



12 February 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 or mobile 07703 585027.

Civil Engineering Contractors' Association North West news

Contact details

The office address is: CECA North West, The White House, Wilderspool Business Park, Greenalls Avenue, Warrington WA4 6HL Email: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk; Tel: 07703 585027. Although the office is not manned full time, I can be contacted on the above email and mobile number. We are also on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CECANW>

Free and discounted services for members - what can we do for you?

CECA NW always wants to make sure it delivers the services that members want. So, please tell us what your priorities are. We are always looking for ways to enhance the services CECA NW offers to members, which currently include:

- Legal services (see below)
- Training
- Tendering support
- Market intelligence
- Lobbying

But, please contact Guy Lawson if there are any specific areas where we can be of assistance.

CECA NW Legal Advice Service

Willow Contracts has provided very high quality advice to CECA NW members over the last year - and their support and expertise for legal and contractual matters is highly recommended. The email address exclusively for members is CECAsupport@willowcontracts.co.uk and this will automatically contact Chris Hutchinson and his colleague. For the telephone service, the dedicated number is 01924 919392. In the event that the call cannot be taken any voicemail left is automatically routed to Chris's mobile phone. Call costs I am advised are at standard rates.

Tendering workshops

Members are invited to contact Guy Lawson for 1-2-1 tendering workshops, where he will advise on PQQs and ITTs, eg on how to present socio-economic and CSR data as effectively as possible. This is a free service to CECA NW members. Please contact him at the above number or email.

CECA NW Routes to Market 2019

Want to know what's planned for the region, and who's doing what? Our Routes to Market research is an invaluable resource for CECA NW members:

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/members-area/briefing/ceca-north-west-routes-to-market-september-2019/>

Dates for your diary

- CECA NW/CICES Golf Day: Leigh Golf Club, Thursday 9 July 2020, contact Falcon Golf for details and to book teams or places. Email: cecagolf@btinternet.com tel: 07740 731445
- CECA North by NW Dinner: North Lakes Hotel, Penrith, Thursday 11 June 2020
After dinner speaker: comedian Lea Roberts
<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!
To book your tickets, please contact Alison Shea: alison@aldercross.com

IR35 seminar with Liz Bridge, Wednesday 22 April 2020, Manchester

A seminar is being arranged with CECA taxation expert Liz Bridge in April (it will also include details of Reverse Charge VAT). Further details shortly, but interested parties should contact Guy Lawson.

CECA NW Flyer 2020

Please send in material for the next edition of the flyer to promote your company (see the 2019 version for details of the format required)

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CECA-NW-Flyer-2019.pdf>

CECA NW 2020 video

We will be producing a new video, to promote careers in the industry, so please send us any footage or time lapse photography we might use. The 2019 version is on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/myeRhpZRrVM>

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 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 25 Feb - Design issues under NEC - (jointly with Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors)
CICES, 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
Brockholes, Preston

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

Tues 28 April - Pitfalls (for contractors to avoid) 2
North Lakes Hotel, Penrith

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

Seminar: Critical Decisions - The Aftermath Of A Major Accident

Our brokers, Lockton, are organising the following seminar on 5 March in Manchester (they did one for us last month on PII renewal) with DAC Beachcroft. The seminar is an interactive case study, in which audience participation is strongly recommended. The case revolves around an incident involving a serious injury to a member of the public however the principles discussed are also relevant to Employers Liability incidents. If you're interested, please contact: Sarah.Hollinshead@uk.lockton.com

£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/>

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

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 McAvooy Employer Advisor, Department for Work and Pensions
Tel:0161 2532862 07552 271/ Email: RICHARD.MCAVOY@dwp.gov.uk

Policy & Industry Affairs

Cabinet reshuffle: Sajid Javid resigns as chancellor

He has been replaced as chancellor by Chief Secretary to the Treasury Rishi Sunak - who just seven months ago was a junior housing minister. Transport minister Nusrat Ghani was another junior minister dismissed at the same time. She had served in the role for two years, and her responsibilities included HS2, among a wider rail remit. Boris Johnson is expected to appoint a new minister to oversee the building of the HS2 rail line, final approval for which was given this week.

CECA: Calling On Chancellor To Kick-Start Infrastructure Revolution

Civils contractors have written to former Chancellor Sajid Javid MP to outline the steps he needs to take at Budget 2020 to kick-start an infrastructure revolution.

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) have highlighted that the infrastructure sector faces severe challenges in workload visibility, with very few shovel-ready projects in the UK for its members to deliver in the immediate future.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-calls-on-chancellor-to-kick-start-infrastructure-revolution/>

CECA: HS2 Green Light Heralds A 'New Dawn' For UK Infrastructure

Civils contractors today said that the decision of the UK Government to progress with HS2 heralds a 'new dawn' for the UK infrastructure sector.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-hs2-green-light-heralds-a-new-dawn-for-uk-infrastructure/>

HS2: Euston and phase 2b to be delivered by separate body

HS2 has been given the green light by the prime minister, with delivery of the Euston terminus and phase 2B of the scheme to be taken out of the hands of the company delivering the rest of the project. Boris Johnson announced "new delivery arrangements" will be drawn up for both the Euston terminus and the leg of the scheme from Crewe to Manchester and the West Midlands to Leeds. He said further details on how this will work would be revealed soon. He has also ordered an examination of cost reductions on the first phase of the scheme, from London to Birmingham, without redesign work delaying its delivery.

IR35: HMRC Announces Change To The Off-Payroll Working Rules

As part of a review into changes to the operation of the off-payroll working rules (IR35), HMRC has made an announcement to give business more time to prepare. Changes to the operation of the off-payroll working rules will only apply to payments made for services provided on or after 6 April 2020, HMRC has announced, ahead of the publication of the government's review. The formal publication of a review into the implementation of changes to the off-payroll working rules is due to conclude later this month. For guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/employment-status-manual>

Cautious welcome for new PMI figures that show confidence at a near two-year high

Leading industry figures have given a cautious welcome to the latest PMI figures that show a boost from receding political uncertainty has led to business optimism rising to its highest for almost two years, but have warned against complacency in the year ahead.

The bellwether IHS Markit/CIPS January data pointed to a much slower decline in UK construction output than that seen at the end of 2019. New business volumes were also close to stabilisation, which contrasted with the sharp falls seen in the final quarter of last year.

Looking ahead, construction companies are now the most optimistic about their growth prospects since April 2018. A number of firms noted that clients' willingness to spend had picked up after the general election, which should translate into rising workloads over the course of 2020.

The headline seasonally adjusted IHS Markit/CIPS UK Construction Total Activity Index rebounded from 44.4 in December to 48.4 in January. The latest reading was still below the 50.0 no-change threshold, but signalled the slowest fall in overall construction output for eight months.

Network Rail awards £3.6bn signalling contracts

Five framework contracts, worth an estimated £2.4bn over control period 6 (2019-2024), and up to £3.6bn including options to extend for the first two years of control period 7 (2024-2026), aim to improve asset reliability and in turn reduce delays for the users of the railway - passengers and freight operators - while also increasing capacity on the network. The frameworks, which went live on 31 January 2020, are split into five geographical lots. They have been awarded to:

- Alstom (Southern Region and Eastern region)
- Siemens Mobility Ltd (Scotland Region and North West & Central region)
- A joint venture between Hitachi Rail STS UK Ltd and Linbrooke Services Ltd (Wales & Western region).

Network Rail starts race for southern region framework

Network Rail infrastructure has launched the hunt for firms to deliver buildings and civils renewal and enhancement works across its southern region. The three-year framework is understood to be worth between £100m-£200m. For more information: IPSFramework@networkrail.co.uk

Green light for new £290m stretch of A30 bypass

Highways England's project to dual the A30 between Carland Cross and Chiverton Cross has been in the pipeline for several years. It is now the only remaining stretch of single carriageway on the A30 between Camborne and the M5 at Exeter. Development consent has been given to upgrade the road from a single to dual carriageway which includes construction of a 12.5 km new off line section and a new grade separated junctions at Chiverton and Carland Cross, and Chybucca.

New delivery partner plan for £6.8bn Lower Thames Crossing

Highways England is preparing to start market engagement talks to find a delivery partner for the £6.8bn Lower Thames Crossing tunnel project. It has re-cast procurement plans and is now seeking a delivery partner, superseding previous plans to appoint an Early Works Delivery Manager for the project. The agency said it had taken lessons from the Thames Tideway and Crossrail projects, and would procure a delivery partner to create an integrated client team alongside its core Highways England team and technical partner. For more details: cipmarketengagement@highwaysengland.co.uk

Wylfa and Sizewell C 'fate is aligned'

The fate of two nuclear power stations worth a combined £30bn could be settled at the same time, a director of the firm behind the Wylfa Newydd project has claimed. Leon Flexman, director of Hitachi subsidiary Horizon Nuclear Power, said the £16bn Wylfa project and £14bn Sizewell C nuclear facility's futures rested on the government accepting the regulated asset base model (RAB) to fund nuclear new-build projects. RAB requires developers to spend less upfront, instead raising cash through consumer bills. EDF has said it is in favour of using the RAB model for Sizewell.

Work on Wylfa Newydd power station was suspended in January 2019 after developer Hitachi experienced issues with funding, having already put £2bn into the project. EDF will submit a development consent order for Sizewell C in Suffolk this year and hopes to begin construction on the power station in 2021, but a decision has yet to be made on how it will be funded.

East-West rail line route chosen

The Government has selected the preferred route for the final central section of the East-West rail link between Bedford and Cambridge. This new route will see two new stations built, one at Tempsford or St Neots and one for Cambourne. This will lead to the government making a final decision on whether to take this project forward, and to make an application for a developed consent order.

Andy Street unveils his £15 billion plan for the Metro and Rail in the West Midlands

Andy Street has unveiled a 'Tube-style map of the West Midlands', outlining his twenty-year ambition for Metro and rail lines in the region. As part of his plans Andy, who serves as the current Mayor of the West Midlands, wants to open eight new Metro lines and 21 new rail stations across the West Midlands by 2040. On the Metro, Andy wants to build over 150 miles of new lines and around 380 new stops, and, in addition to the trams running on roads and on rail lines, he wants to have sections of the line running underground, using 'cut and cover' tunnelling to allow traffic to drive above the Metro line where there is not enough space on narrower roads. In Coventry, new technology such as 'very light rail' trams and driverless autonomous pods would be used to connect key sites.

UCL report criticises proliferation of new housing developments built beside roads

A report by University College London has criticised planners and engineers for allowing new housing developments to be built next to roads which do not accommodate pedestrians and cyclists.

The release of the report comes after a government travel survey suggested that 76 per cent of people interviewed thought that drivers should "reduce how much they use their cars" for the benefit of the environment. <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/street-appeal.pdf>

CECA To Join LGA's Strategic Supplier Relationship Management Initiative

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) is to join the Local Government Association's Strategic Supplier Relationship Management (SSRM) initiative to help improve local government procurement of infrastructure.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-to-join-lgas-strategic-supplier-relationship-management-initiative/>

CECA: PII renewal

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

Slides are available upon request, of Lockton's recent PII seminar for CECA NW members.

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

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/>

Guidance on forward tipping dumpers

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

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

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/>

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>

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=nxQKFkech2Qhj6DKNWmj08uwTP3BuBr0EB3VHs_3gNbjiTyAqCBqghL_BTT4TfHY

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.

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/>

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

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/>

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>

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

Homes England launches Strategic Plan 2018/19 - 2022/23

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752686/Homes_England_Strategic_Plan_AW_REV_150dpi_REV.pdf

Doing business with Sellafield (LINC and CTM update)

LINC with Sellafield Ltd has now transitioned over to the CTM system. In order to qualify for LINC in CTM please either login with your existing details or if you are new to CTM register as a 'new supplier' and navigate to RFQ 10536 - LINC Qualification:

<https://sharesystems.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=SELLAFIELD>

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

<https://elinkeu.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 CICES: December/January newsletter

<http://mailshot.cices.org/Chartered%20ICES%20Newsletter%20Dec20.html>

News from ACAS: Mediation

<https://northwest.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/E4245BF3A1072AF62540EF23F30FEDED/DFE4EF7006A9086490FAFAE85685310A>

North West - and the North

CECA NW: Budget priorities for the North West

CECA NW's recommended priorities for the forthcoming budget:

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-north-west-government-must-level-up-uk-through-infrastructure-investment/>

... and CECA NW in the news: our comments on the HS2 and NPR announcement

<https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/news/industry-reacts-to-hs2-approval/>

Northern Rail: nationalisation 'curtain raiser' for wider review?

The UK government's decision to bring the Northern Rail franchise under public control is a "curtain raiser" for wider reform later this year, an expert has said.

The government is due to publish a white paper on rail reform later this year, in which it will set out its plans for a "simpler, more effective" alternative to the current franchising model in response to the recommendations of an independent review by former British Airways chief executive Keith Williams.

Mersey tunnels: Council agrees to 'ease the burden' on toll users

The cost of using the Mersey tunnels has officially been frozen but some campaigners are calling for it to be scrapped altogether. The Liverpool City Region's Combined Authority has approved plans to keep toll fees on the Kingsway and Queensway tunnels as they currently are, which was proposed by Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham recently.

£6million redevelopment announced for railway station at Teesside International Airport.

Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen has announced plans to invest £6million into the redevelopment of the railway station at Teesside International Airport.

Yorkshire MP asks government to reinstate Beverley to York railway line axed by Beeching

Graham Stuart MP wants some of the £500million pot for feasibility studies into reinstating old routes to be diverted to the Beverley to York line, which closed in the 1960s as part of the Beeching cuts.

M58 Link Road, Wigan

Wigan Council is developing proposals for a new link road connecting J26 M6 with Wigan town centre via the A49 (the M58 Link Road). The council has been reviewing procurement options for the main works however the scheme has a number of complex interfaces which have needed careful consideration. Following the conclusion of the review process, the council has taken the decision to appoint Balfour Beatty via the SCAPE framework to undertake pre-construction activities to develop and deliver a detailed design and supporting work packages for the M58 Link Road, up to final funding approval and contractor appointment stage to construct the scheme.

In order to support the development of the supporting work packages, the Council proposes to hold a market information day for interested contractors and supply chain partners, which will be hosted jointly between Wigan Council and Balfour Beatty. Details of this will be circulated in due course.

The council has not yet taken any decisions as to the procurement of the scheme construction works, which are currently anticipated to be delivered under a NEC form of contract (either Option A or Option C). Further updates can be found via the council's webpage

<http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Parking-Roads-Travel/Roads/Proposed-M58-Link-Road.aspx>

£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.

£175m Woodhouse Colliery update

Guy Lawson met West Cumbria Mining to discuss progress and to identify how CECA NW can assist the project. A members' meeting and/or 121 opportunities for members will be developed in the near future. Further details in due course. 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.

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.

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+I, 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>

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.

£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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Government funding to progress Carlisle Garden Village

The 10,000-home St Cuthbert's Garden Village has been allocated a fresh wave of funding from the Government to go towards the delivery of the masterplan.

The £320,000 is the latest round of capacity funding granted from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

St Cuthbert's is one of 14 Garden Villages proposed across the country and sits to the south of Carlisle city centre. In terms of housing numbers, Carlisle City Council claims the site is the largest in the country with the capacity for 10,325 homes.

Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council have allocated £10m towards enabling works.

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

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

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

Wigan: Carriageway Resurfacing Works 2020/21

Expressions of interest close on 28/02/2020.

Contact: Dave Hibbert, Wigan Council, Email: d.hibbert@wigan.gov.uk

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

Warrington: Nature Reserve Observation Tower (market test)

Expressions of interest close on 04/03/2020.

Contact: Joe Mushrow, Warrington Borough Council, Email: x-joe.mushrow@warrington.gov.uk

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

Seacombe: Landing Stage & Bridges

Expressions of interest close on 09/03/2020.

Contact: Merseytravel, Email: tender@merseytravel.gov.uk

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

Rochdale: Footways and Highways

Expressions of interest close on 28/02/2020.

Contact: Shayan Raja, Rochdale Boroughwide Housing, Email: shayan.raja@rbh.org.uk

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

Alder Hey/Galliford Try: Groundworks & Concrete

Expressions of interest close on 04/03/2020.

Contact: Richard Jolley, Alder Hey, Email: richard.jolley@alderhey.nhs.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

Leicestershire: Carriageway Surfacing Framework Contract 2020

Expressions of interest close on 06/03/2020.

Contact: Sana Mahomed, Leicestershire County Council, Email: Sana.Mahomed@leics.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

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

Leeds: Meet the Buyer - 2020 (civils)

Expressions of interest close on 26/03/2020.

Contact: Karen Walker, Leeds City Council, Email: karen.walker@leeds.gov.uk

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

Langdale Road Bridge Provision of Vehicle Restraint Systems and Expansion Joints Replacement

Expressions of interest close on 18/02/2020.

Contact: Lydia Hillman, Barnsley MBC, East Riding of Yorkshire, Email: LydiaHillman@barnsley.gov.uk

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

Supply and Application of Bituminous Based Binder Products in Highways Maintenance

Expressions of interest close on 30/11/2029.

Contact: Alicia Bainbridge, East Riding of Yorkshire, Email: alicia.bainbridge@eastriding.gov.uk

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

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

Manchester: Proprietary Surface Treatments to Carriageways and Footways (RE-ISSUED)

Salford: Artificial Pitch Refurbishment and Associated Works

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

Oldham: A670 Safer Roads Vehicle Restraint System (VRS)

Seascale: Repository Infrastructure (LLWR)

Birmingham: HS2 Phase 2a Civils Works Packages – Industry Day

....and finally

Government "actively looking into" Scotland-Northern Ireland bridge

The government is actively looking into prime minister Boris Johnson's idea of a road bridge linking Scotland and Northern Ireland, Downing Street has said, rejecting scepticism from engineers and criticism of the prime minister's mixed record on delivering bridges.

"Government officials are carrying out work in relation to the idea of a bridge linking the GB mainland to Northern Ireland," the prime minister's spokesman told a media briefing. "There is a proper piece of work being carried out into the idea. It is reporting into No 10, but obviously we will take advice from wherever it is needed." He gave no details on when the work would be completed.

Industry professionals were quick to respond, stressing that any proposal should be subject to a comprehensive and independent study, and be part of a co-ordinated and holistic approach to infrastructure rather than risk becoming a headline-grabbing project built in isolation.