



2 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, 2 April 2020

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

- New industry survey (31 March 2020)
- CLC advice on employment
- CLC Letter to Prime Minister
- CITB update - Skills and Training Fund
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Covid-19 Webinars

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/ceca-briefing-covid-19-update-2-april-2020/>

PLEASE NOTE: SINCE THE ABOVE WAS ISSUED, THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT FEEDBACK ON THE UPDATED SITE OPERATING PROCEDURES VERSION 2. WHILE THE FEEDBACK IS REVIEWED THE CLC HAS RE-ISSUED VERSION 1 WHICH IS THE DOCUMENT THE INDUSTRY SHOULD USE:

<http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Site-Operating-Procedures-23-March-2020-v1.pdf>

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

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.

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

New services for members

Once we have clarity of what constitutes **critical infrastructure**, we will start promoting both our **NW Careers** service and our **Contractor Matching** service. For details, see below:

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 one candidate seeking a role in Project Direction or Design. Please contact Guy Lawson for details: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk

We also have several applicants for work experience/apprenticeships, interested parties should contact Jacqueline Vail: jacquelinevail@ceca.co.uk

Contractor matching

We will be developing this once we have clarity over critical infrastructure, but Chris Jackson of CECA NW will be leading on this, to help set up 'informal JVs' between members supporting each other to balance capacity. More details in due course.

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