

18 March 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.

Harry Fairclough Ltd - support for staff

No doubt you will have seen the very sad news about Harry Fairclough going into administration - a longstanding member of CECA NW, and a company with a 125 year heritage. It is deeply disappointing, coming so soon after Centum, as well as other regional firms.

CECA NW is working with Chris Wright, their MD, who will be sending me a list of people seeking new positions. Once I have that, I will circulate it to CECA NW members.

I am also meeting the local MP, Charlotte Nichols, to discuss what has happened, and our broader concerns for the north west civils contracting sector.

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

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 Careers - launched this week

After a civil engineering job, work experience or an apprenticeship in the NW, or if you're a CECA NW member seeking to recruit, then look no further: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/nw-careers/>

CECA NW Commercial & Legal Breakfast seminars, with Geraldine Fleming of Driver Trett

(all eligible for CPD - certificates can be provided upon request)

POSTPONED BUT WILL BE REARRANGED AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

Tues 24 March - Collateral Warranties Explained, Brockholes, Preston

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

UNDER REVIEW DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

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, 8 April 2020, Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, Warrington

POSTPONED BUT WILL BE REARRANGED AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

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

POSTPONED BUT WILL BE REARRANGED AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

NOCN Job Cards

NOCN Job Cards is aware that there may be some difficulty renewing or updating CPCS cards due to issues caused by COVID19. This may take the form of not being able to make HSE tests, attend CPCS Practical assessments or CPCS renewal tests.

CPCS is now producing 90% of new card applications within 20 days and will soon be under 15 days. With our contingency planning, we aim to retain this level of service, however, we understand that Operators may have difficulty gaining the requirements for Cards in the future.

As such CPCS would suggest to Employers that their sites could be more lenient on accepting cards that have expired from mid-March onwards until the Covid-19 situation has been brought more under control. This is of course the Employers' choice and decision.

For further information about CPCS please contact NOCN's CPCS team on 0300 999 1177 (Option 2), or email: enquiries@jobcards.org

<https://www.nocn.org.uk/latest/bulletins/b20-29/>

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.

Budget 2020

Delay to scrapping red diesel rebate

Plans to scrap the rebate on red diesel have been delayed by two years.

Civils contractors were braced for bad news in the budget with cutting the rebate estimated to cost construction up to £490m a year.

But Chancellor Rishi Sunak said plans to scrap the rebate would not take effect until April 2022. And construction companies will also have a chance in the summer to press their case for being exempt from the abolition.

The government has listened to lobbying from the agricultural sector and exempted it from the changes alongside the rail, domestic heating and fish farming sectors.

Record £27bn spend on roads over next five years

The Government confirmed it will press ahead with its largest-ever investment in English strategic roads, spending £27bn by 2025. The spending pledge will see work start on over 20 connections to ports and airport, 100 junctions and over 4,000 miles of road.

Headline schemes getting back include the ambitious A303 upgrade including the tunnel at Stonehenge, dualling the A66 Trans-Pennine route and forging ahead with the Lower Thames Crossing.

The potholes fund will also be topped up to release £500m per year until 2025, enough to fill 50m potholes across the country.

As a result, the government will spend £1.5bn this year filling in potholes and resurfacing roads.

Major schemes in second Road Investment Strategy

- dualling the A66 Trans-Pennine and upgrading the A46 Newark bypass
- improving the M60 Simister Island in Manchester to tackle delays
- building the Lower Thames Crossing
- building new dual carriageway and a two-mile Stonehenge tunnel in the South West to speed up journeys on the A303
- considering how the A1/A19 north of Newcastle and the A1 Doncaster to Darrington in Yorkshire can be improved to speed up journeys and boost economic growth
- exploring how to connect communities in East Lancashire and West Yorkshire better, and exploring the case for improvements to links between the M4 and the Dorset Coast

Chancellor launches £30bn bid to tackle coronavirus

Chancellor Rishi Sunak unveiled a £30bn fiscal stimulus in his budget to tackle the impact of the coronavirus. Sunak warned that up to 20% of workers could be off work at any one time.

And his plans are designed to help struggling businesses as demand dries-up and supply lines seize.

Construction companies with less than 250 employees will now have Statutory Sick Pay liabilities for any coronavirus victims refunded by the government.

A new temporary £1bn coronavirus business interruption loan scheme will also see banks offer government-backed loans of up to £1.2m to SMEs to ease cash flow fears.

Policy & Industry Affairs

IR35 changes delayed over coronavirus

IR35 changes have been delayed by 12-months amid the coronavirus crisis.

The new rules were due to come into force next month causing widespread disruption across construction. Major contractors have been auditing freelancers employed via personal service companies as thousands of professionals are braced for a move back to PAYE.

Current rules allow workers to be employed via a personal service company (PSC) which determines whether IR35 tax rules should apply.

CECA: Red Diesel Axe Piles More Pressure On Struggling Contractors

Civils contractors have warned that axing the rebate on red diesel in two years will still hammer many contractors. In his Budget speech to Parliament Chancellor Rishi Sunak MP announced he would 'level up' the UK by 'getting Britain building', but also announced that the rebate on red diesel will end in 2022.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-red-diesel-axe-piles-more-pressure-on-struggling-contractors/>

COVID-19: Guidance For Employers And Businesses

The following briefing note sets out advice has been provided by HM Government in reference to COVID-19 ('coronavirus'). CECA will be following up on this issue in the coming days with reference to contractual and legal matters, and will update members as appropriate.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-briefing-covid-19-update-18-march-2020/>

EA tackles threat to future water supplies

The Environment Agency has launched a long-term plan for meeting the challenges the UK's water supplies are likely to face as a result of climate change and population growth.

The National Framework for Water Resources brings together industry, regulators and government to transform the way we use and look after our water supplies. The framework aims to help reduce demand, halve leakage rates, develop new supplies, move water to where it's needed and reduce the need for drought measures that can harm the environment.

The latest predictions estimate that if further action is not taken, between 2025 and 2050 the UK will need more than 3.4bn additional litres of water per day to meet future demand for public water supply.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meeting-our-future-water-needs-a-national-framework-for-water-resources>

Government to strengthen reservoir safety following Toddbrook reservoir report

Reservoir owners will be expected to apply the lessons learned from the Toddbrook reservoir incident last summer, after the government today accepted a series of recommendations made in a report by the government's reviewer of reservoir safety, former ICE president David Balmforth.

The report investigated events that took place in Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire last year after the Toddbrook reservoir's spillway partially collapsed following a severe storm event.

Professor Balmforth concluded a combination of poor design and intermittent maintenance led to the partial collapse of the reservoir's spillway following the heavy rainfall at the end of July last year.

The government will be accepting all the report's recommendations, which include:

- Strengthening delivery of the inspection regime to improve reservoir safety and help prevent similar incidents in future;
- Boosting the Environment Agency's remit as regulator to enforce outstanding statutory maintenance;
- Improving reservoir owners and engineers understanding of structural failure of spillways.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/toddbrook-reservoir-incident-2019-independent-review>

£2.5bn national minor works framework winners

Thirty nine firms have secured places on Procure Partnerships minor works framework to be used by clients across 10 regions in England and Wales. The framework has been split into two value lots of £50,000 - £1m and £1m - £4m, and completes the Liverpool-based procurement group's offering after awarding 23 firms places for larger projects last year. It will be used by local authorities, NHS Trusts, Universities and Blue Light Providers.

<https://www.procurepartnerships.co.uk/post/procure-partnerships-national-minor-works-framework-launches>

Court of Appeal clarifies UK Construction Act treatment of hybrid contracts

The Court of Appeal in London has ruled that UK construction law does not require hybrid contracts to include distinct notifications with separate break downs for construction operations and non-construction operations.

The Court upheld an earlier ruling of the English and Welsh High Court, finding in favour of construction company MW High Tech Projects UK. The Court said a payment notice does not have to separately identify sums due and not due under the UK's Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act (Construction Act) in order to be valid.

CICES now a licensed member of the Engineering Council

The Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES) and Engineering Council are pleased to announce that CICES has received approval to become a Licensed Member of the Engineering Council and assess its members for professional registration at the grades of Chartered Engineer and Incorporated Engineer. The institution previously held Professional Affiliate status.

Housing Infrastructure Fund - £1.1 billion confirmed

The 2020 Budget confirmed allocations from the Housing Infrastructure Fund totalling £1.1 billion for nine different areas including Manchester, South Sunderland and South Lancaster. In the North West, they comprise:

Cheshire East

North Cheshire Garden Village: £21.7m

Cumbria

Carlisle Southern Link Road: £102m

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Manchester Northern Gateway Urban Growth Programme: £51.6m

Lancashire

South Lancaster Growth Catalyst: £140m

Major projects body to face scrutiny over cost estimates

The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) has announced a new inquiry into the management of the Government's Major Projects Portfolio.

Major projects are the main mechanism through which the government invests in infrastructure, transforms services and improves IT systems. The Major Projects Portfolio currently comprises 133 projects with a value of £423 billion. Current major projects include infrastructure, such as Heathrow expansion and Crossrail; welfare reforms, including Universal Credit and 30 hrs free childcare; and military programmes, including HMS Queen Elizabeth.

PACAC is holding an inquiry into how well such projects are managed by Government. This will include scrutiny of how the Government decides where and how to invest money, its ability to learn lessons from past major project failings, and the usefulness of published information for holding the Government to account.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-administration-and-constitutional-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/government-major-projects-inquiry-launch-19-21/>

Infrastructure revolution plans ‘to be delayed’

Publication of a 30-year infrastructure plan for the UK has been delayed for a second time, it has been reported. The government’s plan for infra spending for the next 30 years was due to be unveiled alongside the Budget next week. This has now been delayed, according to BBC News. The strategy was initially due to be unveiled alongside last year’s autumn Spending Review, which was cancelled due to Conservative leadership election. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-51760507>

Guidance on forward tipping dumpers

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

Consultation shows wide range of views on construction payments

There is little consensus among UK construction firms and their clients around how payment practices and dispute resolution should be reformed, according to feedback to two government consultations. The UK government carried out a post-implementation review of the 2011 amendments to the Construction Act at the end of 2017 and start of 2018, alongside a consultation on the use of cash retentions. It has now published summaries of the responses to both consultations, two years after they took place. The government said that it would “continue to work with the construction industry and its clients to achieve a consensus on how to resolve the problems associated with cash retentions”. It will use the feedback to the consultation on the Construction Act post-implementation review to inform future work.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/868630/retention-payments-in-the-construction-industry-summary-of-responses.pdf

CBI: Walk away if risk share isn’t fair

Construction firms should be prepared to walk away from the bidding process if they are unhappy with the terms of a deal, according to the Confederation of British Industry. The CBI, which has published its report on the sector, called Fine Margins, has made several key recommendations to change the industry from the bottom up and to end single-stage tenders for jobs over £10m.

<https://www.cbi.org.uk/articles/fine-margins-delivering-financial-sustainability-in-uk-construction-bv/>

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>.

Six firms to share £2.5bn Virgin Media civils works

Virgin Media has named the six firms it will use for its fibre network civil engineering works programme worth £500m per year.

- Kier: Scotland + South London, South Coast & South East
- Kelly: North London, Homes Counties & East Anglia
- Avonline: North East + South West & South Wales
- nmcn: North West & North Wales + Yorkshire & East Midlands
- Comex: West Midlands
- Actavo: Northern Ireland

CECA: Points-Based Immigration System Will Create Pressures For Contractors

Civils contractors have warned that the new points-based immigration system the UK Government plans to implement from next January will create labour market pressures for employers.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-points-based-immigration-system-will-create-pressures-for-contractors/>

CECA: Joins Industry Call For Rolling Programme Of Rail Electrification

Last week, CECA was a joint signatory to a letter to Transport Secretary Grant Shapps, calling for a rolling programme of electrification on Britain's railways to meet 2040 decarbonisation targets.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-joins-industry-call-for-rolling-programme-of-rail-electrification/>

Industry Call For Establishment Of Consultancy Sector Futures Institute

CECA was among the signatories to a joint industry letter to Construction Minister Nadhim Zahawi calling for the establishment of the Consultancy Sector Futures Institute, with financial commitment and resources from the industry to the sum of £75 million over five years.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/industry-call-for-establishment-of-consultancy-sector-futures-institute/>

CIC creates new UK adjudication procedure for low-value construction claims

The UK's Construction Industry Council (CIC) has announced the upcoming publication of a new low value disputes model adjudication procedure (CIC LVD MAP). The MAP is to be published on **18 March** in response to growing construction industry concerns about the increasing complexity and prohibitive costs of adjudication.

<http://cic.org.uk/news/article.php?s=2020-02-12-cic-publishes-new-adjudication-procedure>

CMA: Cheating or competing?

Three-out-of-ten construction companies think it is fine to fix prices with competitors. While a quarter saw no problem with discussing bids and agreeing who would get which tenders. The findings follow research by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) as it launched a new campaign targeting anti-competitive practices. The survey found that only 6% of 400 construction firms quizzed had received competition law training while 32% thought agreeing not to supply each other's customers was legal.

https://cheatingorcompeting.campaign.gov.uk/?utm_source=GOV.UK&utm_medium=Homepage-image&utm_campaign=Cheatingorcompeting_2020#why_cheaters_never_prosper

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

Larger employers fail to spend £400m of Apprenticeship Levy money

Employers are failing to use hundreds of millions of pounds that was intended for training apprentices, according to figures obtained by the BBC. At least 55 of the largest employers in England have each released more than £1m back to the government which was meant to be spent on apprentices. In total around 5,000 English employers relinquished more than £400m of funding raised by the apprenticeship levy in the first eight-month period when sums could expire. That's about a quarter of the money made available for apprentice training and covers about one in three of those employers who then had to pay the levy.

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%).

£20m government funding to make 124 stations more accessible across GB

Announced by the Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, disabled passengers across GB are set to benefit from accessibility improvements at approximately 124 stations. The funding comes from the Access for All programme and will include new lifts, accessible toilets and customer information screens and follows a new campaign, aiming to improve the journeys of disabled passengers on public transport. Since 2006, the Access for All programme has made more than 200 stations step free and delivered smaller scale accessibility improvements at more than 1,500 others to improve passenger experience. The £20m funding announced today is part of a £300m package announced last year that has already provided accessible routes at 73 stations across GB, improving the travel experience for disabled passengers on the UK's rail network.

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.

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.

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

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/>

CECA: Government To Re-Open Beeching Lines

The 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 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/>

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.

Inspiring Change Conference - postponed until Thursday 10th December, 2020.

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

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: February newsletter

<http://mailshot.cices.org/Chartered%20ICES%20Newsletter%20FEB20.html>

News from ACAS: Handling coronavirus at work

<https://acasnational.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/5C06407B10223C272540EF23F30FEDED/2884990E9B679C951EDFAC89AA826ECE>

News from ACS North West: Certificate in Internal Workplace Mediation

<https://northwest.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/5AB582257F8A2B382540EF23F30FEDED/6B45680459980B93EE2A3AD6E2B32184>

North West - and the North

£4.2bn for city regions' transport programmes

The 2020 Budget confirmed roads spending of over £27 billion between 2020 and 2025, enough funding to fill in around 50 million potholes across the country, and unprecedented investment in urban transport, with £4.2 billion for five-year, integrated transport settlements for eight city regions on top of £1 billion allocated to shovel-ready transport schemes

GRAHAM: Congleton Link Road

Excellent site visit to the Congleton Link Road project hosted by Alastair Lewis of GRAHAM, with Chris Hindle of Cheshire East Council and Chris Jackson of CECA NW.



D Morgan: Mersey Maritime Awards, SME of the Year 2020

Liverpool City Region's £4bn maritime sector was showcased and celebrated at the biggest Mersey Maritime Industry Awards to date. And CECA NW member, D Morgan, was awarded SME of the Year.

River Mersey tidal power plan granted £2.5m funding

A plan to harness tidal power in the River Mersey in Liverpool has taken a step forward after £2.5m of funding for the project was approved. The scheme, which would see a barrage built across the river, could power up to one million homes, politicians say. The money has been rubber-stamped by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority following a year-long feasibility study.

'Oven ready' rail scheme could deliver growth, jobs and housing for SCR

The Sheffield City Region, Doncaster Council and the Peel Group (owners of Doncaster Sheffield Airport) have taken a major step forward by submitting an outline business case to the Government which could deliver a new national and regional rail connection to Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

Landmark energy project can act as a 'beacon for investment'

A major Tees Valley clean energy project that could support the creation of more than 5,500 jobs and generate £450m for the region's economy has been hailed as a "beacon for new technologies and further investment" at its official launch.

Lakes College to launch civils training centre

Following a meeting with Lakes College Principal, Chris Nattress, they are all set to launch a civils training centre in Workington, and is keen to work with employers. For further details of how to get involved, please contact Guy Lawson.

Sellafield and Project 13

Guy Lawson met Eldon Garnett, Engineering Director (Nuclear) for Morgan Sindall, who gave a very useful briefing on Project 13. They are principal construction contractor for Sellafield Ltd's Programme and Project Partners (PPP) model, which is how they have implemented Project 13. For further details, please contact Guy Lawson.

Land deal struck for Eden Project North

Lancaster City Council has agreed to let the site earmarked for the £85m Morecambe leisure attraction to operator Eden, enabling the scheme to move forward.

In addition, the council has agreed to extend an option for Eden to purchase the site once funding and planning permission have been secured. Eden Project International chief executive David Harland previously said some of the funding for the Grimshaw-designed scheme would be sourced from the Government, in part from the £281m Stronger Towns Fund.

Peel: First waste plastic to hydrogen plant approved for Ellesmere Port

Peel Environmental and Waste2Tricity have got the planning green light for the UK's first waste plastic to hydrogen facility. The new plant using ground-breaking technology in the UK for the first time will be built at the 54-hectare Protos site near Ellesmere Port.

It is the first of up to 11 waste plastic to hydrogen facilities, representing an investment of more than £130m, planned to be built in the UK. The £7m development will see over 100 jobs created in the North West during fabrication and construction. Following planning consent, a start on site is expected in Autumn 2020 with the facility due to be operational in 2021

Manchester moves to demolish Piccadilly Gardens wall

The city council has requested almost £2m to kick-start regeneration of the much-maligned public square, including demolishing the free-standing part of Japanese architect Tadao Ando's concrete wall.

Anglo American seals potash mine project takeover

Shareholders of developer Sirius Minerals voted in favour of a 5.5p a share offer from Anglo to buy the polyhalite fertiliser project for £400m. The deal distils big losses for investors but paves the way for Anglo to take the mega-project forward, after much of the construction team was stood down last year due to a funding crisis.

NP11 call for northern budget

The chairs of the Northern Powerhouse 11 (NP11) have called on the government to commit to key investments and to present a "budget for the north".

The NP11 met with government ministers and northern MP's to outline proposals for boosting the UK economy ahead of next month's budget.

Part of this was a £40m investment to help develop a Net Zero North clean energy programme over three years, which is estimated to add more than £2bn a year to the energy economy and create more than 100,000 new green jobs.

The NP11 has also called for a £67m investment over three years to unlock new trade and investment opportunities, with the proposals aiming to close productivity and growth gaps between the North and the rest of the UK.

UK2070: Northern Powerhouse and HS2 'insufficient' to level up regions

HS2, which was given the go-ahead in the House of Commons this month, and the proposed Northern Powerhouse rail network in the North of England, are "unlikely to take benefits beyond city centres to help the more deprived areas", the report by the UK2070 Commission is expected to say.

<http://uk2070.org.uk/2020/02/26/uk2070-final-report-published/>

Contractor rethink on delayed smart motorway jobs

Costain and Galliford Try are understood to be bracing themselves for a rethink on two delayed smart motorway schemes in the North West. Galliford Try's £90m M56 job near Manchester Airport and Costain's £150m M6 contract between Warrington and Wigan had been due to start a year ago but were delayed to reduce congestion caused by roadworks in the region. Now sources say cost overruns on other smart motorway projects have prompted Highways England to review procurement plans.

VolkerStevin HSEQ Expo 2020

This year VolkerStevin will be hosting another HSEQ Expo on **Wednesday 17 June** at the Brockholes Nature Reserve in Preston between 9:00 and 16:30. To register:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uq94Gl2EHkyr_ADOwCFI32gDRrUHc4FCj1UB_t9i56xUNK5GWIFTUDFHUdhPWE1QVTZXRkxOQjhHNS4u

£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.

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.

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>

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 Kerslake, 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.

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.

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.

Jobs sought

Rob Flitter is seeking a new role in Project Direction or Design. He has worked as:

Waterco Ltd - Ops Director: 2016 -2020; B&V - Regional Delivery Director: 1999 - 2016

Please contact Guy Lawson if you would like a copy of his CV and application form.

Apprenticeships

A Wigan-based student currently studying for his A levels is looking for a Civil Engineering apprenticeship in NW England from summer 2020. He has been doing some labouring work for Taylor Riding Construction during his holidays and expects to have his full driver's license by the end of May.

Please contact Guy Lawson if you would like a copy of his CV and application form.

A Salford-based graduate from University of Central Lancashire is seeking a QS or civil engineering apprenticeship within a 45 mile radius.

Please contact Guy Lawson if you would like a copy of his CV and application form.

Calico apprenticeship programme

Jack is a Level 3 Joiner from Blackpool, he is at a good skill level with his own tools. He can hit the ground running while fitting seamlessly within any site team. Jack finished his current apprenticeship placement with Melrose on the 21st February and has now been out of work for the past two weeks. Feedback to date is that he is a hard worker and this is backed up by his huge drive to support his young family. As you can imagine, this has given my case some urgency. Jack doesn't drive so is slightly restricted to travelling too far and to date has been based around the Fylde area but Preston by train could also be an option for him. The other contractors that he has worked with to date are as follows:

- Lovell Queens Park site in Blackpool- This was a long term placement and he made a really big impact on site and was a valued team member
- Bardsley Chatsworth Road site in Fleetwood- This followed the Lovell site and again was very well thought of.

Jack's weekly costs are £309.85 a week excluding VAT which includes wages, payroll and HR function, PPE supply, pastoral care and his levy based CITB training. If you can help, please contact Andrea Noblett. Mobile: Mob 07964 118975 Email anoblett@calico.org.uk

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 27/03/2020.

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

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

Blackpool: Construction of a Natural Grass Sports Pitch Plateau

Expressions of interest close on 27/03/2020.

Contact: Fraser Cavill, Blackpool Council, Email: fraser.cavill@blackpool.gov.uk

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

Seacombe: Landing Stage & Bridges

Expressions of interest close on 23/03/2020.

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

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

Cumbria: Underwater Bridge Works 2020

Expressions of interest close on 18/03/2020.

Contact: Clare Redpath, Cumbria County Council, Email: clare.redpath@cumbria.gov.uk

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

High Peak & Staffordshire Moorlands: Civils & Groundworks

Expressions of interest close on 24/03/2020.

Contact: procurement@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Derbyshire: Swallow House Lane Bridge Bearing Replacement

Expressions of interest close on 03/04/2020.

Contact: George Davies, Derbyshire County Council, Email: george.davies@derbyshire.gov.uk

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

Lincolnshire: Ford Footbridge, North Witham

Expressions of interest close on 27/03/2020.

Contact: Carla Needham, Lincolnshire County Council, Email: carla.needham@lincolnshire.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/>

Rotherham: Car Park Construction

Expressions of interest close on 30/03/2020.

Contact: Tracy Lawson, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS FT, Email: tracy.lawson@nhs.net

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

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/>

Scarborough: Clock Cafe Retaining Wall

Expressions of interest close on 10/04/2029.

Contact: Chris Bourne, Scarborough Borough Council, Email: chris.bourne@scarborough.gov.uk

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

Barnsley: Public Realm Improvements

Expressions of interest close on 14/04/2029.

Contact: Tim Whitham, Barnsley MBC, Email: timwhitham@barnsley.gov.uk

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

Brough: Relief Road Phase 3

Expressions of interest close on 23/04/2029.

Contact: Debbie Buckle, East Riding of Yorkshire, Email: debbie.buckle@eastriding.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/>

Durham: Supply & Installation of New Temporary Bridge Deck

Expressions of interest close on 27/03/2029.

Contact: Steven Saville, Durham County Council, Email: steven.saville@durham.gov.uk

Register via NEPO: <https://www.nepo.org/>

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

Goole: Remediation of Asbestos Impacted Soils

Warrington: Environmental Works Contractors (United Utilities)

Oldham: Construction of Play Improvements to Royton Park

...and finally

Exoskeleton to ease the pain of road spreading

Colas has introduced a robot road spreader to make laying tarmac less back breaking. The Exopush is an exoskeleton designed to give power assistance to operatives working on levelling with a rake.

It is now in use on UK road sites and will be rolled out across all Colas jobs this year.

The user handles an electric actuator which helps push or pull the tool, while the weight is taken up by a harness and link to the ground via a force leg attached to the shoe with a footplate.