

29 January 2020

## 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/>

### **Dates for your diary**

- CECA NW/CICES Golf Day: Leigh Golf Club, Thursday 9 July 2020
- CECA North by NW Dinner: North Lakes Hotel, Penrith, Thursday 11 June 2020  
<https://www.aldercross.com/event/ceca-north-by-nw-dinner-2020>
- CECA NW Annual Awards Dinner: Midland Hotel, Manchester, Friday 9 October 2020  
Keynote speaker: Nikki Henderson, award winning yachtswoman, who accompanied Greta Thunberg across the Atlantic!

### **PII renewal seminar**

Following a meeting with Lockton Insurance, slides are available upon request.

### **CECA NW Foundations meeting, Liverpool John Moores University, Wednesday 12 February 2020.**

A meeting is being arranged at the university with CECA Rail Director, Bill Free as one of the speakers (all welcome, whether members of the Foundations group or not). Free to attend, to book your places:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-foundations-seminar-networking-tickets-91345672365>

Or contact Jacqueline Vail: [jacquelinevail@ceca.co.uk](mailto:jacquelinevail@ceca.co.uk)

### **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 - please contact Guy Lawson for your copy**) and £45.00 to non-members. It is available to buy online in hard copy only.

### **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 Commercial & Legal Breakfast seminars, with Geraldine Fleming of Driver Trett  
(all eligible for CPD - certificates can be provided upon request)**

Tues 4 Feb - Pitfalls 1 - Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, Warrington

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-contractual-pitfalls-1-tickets-90601253789>

Tues 25 Feb - Design issues under NEC - Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors

Dominion House, Sibson Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 7PP

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-design-issues-under-nec-tickets-90608162453>

Tues 24 March - Collateral Warranties Explained - venue TBC

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-collateral-warranties-explained-tickets-90610593725>

Tues 28 April - Pitfalls 2 - venue TBC

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceca-nw-seminar-contractual-pitfalls-2-tickets-90608708085>

**£3m CITB funding is available to enhance training provision for plant operators**

Submit your application form no later than 5.00pm **Friday 28 February 2020**.

<https://www.citb.co.uk/levy-grants-and-funding/grants-funding/citb-commissioned-projects-fund/plant-commission/>

**CITB NW winter update**

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/INPAYnVg3e064/>

**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)

**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.

**WISE: Employ more women in STEM roles or get left behind**

WISE, the campaign for greater gender balance in science, technology and engineering (STEM), is calling for employers, professional bodies and educators to set a target of achieving 30% of women in core STEM roles. Currently, women hold just over 24% of these roles.

**Job opportunities for those affected by Bardsley entering administration**

Just before Christmas, Bardsley Construction entered administration, this has sadly led to the loss of around 200 jobs in the Greater Manchester area. Job Centre Plus is supporting staff to find new roles but is seeking support from construction firms to identify job opportunities. If you have any openings for construction or back office staff that you'd like to be prompted directly to former Bardsley employees please contact: Richard McAvoy Employer Advisor, Department for Work and Pensions  
Tel:0161 2532862 07552 271/ Email: [RICHARD.MCAVOY@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:RICHARD.MCAVOY@dwp.gov.uk)

## Policy & Industry Affairs

### CECA: PII renewal

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-pi-insurance-will-be-a-major-challenge-for-contractors-in-2020/>

Also:

[http://www.infrastructure-intelligence.com/article/jan-2020/pi-insurance-set-be-%E2%80%9Cmajor-challenge%E2%80%9D-contractors-2020?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=transactional&utm\\_campaign=weekly-email](http://www.infrastructure-intelligence.com/article/jan-2020/pi-insurance-set-be-%E2%80%9Cmajor-challenge%E2%80%9D-contractors-2020?utm_medium=email&utm_source=transactional&utm_campaign=weekly-email)

### LGA: Working with CECA on procurement

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/efficiency-and-income-generation/procurement/nagsopo-newsletter>

### CECA: MAC Recommendations Workable For Industry

Civil engineering contractors today cautiously welcomed a report published by the Migration Advisory Committee on A Points-Based System and Salary Thresholds for Immigration.

The report focuses on the UK's future skills-based work migration system once the Brexit transition period ends and makes recommendations around the possible role of a points-based immigration system and the appropriate level and design of salary thresholds.

The report notably recommended for those with an existing job offer:

- A decrease in the salary threshold from £30,000 to £25,600 on the general work visa.
- An expansion of the general work visa to include many construction skills.
- The salary requirements for new entrants to be reduced and to allow for workers to achieve recognised qualifications.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/860669/PBS\\_and\\_Salary\\_Thresholds\\_Report\\_MAC.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860669/PBS_and_Salary_Thresholds_Report_MAC.pdf)

### IPPR: UK government must make regional devolution a top priority

Regional politicians, business groups and trade unions have called for the UK government to make regional devolution an immediate and top priority for the year ahead, reports Rob O'Connor from Newcastle. The State of the North conference in Newcastle, led by IPPR North, saw almost 300 delegates agree that 2020 must be the year when power is returned to the north and all its regions, towns and cities. The conference followed a hard-hitting report by the IPPR that found:

2019 had exposed the country's regional divides more than ever;

- The UK is more regionally divided than any comparable advanced economy;
- Centralised governance is a major cause of economic problems in all regions;
- More devolution could help the north thrive and support the whole country's future prosperity.

<https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/state-of-the-north-2019>

### NAO report: HS2 civils contracts increase to £10.67bn

HS2's main civil construction costs have increased to £10.67bn, a report on HS2 by the National Audit Office (NAO) has said. In its progress update on HS2, released today, the NAO said the cost of the project's seven main civil contracts had risen from its original target cost set in April 2017 of £6.1bn to £10.67bn in October 2019. The government audit body said the cost rise was a result of the initial target price being finalised before individual contract designs had been properly developed. Design and build contracts were used by HS2 to incentivise contractors to deliver works for less than the target price, by involving them early in the design process.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/high-speed-two-a-progress-update/>

### **ORR: Network Rail receives official warning for poor service**

The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) has strongly criticised Network Rail's impact on passenger train service performance, and has put the company on a warning for its poor service in the north west and central region in England. ORR has seen that at a national level Network Rail's contribution to passenger train delay minutes was 58%, down 1.1% compared with the previous year; however, there are variations across the country. In the north west and central region where the train operating companies include Northern and Trans Pennine Express, Network Rail's performance in terms of its contribution to delays remains a concern.

<https://orr.gov.uk/news-and-blogs/press-releases/2020/office-of-rail-and-road-investigating-network-rail-for-poor-performance-in-north-west-and-central-england>

### **£6.8bn Lower Thames Crossing tunnel extended**

Highways England has extended plans to build Britain's longest road tunnel by almost a quarter of a mile to protect bird habitats. The extension of the main tunnel section under the Thames connecting Kent, Essex and Thurrock is one of several design changes to access roads, tunnel entrances and junctions on the route. Despite these alterations following initial public consultations officials say the project is still within its £5.3bn and £6.8bn projected budget.

### **Umbrella companies**

Contractors are leading the way to drive out unscrupulous umbrella companies who exploit workers by charging high fees and denying them holiday and sick pay. The move is part of the People Matter Charter launched by the Supply Chain Sustainability School. The charter outlines eight commitments designed to promote equality and diversity in construction and end exploitation. Several firms have already signed-up including Balfour Beatty, Murphy, Skanska, McAlpine and Vinci.

<https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/markets/labour-group/people-matter-charter/>

### **Legal perspective: the impact of 2019 decisions upon the industry**

In 2019, the courts:

- reopened the debate around 'smash 'n' grab' adjudications (where the payee claims for the full amount set out in an application where the payer fails to serve a valid pay less notice in time);
- further hardened its approach to natural justice challenges;
- confirmed its hostility to adjudicators' decisions procured by fraud;
- clarified the jurisdiction of an adjudicator where a dispute is referred by an insolvent company;
- provided guidance on how to make an effective jurisdictional reservation; and
- clarified the scope of the statutory 'slip rule' (which requires construction contracts to include provision in writing to permit an adjudicator to remove clerical or typographical errors arising by accident or omission from their decision) in the Scheme for Construction Contracts.

### **CECA: Government To Re-Open Beeching Lines**

The new Conservative Government has committed to restoring many of the closed Beeching lines reconnecting those small towns that have suffered permanent disadvantage since they were removed from the rail network in the 1960s. Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps has allocated £500m to reopen former train lines and build new stations in the North of England and the Midlands.

CECA believes that substantial underinvestment outside London and the South East is a key cause of everyday challenges on regional road and rail networks and we welcome the Government's commitments to change the direction of travel. To help us when we meet with the Department for Transport and Network Rail, we would like to seek members' views on the key strategic rail routes which the Government should prioritise. If you would like to share your views and help us in our lobbying, please contact: [marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk](mailto:marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk)

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/government-to-re-open-beeching-lines/>

### **CECA: Reverse Charge VAT**

We are working with the UK Government, HMRC and a wide range of the other industry federations to try to understand what the current levels of awareness are for the forthcoming changes to construction VAT that are due to come in this autumn. To help with this assessment, please could you fill it in the survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CECARReverseChargeVATSurvey>.

### **CECA: Looking Ahead To The Second Roads Investment Strategy**

CECA is anticipating that the second Roads Investment Strategy will be published in the coming weeks, confirming Government's plans for £25.3bn investment in our strategic roads between 2020-25. Ongoing commitment to five-year cycles for roads spending is welcomed by industry, as they provide much greater project certainty, giving industry the confidence it needs to prepare for a substantial programme of work. While the latest proposed figure is less than the £29bn originally quoted, CECA remains optimistic about the new Government's commitment to road infrastructure, and the vital role it plays in driving economic growth. This has already been reflected in the Conservative Party's election manifesto to make a £28.8 billion investment in strategic and local roads and £1 billion in rapid electric vehicle charging.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/looking-ahead-to-the-second-roads-investment-strategy/>

### **CECA: Get HS2 Done To Level Up UK and Unleash Growth**

Civils contractors today lent their backing to calls for the UK Government to 'get HS2 done' in order to kick-start the infrastructure revolution the British economy needs.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-get-brexite-done-to-level-up-uk-and-unleash-growth/>

### **Late payment bill to enforce 30-day terms**

A new private members bill is being launched in the House of Lords today in the latest bid to toughen-up late payment legislation. The bill proposed by Labour peer Lord Mendelsohn contains a statutory limit of 30 days for paying bills. It also outlaws unfair payment practices like subcontractors having to pay fees to get on main contractors' preferred lists of suppliers and payment of fees to get paid earlier under supply chain finance schemes. The bill also mandates the use of project bank accounts for public sector works over £500,000 allows small construction firms to refer payment disputes to the Small Business Commissioner rather than go through adjudication.

### **New £10.5bn NHS framework opens**

A new £10.5bn NHS-led framework has opened for tenders.

The seven-year Public Sector Construction Works framework is being operated by NHS Shared Business Services and is open for healthcare and other public services to use. It is divided into five lots for jobs valued from under £2.5m to more than £35m. The three lowest-value lots are divided into 12 regions, while the £15m-£35m and £35m+ lots are national. There is a maximum of 376 places available on the framework, according to its OJEU notice. The Public Sector Construction Works tender is live and closes on **25 February**. <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:15453-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML&src=0>

### **Heathrow to hold public consultation to finalise expansion plans**

Heathrow Airport has announced it will launch an eight-week public consultation to finalise its proposals for airport expansion following the decision by the UK's aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), to cap early spending on the project. Capping spending has prolonged the construction period of a new third runway and means Heathrow will need to undertake refreshed modelling of key aspects of the plan - including public transport to and from the airport - to evidence that Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) targets can be met. The consultation will run from April through to June ensuring, say the airport, that communities can review and feedback. Heathrow will be writing to local authorities in the coming weeks with more information, offering them the opportunity to feedback on its approach to consultation. Responses will feed into the final planning application, to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate towards the end of 2020.

### **IPA: construction strategy will be same as last one**

The government's next construction strategy is likely to be mostly the same as the last one, a senior government advisor has warned, because the industry is too slow at making change.

David Hancock, who wrote the government's last construction strategy for then prime minister David Cameron, is the construction director of the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA), the government's chief advisory body for infrastructure.

### **CROSS report, January 2020**

Articles on CDM 2015/Temporary Works and structures at risk from scour and erosion.

[https://www.structural-safety.org/media/696284/cross-newsletter-57.pdf?\\_ccCt=nxQKFkecH2Qhj6DKNWmjO8uwTP3BuBr0EB3VHs\\_3gNbjTyAqCBqghL\\_BTT4TfHY](https://www.structural-safety.org/media/696284/cross-newsletter-57.pdf?_ccCt=nxQKFkecH2Qhj6DKNWmjO8uwTP3BuBr0EB3VHs_3gNbjTyAqCBqghL_BTT4TfHY)

### **Network Rail launches action plan for working with SMEs**

Network Rail has published its plan of action for working more effectively and closely with small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The plan also considers how Network Rail will achieve the government's target of 33% of its annual expenditure to be spent via SMEs by 2022.

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/industry-and-commercial/supply-chain/>

### **Winners revealed on £640m Network Rail design contracts**

Network Rail has announced the award of 82 framework contracts to deliver design services across the country, worth an estimated £400m for Control Period 6 (2019-2024) and up to £640m including the options to extend the framework into Control Period 7 (2024-2029). The Design Services Framework (DSF) consists of four multi-discipline frameworks and 78 single-discipline frameworks. The new DSF aims to provide access to a wider range of multi-skilled suppliers including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who form circa 25% of the single discipline suppliers on the DSF.

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/news/network-rail-announces-640m-contract-awards-to-deliver-design-services/>

### **Winners of Pagabo's £10bn major works frameworks announced**

The winners of public sector procurement organisation Pagabo's £10bn, six-year major works framework have been announced. The framework, which launches in April 2020, is the second iteration of the major works contract and will see up to 28 contractors deliver projects starting at £5m. The framework, which is open to all public and private sector organisations, is split into three project value bands across seven UK regions and includes a core and reserve list of contractors.

Dominating the three lots are major contractors including ISG, Morgan Sindall Construction and Sir Robert McAlpine, each appointed to up to six out of the seven regions on all three lots. Willmott Dixon and Vinci Construction has also won a large proportion of geographies available across each lot. SMEs AMCM Group, GF Tomlinson, Henry Brothers (Midlands) and Wildgoose Construction have also been granted full appointment across a selection of geographies in lot 1 (£5m - £15m) as part of Pagabo's ongoing commitment to supporting SMEs and ensuring access to major projects. New appointments to the framework for 2020 include Ashe Construction, Bowmer + Kirkland, Kier and Wates Construction.

### **Procure Partnerships: new £2.5bn nationwide framework announced**

Procure Partnerships Frameworks has announced a £2.5bn national minor works scheme.

Broken down into two value bands of £50k to £1m and £1m to £4m, the minor works framework will target local contractors in both England and Wales for 10 regional lots, each of which will run for four years. It will be accessible to all public sector bodies including local authorities, NHS trusts, universities and blue light providers. Tender documents will be issued at the end of January with the framework going live at the end of March.

Contractors can register initial interest here: [www.procurepartnerships.co.uk/register-interest](http://www.procurepartnerships.co.uk/register-interest)

## Guidance on forward tipping dumpers

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

## Ofwat challenges water companies to spend £13bn on infrastructure over next five years

The Environment Agency has welcomed Ofwat's challenge to the UK's water companies to spend £13bn on infrastructure investment and improve their performance and customer service over the next five years. Ofwat has revealed a spending package of £51bn for the next five years. A quarter of this, around £13bn, will be investment dedicated to providing resilient services and a better environment in the face of a growing population and climate change.

## PR 19 final determinations

In September 2018, water companies in England and Wales submitted their plans for the future to Ofwat. They checked and challenged those plans, including how much companies planned to spend to deliver them.

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/regulated-companies/price-review/2019-price-review/final-determinations/>

## Crown Commercial Services: Minor Civils Framework (to £3m - total value £1.5bn) winners

- North England: AE Yates; Colas; Dyer & Butler; Eric Wright; Fitzgerald Construction; Jackson Civil Engineering; Kier Integrated Services; PBS Construction (North England); Seymour Civil Engineering; The Casey Group
- South England: Associated Asphalt Contracting; BCM Construction; Colas; Dyer & Butler; FM Conway; Jackson Civil Engineering; JT Macley & Co; Kier Integrated Services; Midren Construction; Rynebridge; TS Civil Engineering
- Wales: BCM Construction; Dyer & Butler; Kier Integrated Services;
- Scotland: Covanburn Contracts; Cubby Construction; Luddon Construction; MacAsphalt; R J McLeod
- Northern Ireland: Whitemountain Quarries

## Inspiring Change

Entries are now open for the 2020 Inspiring Change Awards. If you're working for a construction employer who takes Fairness, Inclusion and Respect seriously, why not submit an entry. For more information see: <http://www.inspiringchangeawards.com/2020-categories-and-entry-forms.html>

## IR35: Government launches review of freelance tax changes

The government has launched a review of freelance tax rule changes due to come into force in April. Looming changes to IR35 rules are causing widespread concern in construction. HMRC rules are due to change from April 6 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. The government is now calling for evidence from affected individuals and businesses to ensure "smooth implementation of the reforms."

## £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.



### **Global whistleblowing laws for energy and infrastructure employers**

Energy and infrastructure companies are often under considerable pressure to ensure transparency in their operations, given the scale and high-risk nature of the work. Employers operating in these sectors with global operations should have in place a clear, accessible policy setting out how they will handle reports from employees who 'blow the whistle' about corporate wrongdoing. They must also ensure compliance with local laws in every region in which they operate. It is unlikely that a single 'global' policy will be suitable for the workforce in every territory, and provisions will need to be tailored accordingly. Reporting suspicions of wrongdoing by their employer will not usually be an easy choice for an employee to make. As a general rule, employers can encourage their employees to report their concerns by:

- publishing a well-defined and accessible whistleblower policy;
- presenting clear and regular communications from senior management on the topic;
- offering regular training and awareness of whistleblowing;
- providing evidence of support of protection by senior management;
- providing secure and easily accessible reporting facilities; and
- guaranteeing anonymity

### **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.

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

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

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

### **News from ACAS**

<https://acasnational.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/7823A9743A44FBC22540EF23F30FEDED/2C3CE2DFFCC9DA6963B21DE8DA818551>

**ACAS: Mock Employment Tribunal, 13th February, 10am-3.30pm, Preston North End Football Club**

<https://northwest.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/5CC3FE36786619102540EF23F30FEDED/7A56263B4705F0FAE4D971DF84FCF8FB>

## **North West - and the North**

### **CECA NW: 2019-20 Q3 Political & Economic report**

The following document is to provide a briefing on the political and economic environment of the North West, and its impact upon CECA members.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/CECA-NW-POLITICAL-AND-ECONOMIC-REPORT-DECEMBER-2019.pdf>

### **£100m towards Fleetwood line restoration**

Launching the plan to kickstart the restoration of lines closed more than 50 years ago, transport secretary Grant Shapps has released cash to re-open two lines in the near future: £1.5m to the Ashington-Blyth-Tyne Line in Northumberland, and £100,000 to the Fleetwood line in Lancashire.

### **North West Construction Hub £120m low-value framework**

The North West Construction Hub has rung the changes for its £120m low-value framework for projects worth up to £3m. The number of firms securing places has dropped from 11 to nine with Conlon Construction, Engie, Kier and Harry Fairclough successfully retaining their places.

Newcomers for the four-year pipeline of works include: Eric Wright, John Turner Construction, Manchester and Cheshire Construction Co, Styles and Wood and Warden Construction.

### **Metrolink heading to Stockport by 2025**

Plans for a Metrolink extension from East Didsbury to Stockport came a step closer today after The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham announced that former head of the Civil Service, Lord Bob Kerlake, has been appointed as Chair of the Stockport Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) in a major move to help boost the ambitious regeneration plans for the town centre. Stockport Council and Transport for Greater Manchester are set to request between £500m and £1bn from the Government to deliver an extension of the Metrolink line from East Didsbury to the town centre.

### **Ground-breaking ceremony for £38 million Isle of Man ferry terminal in Liverpool**

A ground-breaking ceremony has been held at Prince's Half-Tide Dock in Liverpool for the new Manx ferry terminal. The terminal is costing £38 million and is expected to be completed by summer 2021. This is following two separate delays to the project.

### **Mayfield phase one to be decided in February**

Plans for the first phase of the £1.4bn Mayfield project are to be determined by the council next month. The scheme is being brought forward by the Mayfield Partnership, which comprises developer U+, Manchester City Council, LCR and Transport for Greater Manchester.

Phase one of the project comprises the delivery of the 6.5-acre Mayfield Park, focussed on the River Medlock and the city's first park in a century, together with two office blocks totalling 314,000 sq ft, and a 550-space multi-storey car park on Baring Street. The first two planning applications submitted last year are expected to be determined on **13 February**.

### **Entries open for North West Regional Construction Awards 2020**

Applications are invited for the 14th annual North West Regional Construction Awards.

The awards are held in partnership with Constructing Excellence in the North West, School of the Built Environment at the University of Salford and the Centre for Construction Innovation. The winners from the region will be announced at the North West Regional Construction Awards at the Titanic Hotel in Liverpool on **2 July 2020**. For details: <http://www.constructionawardsnw.co.uk/index.html>

### **Anglo American in bid for £2.5bn potash mine project**

Anglo American is in advanced talks to take control of the Sirius Minerals £2.5bn potash mine construction project in Yorkshire.

### **Manchester set for Local Plan overhaul**

Manchester City Council said it will open a public consultation on a revised Local Plan in February. The new Local Plan will set out a strategy for development over the next 15-20 years and will replace the city's current Core Strategy which was adopted in 2012. The review comes after legislative changes introduced by the National Planning Policy Framework in 2019, which state that local plans should be updated every five years.

### **£71m announced to 'transform' steelworks site**

Teesside leaders have welcomed a £71m pledge to 'transform' the site of Redcar's former steelworks. The Government has announced the new funding towards ambitious plans to turn the former SSI site into a huge business zone, home to clean energy, manufacturing and tech companies.

### **How Preston could look if £182m transport funding is approved**

County Hall has submitted the transport infrastructure proposals after being shortlisted for the Department for Transport's Transforming Cities Fund. Outline plans looking to upgrade rail, bus, cycling and walking opportunities across the city have been sent to the government for consideration.

They include:

- A parkway railway station at Cottam;
- A new crossing of the Ribble at Avenham Park to connect footpath, cycling and bridleway networks north and south of the river, replacing the closed Old Tram Bridge;
- Enhancements to the city centre's main streets - Fishergate, Friargate, Lancaster Road, Church Street, Corporation Street, Butler Street - complementing and connecting recent work between the rail station, bus station and university;
- Changes to the A6/A59 Ringway, building on the substantial investment in new road capacity, with the Preston Western Distributor and South Ribble Western Distributor;
- Bus gates, priority lanes and junctions;
- New or improved cycle and foot ways in the city centre;
- Cycle super highway links to suburbs major employment areas;
- Improved cycling and walking routes between Preston Bus Station and the Railway Station.

Preston is one of 12 shortlisted Transforming Cities Fund city regions nationwide with the prospect of receiving a share of £1.2bn, to be spent by March 2023, aimed at driving up productivity through improved public and sustainable transport connectivity. The bid is supported by partner organisations from the public sector, including Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), and local bus and rail providers.

### **Salford Media City expansion**

In August, Construction News revealed that Peel Land and Property group and Legal & General secured a £292.5m loan facility to double the size of the Media City UK development in Salford. Up to 10 more buildings are planned for the site, which is home to offices for companies such as the BBC, ITV, Ericsson and over 250 creative media businesses.

The project is in very early stages, with no contractors yet appointed. Detailed planning consent was granted for the expansion in October 2016. The development will be one to watch in 2020 due to the vast amount of investment in the scheme, with Peel Land and Property group stating that the expansion would be backed by £1bn of private investment.

### **Eden confident of 2020 planning submission**

Eden Project North is continuing to target a 2020 submission for the planning application for its £85m Morecambe attraction following a successful public consultation, remaining positive about future Government support despite political uncertainty. The Grimshaw-designed Eden Project North is earmarked for a waterfront site at Morecambe Bay, which would become the location of an immersive visitor experience housed across a series of mussel shell-shaped domes.

### **Parkside link road update**

The proposed £38m link road which would connect a potential 270-acre business park on the site of former Parkside Colliery in Newton-Le-Willows, would cross 93 acres of Green Belt, including farmland, before connecting to the Parkside Colliery site. It would also have the potential to unlock future phases of up to 505-acres around the junction to the east and west of the site for employment land and railway infrastructure, according to the planning application. The proposal includes a single carriageway to the east from the A49 Winwick Road to the A573 Parkside Road with a three-way junction, and a single carriageway road to the east of the M6 to link the A573 Parkside Road to a roundabout on the A579 Winwick lane. The road from the roundabout will be a dual carriageway. The proposal would link to Parkside Regeneration's Parkside Colliery business park proposal in Newton-le-Willows. The scheme is being brought forward in a joint venture between Langtree and St Helens Council, and would create 1m sq ft of employment space in its first phase.

framework covers the delivery of infrastructure pipeline projects for both clean and wastewater assets.

### **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.

### **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>

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Manchester Airport unveils latest designs in £1bn revamp**

Manchester Airport has released images and a video of its under-construction passenger terminal, as it presses ahead with plans to complete the airport expansion project by 2024.

The £1bn transformation project, which began in 2017, is set to be fully completed by 2024 with the first phase of the Terminal Two extension project set to open in 2020.

The security hall, departure lounge, immigration hall and arrivals hall will open next summer, while other facilities, such as island check-in desks and baggage reclaim facilities, will open later in the year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYGaZG503Ps&feature=youtu.be>

### **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 links between Rochdale, Manchester & 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

### **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/>

### **Peel look to develop City Airport, Salford**

Peel L&P has outlined plans to further develop the historic City Airport in Salford, including extensions to the existing heliport and refurbishment pilot and passenger lounges.

The plans would represent the next stage of investment by Peel into the 90-year-old airport, which was Greater Manchester's first, after it spent £1m over the course of 2019 expanding the hangar at the airport and other improvements.

### **£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.

### **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

### **Oldham eco park plans revealed**

Oldham Council is to submit plans for a "multi-million pound" environmental centre at Alexandra Park as part of its Northern Roots development project.

Phase one of the project will see 160 acres of green space at Snipe Clough, including the current council depot at Alexandra Park, transformed into an urban farm and eco park.

### **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.

## Jobs

### **Civil Engineering/QS Degree Apprenticeship sought**

Contact Guy Lawson if you can help: [guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk](mailto:guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk)

*I am very near completion of my work experience with Morgan Sindall, where I have gained valuable contracting Quantity Surveying experience. I shadowed an experienced Quantity Surveyor, and also went on site to get a feel for that part of Quantity Surveying. I also sat in a variety of meetings, which widened my knowledge as to the different professions within the construction industry.*

*With regard to my near future, I am looking for a degree apprenticeship programme. I believe gaining on site experience and working towards a degree part-time is ideal. I would meet and network with the correct professionals to reach my long-term goals, gain necessary experience for the future whilst learning and collecting all relevant qualifications. Being surrounded by experienced professionals would benefit me with my degree as there would always be someone to offer a helping hand. Equally, what I'm learning in my course could also benefit the contractor I am working for on site. From what I have heard about full-time studying at university, I believe these programmes are far more beneficial.*

### **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

STAR: Framework Contract for Highways Subcontractors

Expressions of interest close on 03/02/2020.

Contact: Sarah Keating, Stockport MBC, Email: Sarah.Keating@star-procurement.gov.uk

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

Wigan: Creation of Amphibian Ponds at Amberswood

Expressions of interest close on 31/01/2020.

Contact: Martin Purcell, Wigan Council, Email: m.purcell@wigan.gov.uk

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

High Peak & Staffordshire Moorlands: Civils & Groundworks

Expressions of interest close on 24/03/2020.

Contact: [procurement@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk)

Derbyshire: Woodville to Swadlincote Regeneration Route

Expressions of interest close on 06/02/2020.

Contact: Stuart Etchells, Derbyshire County Council, Email: [stuart.etchells@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.etchells@derbyshire.gov.uk)

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

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/>

Halifax: Ainley Salt Barn and Ancillary Works

Expressions of interest close on 13/02/2020.

Contact: Saleha Montgomery, Calderdale Council, Email: [saleha.montgomery@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:saleha.montgomery@calderdale.gov.uk)

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

Doncaster: Cenotaph Hard Landscaping & Bennetthorpe Cycleway

Expressions of interest close on 05/02/2020.

Contact: Ian Stimpson, Doncaster MBC, Email: [ian.stimpson@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:ian.stimpson@doncaster.gov.uk) Register via YORtender:

<https://www.yortender.co.uk/>

Hull: Dismantling and Enabling Works to Scott Street Bridge

Expressions of interest close on 05/02/2020.

Contact: Leila Oxtoby, Hull City Council, Email: [leila.oxtoby@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:leila.oxtoby@hullcc.gov.uk)

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



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

Chester: Northgate Surface Water Drainage NEC3 Project Management

Salford: PS-Works: Public Sector Construction Works

Bury: Bury Market - Public Toilets Remodelling

Leicester: Road Repair Materials

Burnley: Procure Partnerships (National Minor Works) Framework

Seascale: Repository Infrastructure (LLWR)

Accrington: Access improvements to Peel Park LNR

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

**....and finally**

**Northern: Rail firm brought under government control**

Northern Rail is to be brought under government control. The decision, which will see the firm's franchise stripped from operator Arriva Rail North from 1 March, was taken following years of major disruption. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said passengers had "lost trust in the north's rail network". Arriva said it "understood the government's decision", but problems had been largely due to "external factors" such as rail infrastructure.