

4 December 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/>

### **PII renewal seminar, 08.30 Friday 17 January 2020**

Following a meeting with Lockton Insurance, we are holding a seminar to assist CECA NW members at their Manchester office.

To book your places: <https://emailcc.com/cv/715c75fc5dec1046c7f6e7a5e13cc84efe85784a>

### **CECA NW Executive Committee, Wednesday 22 January 2020**

The next meeting of the committee takes place at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, Warrington from 08.30. All welcome, but please contact Guy Lawson to book your place.

### **CECA NW Flyer 2019**

The 2019 flyer is 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 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 (first copy is free to CECA NW members) and £45.00 to non-members. It is available to buy online in hard copy only.

### **CECA NW/CITB training & recruitment workshop, Friday 22 November 2019**

Slides from the meeting which covered grandfather rights, an initiative to provide employment opportunities for ex-offenders, social value & an update from CITB are available upon request.

### **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>

### **University research project - can you help?**

Mark Ament, a member of the CECA NW Foundations Group, is completing his final year in university, investigating how geomatic control systems can help improve productivity and efficiency for contractors. To get some further insight and information for his research within the industry he has designed this questionnaire <https://forms.gle/67VJu8o2PcpTgMJq7>

Please could you complete before his deadline of **23 December 2019**.

### **Recruiting new members for the FIR Steering Group,**

The Fairness Inclusion & Respect (FIR) steering group is looking to recruit two new representatives. They meet every two months for a couple of hours to set and review FIR activity progress.

Are you keen to contribute to their vision and do you work for a small, medium enterprise (SME)?

If so, they would welcome you to apply for this position. Find out more about what the role involves and the application process here. Nominations should be submitted by completing the application and emailing it to Veronica by **19 December 2019**: [veronica@supplychainschool.co.uk](mailto:veronica@supplychainschool.co.uk)

[New\\_FIR\\_Steering\\_Group\\_Members\\_application\\_pack.01.pdf](#)

### **CITB cross-industry survey - your views count!**

CECA is working with Home Builders Federation and the Federation of Master Builders to develop a cross-industry survey that looks at the activities of CITB. As consensus federations for CITB, our three organisations are able to provide feedback on your behalf on where you think CITB is doing well, and where it needs to improve. We would like to find your views on the current work of CITB, and to provide guidance on the areas that it should focus on as it prepares its next three-year business plan. Please provide views using the following link

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/feedbackfromindustry>, which should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. The survey will remain open until **Friday 13 December**. All individual responses will remain confidential, and will solely be used to provide a combined industry response to CITB.

### **CITB NW autumn 2019 update**

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

### **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**

<https://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

### General Election: what the Conservative manifesto means for the sector

The Conservatives' infrastructure commitments include plans to:

- invest £4 billion in new funding for new flood defences, electric vehicle infrastructure including a national plug-in network and gigafactory; and clean energy over the coming years;
- set strict new laws on air quality and consult on the earliest date at which the phasing out of the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars can take place;
- build Northern Powerhouse Rail between Leeds and Manchester before focusing on Liverpool, Tees Valley, Hull, Sheffield and Newcastle;
- update the A55 as the main road transport artery for North Wales;
- deliver the M4 relief road;
- fund the building of the West Wales Parkway Station;
- improve and investment in bus networks in coastal towns;
- invest in the Midlands Rail Hub, strengthening rail links;
- invest in improving train lines to the South West and East Anglia;
- provide city regions with the funding to upgrade their bus, tram and train services;
- £100bn additional infrastructure spending, including £4bn for flood defences, £28.8bn in strategic and local roads, and £1bn in a fast charging network for electric vehicles;
- consider the findings of the review into HS2 and decide the optimal outcome;
- create a new £350 million cycling infrastructure fund;
- ensure Heathrow expansion meets its air quality and noise obligations;
- amend planning laws to ensure infrastructure is built before new homes, utilising a new £10bn Single Housing Infrastructure Fund.

### General Election: what the Labour manifesto means for the sector

Labour's infrastructure commitments include plans to:

- introduce a long-term investment plan including delivering Crossrail for the North as part of improved connectivity across the northern regions;
- complete the full HS2 route to Scotland;
- promote the use of rail freight in order to reduce carbon emissions, air pollutants and congestion on the roads and expand the provision of publicly owned rail freight services;
- establish a publicly owned rail company to decide on network planning and investments;
- establish British Broadband, with two arms: British Digital Infrastructure (BDI) and the British Broadband Service (BBS) and deliver free full-fibre broadband to all by 2030 to be paid through the taxation of multinationals, including tech giants;
- create a Sustainable Investment Board to bring together the Chancellor, Business Secretary and Bank of England Governor to oversee, co-ordinate and bring forward the investment Labour has committed to;
- launch a National Transformation Fund of £400bn and rewrite the Treasury's investment rules to guarantee that every penny spent is compatible with Labour's climate and environmental targets;
- provide £250bn to fund the transition through a Green Transformation Fund dedicated to renewable and low-carbon energy and transport, biodiversity and environmental restoration;
- create a National Investment Bank, backed up by a network of Regional Development Banks, to provide £250bn of lending for enterprise, infrastructure and innovation over 10 years.

## General Election: what the Liberal Democrat manifesto means for the sector

Infrastructure commitments include plans to:

- invest £130bn in infrastructure covering transport and energy systems, schools, hospitals and homes;
- introduce a capital £50bn Regional Rebalancing Programme for infrastructure spend across the UK reinforced by a Just Transition Fund to support communities negatively affected by policies to tackle the climate emergency;
- support investment in the Northern Powerhouse and the Midlands Engine, by putting significant capital resources into infrastructure projects across these regions;
- set a National Industrial Strategy to 'transform' the economy and develop Local Industrial Strategies within it that incentivises clustering by businesses and universities with particular specialisations;
- invest in public transport, including the conversion of the rail network to ultra-low-emission technology - electric or hydrogen - by 2035, and a continued commitment to HS2, Crossrail 2 and other major new strategic rail routes;
- a programme of installing hyper-fast, fibre-optic broadband across the UK, with a focus on connecting rural areas;
- increase funding for Innovate UK and new Catapult innovation and technology centres on farming and land use and on carbon dioxide removal;
- establish a £5bn fund for flood prevention and climate adaptation and introduce high standards for flood resilience for buildings and infrastructure in flood risk areas.
- invest in public transport, buses, trams and railways to enable people to travel more easily while reducing their impact on the environment;
- accelerate the transition to ultra-low-emission transport through taxation, subsidy and regulation;
- accelerate the rapid take-up of electric vehicles (EVs) by reforming vehicle taxation, cutting VAT on EVs to 5% and increasing the rate of installation of charging points, including residential on-street points and ultra-fast chargers at service stations;
- ensure that by 2030 every new car and small van sold is electric;
- shift more freight from road to rail, including electrifying lines leading from major ports as an urgent priority, and amend the current HGV road user levy to take account of carbon emissions;
- extend Britain's rail network, improve stations, reopen smaller stations and restore twin-track lines to major routes;
- support High Speed 2, Northern Powerhouse Rail, East-West Rail and Crossrail 2, but ensure far tighter financial controls and increased accountability;
- take a new approach to rail franchising by opening up the bidding process to public sector companies, local or combined authorities, not-for-profits and mutual;
- create a new Railways Agency to oversee the operations of the railway network, removing the Department for Transport from day-to-day decision-making;
- set up a £2bn Rural Services Fund to enable the co-location of services in local hubs around existing local infrastructure;
- invest £2bn to ensure the provision of high-speed broadband and ensure that all households and businesses have access to superfast broadband (30Mbps download and 6Mbps upload).
- invest in mobile data infrastructure and expand it to cover all homes.

### IR35: Chancellor pledges review of freelance tax changes

Chancellor Sajid Javid is promising to review looming freelance tax rule changes which are causing widespread concern in construction. HMRC IR35 rules are due to change next April making contractors liable for determining the tax status of off-payroll professionals.

Major contractors have been auditing freelancers employed via personal service companies as thousands of professionals are braced for a move back to PAYE.

### **New railway partnership named Avanti West Coast**

FirstGroup and Trenitalia's collaboration on the West Coast line have unveiled the name of their new rail franchise. Avanti West Coast is the new name of the line that will replace the InterCity West Coast line run by Virgin Trains. The new partnership is set to take over on December 8. The service will connect cities and towns across England, North Wales and Scotland to the nation's capital, providing a "vital economic artery bringing cities and people closer together".

### **NICW unveils priorities as it develops future infrastructure plan for Wales**

The National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW) has published its first annual report, outlining that energy, digital communications and transport will be its focus for the coming year. The commission has also issued a call to all interested parties to submit their views and evidence on key issues, ahead of producing its first "state of the nation" report by November 2021. The NICW was established in 2018 as a non-statutory body to advise and make recommendations to Welsh ministers on Wales' economic and environmental infrastructure needs over the next five to thirty years.

<https://gov.wales/national-infrastructure-commission-wales-annual-report-2019>

### **CRUX Insight report - industry needs to work harder to avoid contractual disputes**

The consequences of delay, disruption, lost productivity, cost overrun and poor quality are amongst the lessons still not being learned by the industry, according to the second annual CRUX Insight report by dispute resolution specialists HKA.

The report provides sector-by-sector insight into dispute causation on major capital projects around the world, with this year's CRUX Insight focusing on buildings, defence, aerospace & military, industrial, infrastructure, oil & gas, and power & utilities.

The analysis, from what is claimed to be the broadest and most in-depth dataset in the industry, identifies over 4,000 causes across 700 projects in 72 countries, with total project capital expenditure in excess of US\$1.2 trillion, where HKA has provided claims consulting and dispute resolution services.

The report provides detailed insight into the factors, pattern and causes of disputes on major engineering and construction projects across multiple sectors worldwide - claiming that the dominant drivers of disputes are a significant lack of control over scope and design, along with poor drafting and administration of contracts.

<https://www.hka.com/crux-insight/>

### **Experiencing Plant Breakdowns/Filter Blockages as a result of problems caused by red diesel?**

An increasing number of CECA members are reporting issues with plant/vehicle that use red diesel/gas oil. There is a suspicion that the breakdowns have been caused by a change to the mix of red diesel following a legislation driven requirement to add greater percentage of biofuel at the refinery.

### **£500m southern major civils framework**

Hampshire County Council, which is handling the highways infrastructure and civil engineering work procurement, has selected Hochtief (UK), Skanska, Tarmac Trading and VolkerFitzpatrick to deliver projects valued from £8m to £150m across the south of England.

### **Supreme Court: community benefits not planning 'material consideration'**

Proposed donations to a community benefit fund from the proceeds of a new wind turbine could not be taken into account by a local authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for the development, the Supreme Court has confirmed.

According to the Supreme Court, the benefits proposed by developer Resilient Severndale were not "proposed as a means of pursuing any proper planning purpose". The local planning authority, Forest of Dean District Council, was therefore not entitled to treat them as a 'material consideration' when granting planning permission. The unanimous judgment from the Supreme Court upholds a 2016 High Court judgment in the same case.

### **RIA: RAIL 2050 manifesto**

The Railway Industry Association (RIA) has launched its RAIL 2050 manifesto, setting out the industry's key needs prior to the general election. The manifesto, which looks at how the UK can develop a long-term, sustainable rail industry over the next 30 years, calls for the political parties to provide:

- Development of a long term, 30-year strategy that promotes private investment;
- The smoothing of 'boom and bust' in rail infrastructure and rolling stock investment, and improvement to the visibility of upcoming enhancement upgrade projects;
- A better balance in the train fleet between new and upgraded trains;
- Decarbonisation of the railway, through a rolling programme of electrification for intensively used lines and by using battery, hydrogen, bimode and trimode technology for other lines;
- Digitalisation of the railway through deployment of modern digital signalling technology;
- Commitment to major rail projects including HS2, TransPennine Route Upgrade, Northern Powerhouse Rail, East West Rail, Midlands Rail Hub and Crossrail 2, amongst others;
- Government to work with the rail industry to set priorities for innovation and collaboration between rail organisations;
- Government to consider the role of the rail industry as a key UK exporter, when developing new trade agreements.

### **Skanska increases recycled asphalt use to 50% on M25**

The contractor has also revealed it is in talks to trial graphene-enhance asphalt on the M25 after pioneering use of the super-tough blacktop on an A-road in Oxfordshire.

Skanska is awaiting results of the Oxfordshire trial before pressing ahead with its first motorway tests, but in the meantime has upped the use of recycled asphalt by five-fold on the M25 to explore potential big savings in carbon emissions going forward.

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

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

### **£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>

### **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)

### **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)

### **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.

### **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/>

### **£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.

### **£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 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)

**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>

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

[https://elinkeu.clickdimensions.com/m/1/11894794/p1-b19291-](https://elinkeu.clickdimensions.com/m/1/11894794/p1-b19291-e1ab31301ef6427981d564a5a4075660/1/127/a68cca09-d4e4-4354-8e70-1176dda1ebd7)

[e1ab31301ef6427981d564a5a4075660/1/127/a68cca09-d4e4-4354-8e70-1176dda1ebd7](https://elinkeu.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>

**CICES November newsletter**

<http://mailshot.cices.org/Chartered%20ICES%20Newsletter%20Nov19.html>

**News from ACAS - winter workplace advice**

[https://acasnational.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/D063477C919E43552540EF23F30FEDED/2C3CE2DFFCC](https://acasnational.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/D063477C919E43552540EF23F30FEDED/2C3CE2DFFCC9DA6963B21DE8DA818551)

[9DA6963B21DE8DA818551](https://acasnational.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/D063477C919E43552540EF23F30FEDED/2C3CE2DFFCC9DA6963B21DE8DA818551)

## North West - and the North

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

Procurement for the Alliance contract is now underway. **The deadline is 9 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.

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=3254140a-fd05-ea11-80fb-005056b64545>

### **Salford and Bolton road improvements set for sign-off**

Mayor Andy Burnham and Eamonn Boylan, chief executive of the GMCA, have put forward proposals for the improvements to the A666 and A6 in Salford, and Bury Road and Crompton Way in Bolton, for sign-off. The work in Salford consists of junction upgrades, bus priority measures and cycling and walking enhancements on the A666 and A6. The schemes would be backed by £3.98m from the Local Growth Deal and Mayor's Fund.

The Salford scheme includes three sections of bus lane on the Manchester-bound side of Bolton Road between the M60 off-slip at Junction 16 on the M60 and the Irlam o'th Height roundabout; the reconfiguration of on-highway parking arrangements on Bolton Road; a junction improvement scheme at Broad Street and Frederick Road with the inclusion of a bus only link between Broad Street and Belvedere Road, and segregated signalled crossings for cyclists; and the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the A6 adjacent to Salford Crescent. -Salford City Council would be responsible for managing the works with project management support from TfGM.

The Bolton upgrades are a collection of junction improvements close to Bolton town centre. The scheme includes the implementation of two cycle signal junctions at the Manchester Road, Bradshawgate, and Trinity Street, and at Newport Street and Trinity Street. The scheme also includes capacity improvements at adjacent A666 and St Peters Way and Bury Road and Crompton Way junctions.

### **25 additional schemes proposed for £1.5bn Bee Network**

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority has put forward plans for an additional 25 schemes to improve walking and cycling routes across the City Region, bringing the total number of projects to 82, at a cost of £493m. According to the GMCA, the projects identified so far make up a third of the overall Bee Network plan, which is set to reach £1.5bn of investment.

Tranche Six of the project attracted 37 applications, of which 25 were approved for programme entry. All of them are recommended for approval at the latest GMCA meeting, at a cost around £154m. The successful projects include:

- The £5.8m Westhoughton Bee Network and the £9m Astley Bridge in Crompton
- Three schemes in Elton, Pimhole, and Radcliffe central in Bury which total £6.9m
- £13.5m for Bee Network Crossings, and £4.3m for National Cycle Network upgrades
- Three in Manchester, the £5.7m Manchester Cycleway, £12.9m for Oldham Road, and £1.4m for Beswick Filtered Neighbourhood
- Seven in Oldham, which total £19.8m, including £11.1m for Oldham town centre improvements
- One scheme in Rochdale, including the links between Rochdale, Manchester and Oldham at £29.4m
- In Salford, there is one scheme for the as yet undescribed Salford Innovation Triangle at £19.9m
- Three in Stockport, made up of £3.2m for Heatons WRH, £3.9m for Romiley neighbourhood and links, and Thomson Street bridge
- The one improvement in Tameside is the £2.2m A57 Denton to Hyde
- The final two are in Trafford, which are the £4.4m North Altrincham Bee Network, and £7.9m Seymour Grove

### **Manchester's Albert Square to be pedestrianised**

Manchester City Council has confirmed plans to pedestrianise Albert Square and has submitted a planning application which is set to be decided before the end of the year.

### **Liverpool plans 2020 start on Festival Gardens remediation**

Liverpool City Council is planning to submit a planning application this month for the remediation of the 28-acre development zone within Festival Gardens, as part of a timeline which could deliver up to 1,500 homes on the former landfill. In February, Homes England revealed it would provide a grant of £9.9m to facilitate the development of up to 1,500 homes at Liverpool's 90-acre Festival Gardens.

### **IPPR calls for a Devolution Parliament to empower the north**

The IPPR has called for the next cohort of MPs to form a Devolution Parliament, and for the next government to reverse decades of damaging centralisation, by giving power back to places across England, starting in the north.

IPPR North's new analysis reveals Westminster's creeping centralisation of spending power and sets out how the next government can change the way power is distributed in England, so that the country can begin to solve some of its biggest economic and social challenges:

- Fund local government fairly by ending austerity, redistributing funding and devolving power over taxes;
- Introduce an inclusive devolution process that lets all areas benefit;
- Develop a locally-led regional tier of government;
- Devolve powers to regions, towns and cities to create good jobs, build infrastructure and raise productivity;
- Cement these reforms with a new constitution to make it more representative of the whole country.

<https://www.ippr.org/blog/the-devolution-parliament>

### **Manchester to add 100,000 people and 65,000 jobs by 2036**

Manchester is set for a period of major growth in all sectors, including its population, housing, and offices over the next decade-and-a-half according to the city council's annual State of the City report. The report looks at sectors from property to economics to homelessness, and compares their progress to previous years, as well as laying out a vision for Manchester.

[https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200088/statistics\\_and\\_intelligence/7353/state\\_of\\_the\\_city\\_report\\_2019](https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200088/statistics_and_intelligence/7353/state_of_the_city_report_2019)

### **GRAHAM wins £26m Poynton relief road**

Cheshire East Council has awarded Graham Construction a £26m design and build contract to deliver the Poynton relief road. The project involves construction of a new 3km single carriageway linking the A6 Manchester Airport relief road to the A523 London Road. Enabling works are now getting underway with major works set to start in May. It forms part of the South East Manchester Multi-Modal Scheme to improve existing transport links on the south east side of Greater Manchester.

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

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.

### **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.

### **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/>

### **£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.

### **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://transportfornorth.com/major-roads/national-roads-fund/>

### **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.

### **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

## **Jobs**

### **Senior Estimator, Aggregate Industries**

We are currently looking for an Estimator or Senior Estimator to lead accurate commercial pricing across our North West Region contracting business. If you have some knowledge of the surfacing industry or similar and the ability to work to tight deadlines, this is a great opportunity to progress your career to the next stage.

<https://careers.aggregate.com/job-detail.php?jobid=103199>

## Tenders

Salford: Minor Civils Framework

Expressions of interest close on 11/12/2019.

Contact: Christine Flisk, Salford City Council, Email: [christine.flisk@salford.gov.uk](mailto:christine.flisk@salford.gov.uk)

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

Wigan: Carriageway Micro Asphalt Surfacing 2020/21

Expressions of interest close on 06/12/2019.

Contact: Clare Redpath, Cumbria County Council, Email: [d.hibbert@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:d.hibbert@wigan.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/>

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/>

Leicester: Bridge Strengthening

Expressions of interest close on 20/12/2019.

Contact: Sarah Lashbrooke, Leicestershire County Council, Email: [sarah.lashbrooke@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.lashbrooke@leics.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/>

Wakefield: New Bridge Panel Replacement

Expressions of interest close on 13/12/2019.

Contact: Ben Hudson, Wakefield Council, Email: [bhudson@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:bhudson@wakefield.gov.uk)

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

Whitby: Swing Bridge Maintenance Contract

Expressions of interest close on 18/12/2019.

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/>

Nexus: Leamside and Sunderland Bridge Repairs

Expressions of interest close on 20/12/2019.

Contact: Hannah Colverd, Nexus, Email: [hannah.colverd@nexus.org.uk](mailto:hannah.colverd@nexus.org.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 (EXTENDED DEADLINE)

Preston: Earthworks from Accrington Road to Rose Grove Junction, Burnley

Bacup: Installation New Re-Cycling Transfer Station and Related at Henrietta St Depot

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**

#### **World's first artificial intelligence (AI) concrete strength prediction engine**

BAM Nuttall has hailed the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) concrete strength prediction engine at its London City Airport as a 'game changer' for the industry. The system was developed in collaboration with tech specialist Converge. Within hours of concrete being poured it can predict the time a critical strength will be reached with an accuracy of +/- 5%, several days in advance.

The prediction engine combines local weather data, a database of historical concrete curing data, and the Converge concrete monitoring platform's real-time measurements from the pour.

The system has boosted productivity and can help keep projects on track - ultimately saving millions of pounds if concrete sits in the critical construction path.