

## CHAIRMAN'S FOURTH QUARTER REPORT, MARCH 2022

### Adam Onyett, Chairman, CECA NW

I am pleased to provide the following report of the fourth quarter, in my first year as Chairman of CECA NW, together with details of plans for the rest of the year.

I am delighted to welcome three new Associate Members to CECA NW Ltd, Earthwork Support Specialist (CE) Ltd, NCE Ltd and Sunbelt Rentals, and we are in discussion with a number of other firms regarding membership.

The last quarter has seen the production by Chris Jackson of an updated pipeline of forthcoming contracts and frameworks, and the overhaul of the education toolkit by Jacqueline Vail to create a resource for members, especially those required by clients to liaise with schools and colleges.

CECA NW assisted the Network Rail NW & Central suppliers' conference, including a mock trial that CECA NW has successfully run for members previously. Client liaison meetings are being planned, and we hope to have meetings arranged later in the year with the Cheshire local authorities, Transport for the North and National Highways.

I was especially pleased that Geraldine Fleming, who runs our commercial & legal training, was able to hold the first in person seminar since the outbreak of the pandemic. She will be running an NEC seminar in Penrith on 12 May 2022, prior to the CECA North by NW dinner. We have also arranged a webinar on Marketing & Communications on 8 June, and a workshop on social media on 21 June. We are currently developing a programme of sessions for the remainder of the year.

Efforts are currently underway to reinvigorate the CECA NW Foundations group, that was created for people relatively new to the industry. A meeting has been arranged with Liverpool John Moores University this month, with speakers from the Environment Agency, J Murphy & Sons Ltd, and Peter Crosland, CECA's Civil Engineering Director.

The ongoing pressures on the industry, ranging from the loss of the red diesel rebate to rising costs for labour and materials (and the difficulties in providing fixed prices for the latter), have been communicated to 20 of the region's MPs, as well as to local authorities. This will continue throughout the year.

I am pleased that the CECA North by NW dinner will return on 12 May, at the North Lakes Hotel, Penrith. The annual CECA NW/CICES Golf Day will take place at Leigh Golf Club on 30 June, and the annual awards dinner will take place at The Midland Hotel, Manchester on 7 October.

The new CECA NW team is here to assist you: Alison Shea looks after regional operations; Jacqueline Vail looks after the CECA NW Foundations group for people new to the industry, as well as liaison with schools, colleges and universities; Joe Fitzgibbon leads on support for SMEs and mentoring; Chris Jackson continues to lead on transport initiatives and research into the pipeline of workloads; and Guy Lawson looks after supporting members with tenders, market intelligence and public affairs.

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 the CECA NW team with suggestions for us to implement on your behalf.

Thank you for your continued support.

Adam Onyett, Chairman, CECA NW, March 2022.

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