

19 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](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, contact Falcon Golf for details and to book teams or places. Email: [cecagolf@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:alison@aldercross.com)

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

A seminar has been arranged with CECA taxation expert Liz Bridge (it will also include details of Reverse Charge VAT). It will take place at the Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester from 13.00 - 15.00. It is free for CECA NW members. To book your tickets:

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/north-west/event/ceca-north-west-ir35-seminar/>

### **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/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 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>

### **CECA NW NEC full day course, April 2020 - date and venue TBC**

Geraldine Fleming of Driver Trett will be running a full day course, free to CECA NW members, covering:

- Differences between NEC3 and NEC4.
- Preparation and relevance of the Contract Data for the NEC4 ECC
- Schedule of Cost Components and Shorter Schedule
- With references, too, to Defined Cost under the NEC4 ECC, Compensation Events under the NEC4 ECC, and Programmes under the NEC4 ECC

Interested parties should contact Guy Lawson to book a place.

### **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](mailto: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/>

### **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.

## Policy & Industry Affairs

### The Budget

The new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, has confirmed that the Budget will go ahead on **11 March**, as originally planned. The National Infrastructure Plan will be published alongside the Budget. Following the recent announcement that the whole of HS2 has now been given the green light, and the government's heightened emphasis on 'levelling up' the UK's economy in a meaningful way, there is speculation that the purse strings may be loosened further and that we may see an even larger commitment to infrastructure building in the UK than had previously been anticipated.

### CECA Workload Trends Survey: Time For A Comprehensive Skills Plan For Infrastructure

Civils contractors have called for the development of a dedicated skills plan for the infrastructure sector after it was found that more than half of companies in the sector are having trouble attracting sufficiently-skilled staff. Results from the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA)'s Workload Trends Survey for 2019 Q4 show that 52% of British firms, on balance, reported supply issues with skilled operatives, the highest in nearly five years. The most commonly reported dissatisfaction with supply in the last quarter of 2019 was for skilled operatives in England (52%), Scotland (63%), and Wales (36%).

### CPCS registrations - your feedback, please

We have had quite a few problems highlighted by members since the back end of last year, and are liaising with CPCS on this. However to strengthen our ability to do this, we are hoping that you would be willing to send your feedback on recent CPCS experience. We can then take the points raised to CPCS and try to get them issues resolved as quickly as possible. Please email your comments to Alasdair Reisner: [alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk](mailto:alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk)

### Heathrow: Johnson casts further doubt on third runway

Boris Johnson has said there is "no immediate prospect" of construction beginning on Heathrow's third runway. The prime minister has expressed scepticism of the airport expansion's environmental credentials in the past and, according to The Times, "is believed to be mulling ways to cancel" the project. Heathrow confirmed in January 2020 that it was amending "key aspects" of its expansion plans and that it had pushed back the opening of its third runway from 2026 to 2028/29, following advice from the Civil Aviation Authority.-

### Network Rail seeks contractors for £200m southern framework

Network Rail is looking for 15 contractors to perform a range of works in southern England as part of a £200m eight-year framework. The framework is split into seven lots, with winning firms carrying out design and construction work on buildings and civils projects, including concrete and metallic structures, M&E, earthworks, masonry and erecting footbridges. There will be a two-stage tender process for contractors wishing to be selected. Tenders must be submitted for the prequalification stage **by 5 March 2020**, a spokesman for Network Rail said. If successful, contractors must then submit applications for the final **stage by 26 May 2020**. For details: <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:058159-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML>

### Andrew Stephenson MP for Pendle moves to transport

Andrew Stephenson was appointed Minister of State at the Department for Transport on 13 February 2020. He was previously Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development from 25 July 2019 to 13 February 2020. He was first elected as Conservative MP for Pendle in May 2010.

### **....and Government's late payment leader moves to transport role**

The Conservative government's leader on prompt payment policy has moved to the Department for Transport in the prime minister's reshuffle. Kelly Tolhurst, who served as the small business minister from 2018, is now a parliamentary under secretary of state in the Department for Transport.

### **Sadiq Khan to boost diversity in London's infrastructure sector**

The mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has set out plans to boost diversity in London's infrastructure sector, as a new report commissioned by City Hall revealed women, people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, disabled and LGBTQ+ Londoners are significantly under-represented in the industry. The report, 'Supporting Diversity and Inclusion in the Infrastructure Sector', confirms women are under-represented in the industry compared to the economy as a whole: 21% versus 47% across all industries. Meanwhile, only 6% of those in the industry are from a BAME background, compared to an average of 15% across all industries.

The report also identifies a range of socio-economic factors which act as barriers to entering the infrastructure industry. They include the industry having a 'white male' image, which is reinforced by a lack of exposure to the sector through school careers guidance.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/business-and-economy/better-infrastructure>

### **....and British Water pledges to improve gender equality**

British Water has committed to increasing the number of women on its non-executive board and has urged the rest of the industry to follow its lead. Pledging to ensure equality between its male and female employees, and those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, the trade association has set out a series of promises focusing on opportunity, personal development and pay. Ensuring that 30% of its non-executive board are women by 2025 is one of the promises made - just one woman sits on the current board of 12. Chief executive Lila Thompson said that by acknowledging and addressing the gender disparity, she hoped other leaders would take action to tackle the lack of diversity elsewhere in the UK water industry.

### **Rolls-Royce eyes Snowdonia nuclear site for first small modular reactor**

Engineering firm Rolls-Royce has said that the first of its planned small nuclear reactors could be built at a site near Snowdonia National Park in Wales. Speaking to the BBC, Rolls-Royce chief technology officer Paul Stein said there was a "high probability" that Trawsfynydd would be the site of the first such reactor, which would be assembled from pre-manufactured components. The site was previously home to a nuclear reactor, closed in 1991, and has an existing local nuclear supply chain.

### **Urban Transport Group report: The Local Transport Lottery**

Excessive reliance by government on short-term competition funding for the long-term task of transforming urban transport networks is inefficient and costly, according to a new report by the Urban Transport Group, the UK's network of city region transport authorities.

The report, The Local Transport Lottery, is based on surveys and one-to-one interviews with senior officers responsible for delivering transport policies, programmes and projects in some of England's largest city regions. The report finds that:

- The costs of competition funding are high - for example, the cost of bidding for the Transforming Cities Fund is in the region of £1m for some authorities.
- The costs of preparing a bid for a small scheme is disproportionately high when compared with a large scheme - for example, the cost of bidding for a £5m project is typically two to five times less than bidding for a £100m project, despite the reward of the latter being 20 times greater.
- Bidding for short-term projects is a major drain on limited available staff, whose time could be better used for urban transport planning and delivery.

<http://www.urbantransportgroup.org/resources/types/reports/local-transport-lottery-costs-and-inefficiencies-funding-local-transport>

### **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>

### **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).

### **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.

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

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

### **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.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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](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/>

### **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](mailto: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>

### **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/>

### **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>

### **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://elinku.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>

**News from ACS North West**

<https://northwest.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/281285D2D6CFCE812540EF23F30FEDED/4CEC6BDC39E018A6ABEFCECE4F5D4BBC>

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

### **Hydrogen plant lined up for Ellesmere Port**

Progressive Energy will build what it claims is the UK's first low carbon hydrogen plant on a 160-acre site owned by Essar Oil UK, close to Stanlow refinery, with an application expected this year

### **Carlisle will be an HS2 priority for Northern Powerhouse Partnership**

Henri Murison, director of the Northern Powerhouse, said: "The Northern Powerhouse Partnership will be prioritising a station stop in Carlisle as part of the coming debates and upcoming review to integrate HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail."

### **.... but Bradford city centre at risk of being dropped from Northern Powerhouse Rail project**

Northern leaders are at loggerheads with the Government over fears that its approach to the region's flagship infrastructure scheme risks undermining support for key parts of the project. They are adamant that to truly transform the northern economy NPR must have a stop in Bradford city centre and "significantly overhaul the rail links between other major economic centres including Sheffield, Hull and the North East".

### **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 Rotheram 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.

### **£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.

### **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>

### **£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.

### **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.

### **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.

<https://tfgm.com/sbni/salford> and <https://tfgm.com/sbni>

### **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

[https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/11LrCwzWcA4XgubY4EfHuW/678576b88a9ec614e410d766828c1b0d/Bee\\_Network\\_schematic\\_March\\_2019\\_hi-res.pdf](https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/11LrCwzWcA4XgubY4EfHuW/678576b88a9ec614e410d766828c1b0d/Bee_Network_schematic_March_2019_hi-res.pdf)

### **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.

### **Placements**

Following a successful CECA NW Foundations event with Liverpool John Moores University, several students have contacted us looking for work placements over the summer and during the next academic year. Please let me know if you or whoever is responsible for training and HR would like further details.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:procurement@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk)

Derbyshire: Woodville to Swadlincote Regeneration Route

Expressions of interest close on 20/02/2020.

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/>

Ashfield: Titchfield Park Brook

Expressions of interest close on 28/02/2020.

Contact: Deena Banting, Nottingham City Council, Email: [Deena.Banting@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Deena.Banting@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

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

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:alicia.bainbridge@eastriding.gov.uk)

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

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

Lancashire: Buckden Wood, Helmshore Road, Drain Lining

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

Forestry England: Ground Preparation Framework

Liverpool: Alder Hey, Community Cluster - Groundworks & Concrete

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)

Birmingham: Phase 2a Civils Works Packages – Industry Day

**....and finally**

**Tower Hamlets gets first 'rubber road' in London**

Tower Hamlets has become the first borough in London to build a road made partly from old recycled tyres. Tower Hamlets Council worked with Tarmac to approved the new type of surface that uses rubber crumb from waste tyres mixed into asphalt. Work recently began in Bethnal Green where 100 recycled tyres were mixed into a new road surface laid by council contractors JB Riney.