



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 23 April 2020

INFRASTRUCTURE WELL-PLACED TO REBOOT NORTH WEST ECONOMY

Infrastructure projects, from the Warrington Western Link to the Carlisle Southern Link Road, can play a central role in helping to reboot the North West's economy when sites are safely able to re-open, during these difficult times resulting from the COVID-19 virus.

While activity in rail, water and power has largely continued, it's good news that construction of the A585 Windy Harbour-Skippool has restarted, and we look forward to other works restarting in due course.

Not only do infrastructure works ensure we maintain those services essential to society's needs, like clean water, energy and safe transport systems, they also provide employment to contractors, their suppliers, and ensure cash starts to flow through the economy again.

As the trade association for civil engineering contractors in the North West, CECA NW is keen to see sites re-open, but recognise the paramount importance of ensuring workers' safety. We have been working closely with the Construction Leadership Council and their Site Operating Procedures* (see below) provides vital guidance to contractors and their clients on working safely.

Commented Director of CECA NW, Guy Lawson, 'Shovel ready projects yet to begin, and schemes that have been paused due to the virus, can provide a significant boost to the North West's economy when they are able to start up. Further to that, the major projects planned by Transport for the North, including Northern Powerhouse Rail and the A66 upgrade, will both provide opportunities for businesses in the region and improve the north's connectivity, which is vital to its economic well-being. We are working closely with our member companies and their clients to ensure they are as well-prepared as possible to deliver these projects and others across the North West.'

ENDS

Press contact: Guy Lawson, Director, CECA NW

Tel: 07703 585027

Email: guy.lawson@cecanw.co.uk

Web: <https://www.ceca.co.uk/north-west/>

Notes for editors:

* Construction Leadership Council Site Operating Procedures:

<https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Site-Operating-Procedures-Version-3.pdf>

CECA North West member companies have an estimated turnover of £2.2 billion and employ approximately 19,200 people in the region.

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) represents the companies that build, maintain and upgrade the UK's infrastructure. CECA maintains a close relationship with clients, government and the media to ensure that our members' expertise is shared as widely as possible.

An estimated 70-80% of all civil engineering activity annually is carried out by CECA members. CECA is made up of eight autonomous regional companies based across the UK.