

15 April 2020

CECA North West: COVID-19

COVID-19: WHAT IS CECA DOING FOR OUR NW MEMBERS?

Welcome to this round up of news from CECA North West. For the time being, it will replace the usual weekly digest, but details of tender opportunities and other industry news will be circulated in due course.

I would like to stress that CECA NW is here to support our members during this difficult time. What follows is a digest of current and planned activity.

But, if you have any queries, an issue you want to raise, or we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Guy Lawson, Director, CECA NW, email: guy.lawson@ceca.co.uk
tel: 07703 585027

Latest briefing, 15 April 2020

Here is CECA's latest briefing for members, which includes:

- Site Operating Procedures - updated 15 April 2020
- CECA Workload Trends Survey 2020 Q1
- RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) requirements and Covid-19
- CLC Guidance on Contractual Issues Caused by Coronavirus - Updated 8 April 2020
- Recovery survey
- Navigating COVID-19: Bank loans and finance
- Coronavirus business support hub
- New CECA Guidance (30 March) - Temporary Suspension of Sites

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CECA-Briefing-Note-Covid-19-CECA-Update-15-April-2020.pdf>

CECA NW contractual webinar with Geraldine Fleming of Driver Trett: Payments Wednesday 22 April, 11.00

This second webinar will look at payments - essential knowledge for all contractors and subcontractors. Attendees will also be able to participate in a Q&A session at the end.

<https://cecatraining.clickmeeting.com/945157991/register>

Contacting the region's MPs

A letter is being sent to the North West's MPs, elected Mayors and key opinion formers. Please contact Guy Lawson for details.

Contractor matching for CECA NW members

This new service to help balance workforce/workload capacity between CECA NW members is now live. We are contacting all members to find if they are short of capacity or have spare capacity, and arranging opportunities, where feasible, for CECA NW members to work together. Chris Jackson is the contact for client organisations and directors of major projects in the North West chrisjackson@ceca.co.uk ; Jacqueline Vail is the contact for CECA NW members: jacquelinevail@ceca.co.uk

If you have any queries, or would like to know more, please contact Guy Lawson, guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk tel: 07703 585027

NW Careers: jobs, vacancies and apprenticeships & work experience

The CECA NW section of the website now has a Vacancy Board, plus sections for people seeking apprenticeships & work experience and jobs: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/nw-careers/>

The process is simple - for contractors with vacancies, complete the form and return to Jacqueline Vail, and I will circulate it in the newsletter and on social media. For people seeking apprenticeships, work experience and jobs, again, they should complete the form and return to Jacqueline or me and I will circulate the details without their personal information (to comply with GDPR). You may wish to make your subcontractors, plant operators etc aware of the service too.

We currently have four vacancies with CPUK Civils & Remediation: Quantity Surveyor, Assistant Quantity Surveyor, Contracts Manager and Environmental Engineer - please contact Jacqueline Vail for details: jacquelinevail@ceca.co.uk

We have an experienced NW-based civils Project Manager seeking a new role; a candidate seeking a role in Project Direction or Design; and a PhD in Civil Engineering from University of Manchester looking for work. Please contact Guy Lawson for details: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk

OBR: coronavirus reference scenario, 14 April 2020

Coronavirus lockdown to deliver large (but hopefully temporary) shock to the economy and public finances:

https://cdn.obr.uk/Coronavirus_reference_scenario_commentary.pdf

CMA: approach to business cooperation in response to COVID-19

The focus of the CMA in the next few months will be to protect UK consumers from the adverse consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic to the greatest extent possible. The CMA is conscious of concerns that competition law enforcement could impede necessary cooperation between businesses to deal with the current crisis and ensure security of supplies of essential products and services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cma-approach-to-business-cooperation-in-response-to-covid-19/cma-approach-to-business-cooperation-in-response-to-covid-19>

CITB: Leadership and Management fund (250+ employees)

The Leadership and Management Development Fund is a one-year competitive fund. It will enable large construction companies (with more than 250 directly employed staff) to invest in developing the leadership, management or supervisory skills of their staff.

<https://www.citb.co.uk/levy-grants-and-funding/grants-funding/leadership-and-management-development-fund/>

ACAS: Furlough Letter template

A template for an agreement to temporarily send home an employee because there's no work ('furlough'). Free to download and use.

<https://acasnational.createsend1.com/t/r-l-jhkyiiky-ooajkkjy-j/>

ICSA: How to hold a virtual board meeting

With the current uncertainty around the impact of Covid-19 and the limitations on travel and face to face meetings, most boards and board committees (as well as many other bodies) will for the foreseeable future have to meet virtually. Please see this good practice guide:

<https://www.icsa.org.uk/knowledge/resources/good-practice-for-virtual-board-and-committee-meetings>

Builders' Merchants

Please find a link to the BMF's website, listing which merchants are remaining open (I suggest you check for updates):

https://www.bmf.org.uk/BMF/Information_Centre/COVID19-bulletins/Is-my-local-builders-merchant-open.aspx

HS2: Government approval to issue Notice to Proceed

The Department for Transport has given approval for HS2 Ltd to issue Notice to Proceed to the four Main Works Civils Contractors working on the project.

Following on from the publication of the Oakervee Review and the Government's decision in February to continue with the HS2 project, today (Wednesday 15 April) the Department for Transport (DfT) has given approval for HS2 Ltd to issue Notice to Proceed (NtP) to the four Main Works Civils Contractors working on the project - SCS Railways, Align JV, EKFB JV, and BBV JV - to commence full detailed design and construction of Phase One of the HS2 railway (the route from London - West Midlands).

To date, the contracts between HS2 Ltd and the Main Works Civils Contractors (MWCC) for Phase One have focused on undertaking scheme design and site preparation (including pricing and scoping) for the civils work. The issuing of NtP marks the point in the MWCC contracts where the work transitions from scheme design and preparatory work, to full detailed design and construction.

<https://mediacentre.hs2.org.uk/news/hs2-ceo-welcomes-government-approval-to-issue-notice-to-proceed-2>

Network Rail: Immediate supplier payments introduced

Network Rail has announced it will pay firms immediately to help with cashflow during the COVID-19 pandemic. The government-owned rail operating company said the move, which began earlier this week, will mean it pays suppliers following approval of its payment ledger, and expects the cash to flow down the supply chain. This could speed payment up by up to seven days for SMEs and up to 28 days quicker for other suppliers, it said in a statement.

The move follows the government's instruction for all public sector clients to keep paying suppliers immediately even if work was suspended due to coronavirus disruption.

Highways England: Scheme Delivery Framework (SDF)

Highways England continues to roll out the Asset Delivery model to its operational areas. There is a requirement to deliver a range of renewal, improvement and selected small scheme construction works on the Strategic Road Network in areas utilising specialist contractors working collaboratively with Highways England to deliver these works.

It is envisaged that this framework will straddle two Road Investment Strategy (RIS) periods (RIS 2 and RIS 3) enabling a smooth transition between them. Works for schemes have been divided into a number of workstreams that align with the contractors' specialisms, and will also include design. Bandings have been introduced into the framework model to differentiate some contracting terms between bands.

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b84ed252-4121-4ea2-a37d-1affcadff328?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

United Utilities: Trading Update & AMP7

In a trading update published ahead of its full year results on 22 May 2020, the company said it had enacted robust contingency plans in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, the utility added it recognised that there is a significant degree of uncertainty associated with how the current situation develops and will therefore continue to closely monitor its position and approach.

According to the update, current trading is in line with the group's expectations for the year ending 31 March 2020. However, the severe winter storms in February caused some service interruptions that will reduce United Utilities' anticipated Outcome Delivery Incentives for AMP6 to a net reward of around £40 million from around £50 million previously.

The company said it was well prepared for AMP7 - United Utilities is expecting to deliver further improvements in AMP7 and beyond.

Sellafield: Supply Chain Covid-19 procurement notice

An update for our supply chain from Alan Hartley, our interim supply chain director.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supply-chain-covid-19-procurement-notice?utm_source=d35a161e-f301-4b77-982b-616e2b4a05f8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Business support

The Institute of Economic Development has produced useful route map of sources of business support, which will be regularly updated:

https://ied.co.uk/images/uploads/Covid_19_Route_Map_for_Business_Assistance_IED.pdf

Bank of England briefing, 20 April 2020

The Bank is holding a webinar briefing, which is aimed at businesses and community organisations across the UK, on Monday 20 April from 9:30am-10:30am.

The conference call will be hosted by Ben Broadbent, Deputy Governor for Monetary Policy, and Andy Haldane, Chief Economist. Ben and Andy will outline the measures the Bank has taken and will answer some of your questions.

Please kindly note that registration will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please register by clicking this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/70328468356494348>

Meetings, events and training

- All CECA NW meetings until 30 June 2020, including the Executive Committee and AGM, have been cancelled.
- The CECA North by NW dinner, scheduled for 11 June 2020, has been postponed until it is safe to hold it.
- The CECA/CICES Golf Day 2020, scheduled for 9 July has been cancelled.
- All seminars and training events until 30 June 2020 have been cancelled, but Geraldine Fleming of Driver Trett has successfully run the first of a series of COVID-19 commercial & legal webinars for us - more to follow.