relining & Resurfacing of Car Park - (Re-Issue) - Arrowe Park Hospital
Liverpool: Steel and Concrete Repairs- Kingsway Fan Grill Replacement and Associated Works (EXTENDED DEADLINE)
Clitheroe: Primrose Lodge Blue and Greenway Project
Preston: LPS CAS - East Lancashire Cycleway - Flexible Pavement Surfacing Phase 3
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

Today (6 November) is....This is Engineering Day

This is Engineering is a campaign to bring engineering to life for young people, and give more people the opportunity to pursue a career that is rewarding, future-shaping, varied, well-paid and in-demand.

<https://www.thisisengineering.org.uk/>