

CHAIRMAN'S SECOND QUARTER REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2020

Oliver Tolputt, Chairman, CECA NW

I am pleased to provide the following report of the second quarter, in my second year as Chairman of CECA NW, together with details of plans for the rest of the year. I am grateful for the support I have received from my fellow CECA NW directors as well as the Executive Committee and the NW membership, in delivering a programme to continue to meet members' needs and aspirations.

The last six months have required that all of us adapt, and the feedback from CECA NW members has been invaluable in helping to shape our priorities and meet the needs of members. To that end, in addition to CECA's national pipeline data, CECA NW has revised its pipeline research, with details of forthcoming frameworks and projects, providing a valuable resource for members.

Client liaison is more important than ever, and we have arranged meetings with Transport for the North, Northern Powerhouse Rail and Sellafield Ltd. We also hope to arrange a meeting with United Utilities on the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP).

Following on from the contractor matching service and vacancy board we established, CECA has played a key role in setting up the Construction Talent Retention Scheme – for employers looking to recruit, and for people seeking work in the industry. Although our seminar programme is now a series of webinars, we have arranged more than ever before, with the highest level of attendance to date.

We are also turning our attention to a range of issues raised by members, including PII renewal, Red Diesel, fair payment and unlocking projects that are currently paused. At a recent CECA NW Executive Committee meeting, the need for risk to be shared more fairly between clients, consultants and contractors was discussed. That message was put to the ACE SME Forum recently, and we will continue to make the case for a more equitable approach to risk.

Although the autumn Budget has been cancelled, CECA will continue to lobby national and local Government on the need for continued and enhanced investment in infrastructure. A meeting took place with Andy Carter MP for Warrington South, who is keen to meet CECA NW members to discuss the future of the Fiddler's Ferry power station site.

As you know, our two dinners in 2020 had to be cancelled, but we will still run the 2020 CECA NW Awards, and I would urge you to submit your entries (by 31 October 2020). Showcasing excellent projects and the achievements of people in the industry is especially important right now, in order to present our industry as vibrant, vital and valued. We plan to present the 2020 awards at our CECA North by NW dinner in Penrith on 7 May 2021.

Your participation is essential to ensure we remain member-focused. After all, CECA NW is your Association and we rely on members to let us know what CECA's priorities should be. I would urge you to contact me or our director, Guy Lawson, with suggestions for us to implement on your behalf. Thank you for your continued support.

Oliver Tolputt, Chairman, CECA NW, September 2020
CT Construction Ltd; Email: oliver.tolputt@ct-construction.co.uk Tel: 01663 749133