

September 2021

Briefing Note: CECA NW

Political & Economic Report, September 2021

The following document is to provide a briefing on the political and economic environment of the North West, and its impact upon CECA members. It covers:

1. Great British Railways
2. Integrated Rail Plan
3. National Highways
4. HS2
5. Transport for the North
6. Northern Powerhouse Rail
7. Environment Agency
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17. National Procurement Policy Statement & Carbon Reduction Plans
18. 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)

1. Great British Railways

New public body Great British Railways to integrate the railways and deliver passenger-focused travel with simpler, modern fares and reliable services. Currently scheduled for 2023.

- Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail to reform Britain's railways and launch a new era for passengers
- biggest change in 25 years sees creation of new public body Great British Railways - a single, familiar brand with united, accountable leadership

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/great-british-railways-for-the-passenger>

2. Integrated Rail Plan

The government's long-awaited Integrated Rail Plan may be published as part of chancellor Rishi Sunak's autumn Spending Review. The IRP will set out how major projects such as High Speed 2 (HS2), Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and the Midlands Engine will be phased and connected.

3. National Highways

Highways England was rebranded in August 2021, becoming National Highways. It presented a report to Department for Transport on its performance in 2020-21, and subsequently issued a report evaluating the delivery of funding from 2015-20:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002535/highways-england-performance-report-2020-to-2021-web-version.pdf

https://highwaysengland.co.uk/media/x5vfxwg1/df-ris1-review-summary-report_final_20210917.pdf

4. HS2

UK ministers are considering cutting back the HS2 eastern route. The leg from Birmingham to Leeds is expected to be curtailed or put on hold due to escalating costs.

<https://www.transport-network.co.uk/Govt-tells-HS2-to-shelve-work-on-Eastern-leg/17356>

5. Transport for the North

Transport for the North has a new CEO, Martin Tugwell.

<https://transportfornorth.com/leadership-team/martin-tugwell-ceo/>

6. Northern Powerhouse Rail

Northern Powerhouse Rail's commitments for 2021-22 are to:

- Finalise and submit the Strategic Outline Case for NPR following the publication of the IRP.
- Undertake targeted studies to narrow down the shortlist of route and station choices for NPR.
- Make operational preparations for the future delivery of NPR.
- Develop business cases for stations and upgraded lines in preparation for the start of construction from the mid-2020s.
- Start getting contracts ready with suppliers on those lines that are being fast-tracked.
- Make the case for long-term funding for NPR with the Department for Transport.

<https://transportfornorth.com/northern-powerhouse-rail/>

7. Environment Agency

Flood and coastal erosion risk management: an investment plan for 2021 to 2027. More than £860m will be spent in 2021-22 alone boosting design and construction of more than 1,000 schemes across England as part of the Environment Agency's annual capital programme. This is the highest annual spend ever amounting to an extra £250m channelled into flood and coastal defences in 2021/22 compared with last year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-an-investment-plan-for-2021-to-2027>

8. Crown Commercial Service

Bidding will start in September for places on the bundled up framework, which will include races for places on the fourth-generation NHS ProCure 23 framework, MoD airfield works and major construction projects valued at more than £80m. The plan is to split P23 into three value-based lots: 1. for projects less than £20m; 2. for projects £20-£70; and 3. for projects valued at over £70m+. The new smaller projects lot will be split geographically across the seven NHS England regions, to open up opportunities for more regional and medium-sized firms and increase delivery capacity. Lot four will cover airfield-related works across the UK and lot 5 general construction works on major projects exceeding £80m in the UK.

<https://www.crowncommercial.gov.uk/>

9. Sellafield

Sellafield plans a £3bn infrastructure delivery partnership, and is beginning a round of market engagement with contractors ahead of inviting tenders in April 2022. Under the new arrangement, Sellafield will appoint three strategic partners.

<https://sharedsystems.eu->

[supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/14071/0/0?returnUrl=&b=SELLAFIELD](https://sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/14071/0/0?returnUrl=&b=SELLAFIELD)

10. United Utilities

United Utilities has published details of its performance in 2020-21:

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/newsroom/latest-news/united-utilities-reports-on-record-performance-for-north-west-region/>

11. The Construction Playbook

The Construction Playbook sets out key policies and guidance for how public works projects and programmes are assessed, procured and delivered.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-construction-playbook>

12. Transforming Public Procurement

The proposals in this Green Paper are intended to shape the future of public procurement in this country for many years to come. The government's goal is to speed up and simplify our procurement processes, place value for money at their heart, and unleash opportunities for small businesses, charities and social enterprises to innovate in public service delivery.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/green-paper-transforming-public-procurement>

13. National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline 2021

A forward-looking pipeline of planned projects and programmes in economic and social infrastructure.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-and-construction-pipeline-2021>

14. CITB Consensus

The result of the Consensus process was that 56 per cent of CECA members supported the Levy proposals, while 44 per cent either said 'no' or 'don't know' to the proposals. 46 per cent of CECA's eligible members responded to the consultation.

CECA has now reported its result to CITB, along with the other 13 Prescribed Organisations. These results, along with the outcome of a survey of companies who are not federation members, will be reported to the Secretary of State for Education. Depending on the outcome from the other Prescribed Organisations and the non-federation survey, the Secretary of State will decide whether or not to authorise the new CITB Levy.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CECA-Briefing-CITB-Consensus-17-August-2021.pdf>

15. Construction Industry Joint Council (CIJC) Resolution and Promulgation Working Rule Agreement

With effect from Monday 28 June 2021 the following basic pay rates and allowances will apply.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CECA-Briefing-Note-CIJC-Resolution-and-Promulgation-Working-Rule-Agreement-7-June-2021.pdf>

16. Products & Materials - Update on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement establishes arrangements in a number of areas including the trade of goods.

The Agreement, signed on 30 December 2020, was applied provisionally as of 1 January 2021 and came into force on 1 May 2021.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CECA-Briefing-Note-Products-Materials-Update-on-the-UK-EU-Trade-and-Cooperation-Agreement-30-June-2021.pdf>

17. National Procurement Policy Statement & Carbon Reduction Plans

In June 2021, the UK Government published a National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS) and a Procurement Policy Note (PPN) which sets out information and guidance which will require contracting authorities to have regard to national strategic priorities for public procurement.

<https://www.ceca.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CECA-Briefing-Note-National-Procurement-Policy-Statement-Carbon-Reduction-Plans-8-June-2021.pdf>

18. 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)

The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: <https://ukcop26.org/>

The link below is to an article on climate change from an infrastructure perspective:

https://ied.co.uk/news_events/cop26_member_blog_how_can_we/