

CHAIRMAN'S FOURTH QUARTER REPORT, MARCH 2023

Adam Onyett, Chairman, CECA NW

I am pleased to provide the following report of the fourth and final quarter in my second year as Chair of CECA NW, together with details of plans for the rest of the year. I am grateful to my fellow directors and members of the CECA NW Executive Committee for their support during my term in office.

The last two years have been a period of unparalleled turbulence, with the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, together with rising labour and materials costs, as well as members' perennial concerns regarding visibility of workload, fair payment and contract terms, and access to a relevantly skilled workforce. Yet, such is the resilience of our industry that our contractor members continue to deliver complex and challenging projects safely and competently.

We have our flagship events planned for 2023: the CECA North by NW dinner in May, the CECA NW/CICES Golf Day in June, and the annual awards dinner in October. I hope you will be able to attend some or all of them, as they provide excellent networking opportunities, as well as the chance to win one of CECA NW's coveted awards. We are also preparing the annual flyer, showcasing the work of members, and I would urge you to send in case studies for inclusion (details are in the weekly CECA NW newsletter).

In addition, we are developing an ambitious programme of schools-related activities to attract more young people into civil engineering, and to reinforce the fact that this is an aspirational profession, not merely a career. We are liaising closely with the region's colleges and universities too, and this spring three of our members will be presenting details of recent projects to civil engineering students at the University of Liverpool.

We also have a programme of events lined up for our Foundations group, established for people new to the industry, that includes a teambuilding session and the Four Peaks Challenge in the Lake District. The group is the ideal forum for bringing together the industry's next leading civil engineering professionals, and is open to anyone employed by a CECA NW member.

I am particularly pleased that CECA NW has in place a robust continuity plan, and offer my support and best wishes to Tommy Cubby, who at our AGM takes over as Chairman, and David Evans, who becomes Vice Chairman.

The CECA NW team is here to assist you: Alison Shea looks after regional operations; Jacqueline Vail is our first point of contact on skills and links with the NW's five Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs); 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 2023.
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