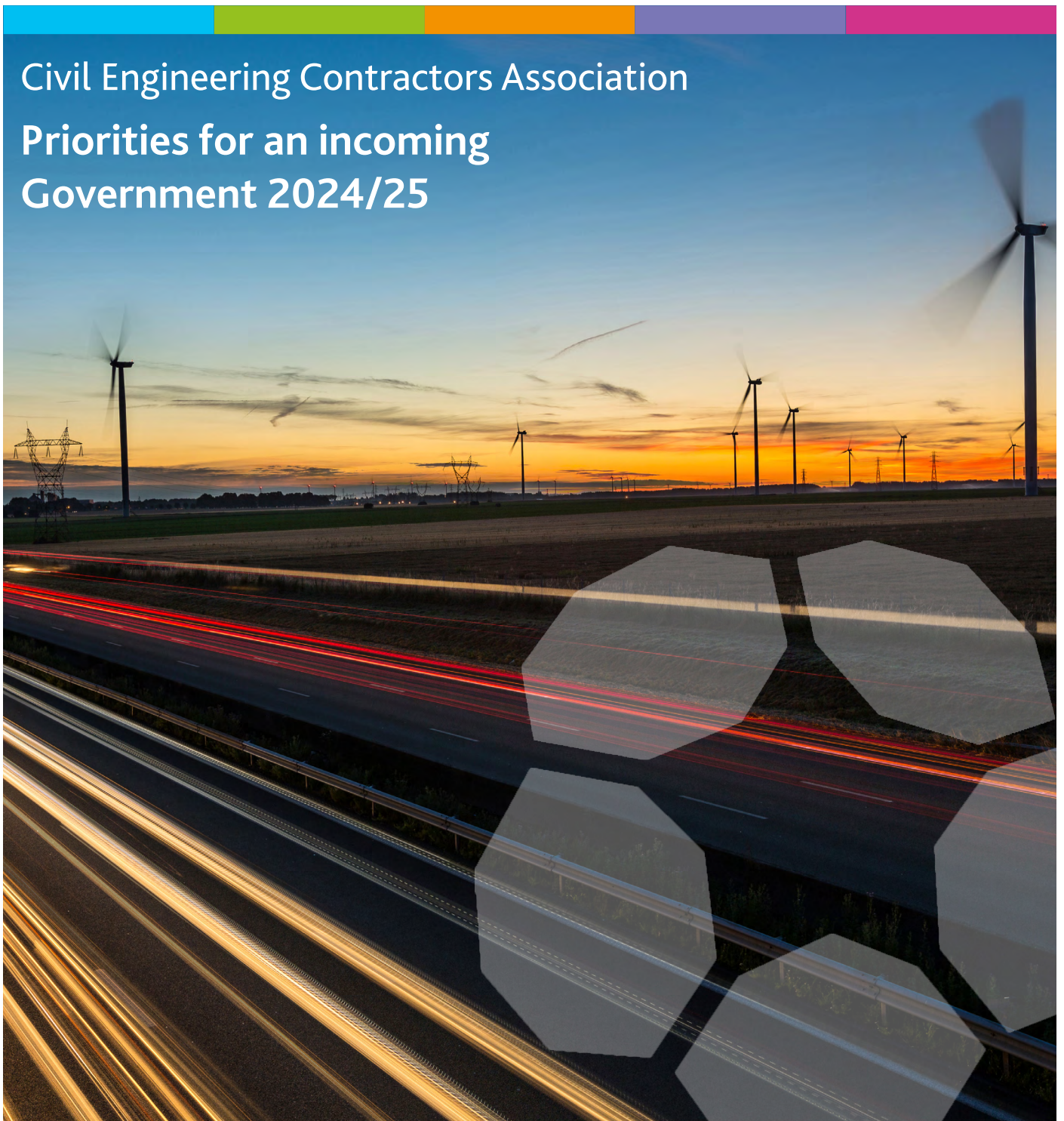




Civil Engineering Contractors Association
**Priorities for an incoming
Government 2024/25**



The **Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA)** is the representative body for companies who work day-to-day to deliver, upgrade, and maintain the country's infrastructure.

With more than 300 members based across the devolved nations of Scotland and Wales and the six English regions, CECA represents firms who together carry out an estimated 70-80 per cent of all civil engineering activity in the UK, in the key sectors of transport, energy, communications, waste, and water.

CECA members directly employ more than 250,000 people across the UK, and support supply chains that provide employment for many thousands more, generating the economic growth that businesses and communities rely upon.



Introduction

There is an acceptance across all political parties that the United Kingdom needs good and reliable infrastructure to thrive.

For each £1 billion increase in infrastructure investment, UK-wide GDP increases by a total of £1.299 billion and for every £1 billion of infrastructure construction increases overall economic activity by £2.842 billion. Combined with the social benefits infrastructure brings, its importance cannot be understated.

Yet, due to global economic factors, combined with political uncertainty, we are at serious risk that infrastructure investment will be substantially reduced over the next ten years, with existing projects already under threat.

This is a false economy. The impact of pauses and cancellations cannot be overstated and are casting a long shadow over the future of UK plc. There is real concern that the long fought for investment plan for the UK's public infrastructure is at serious risk of falling from favour, as it did so catastrophically in the Global Financial Crisis of 2008. Then, capital spending was cut too far and too fast, and economically viable projects were cancelled for short-termist reasons – often to the detriment of the taxpayer, as they had to be re-procured at greater cost at a later date.

This paper seeks to balance society's continued requirement for good infrastructure with the economic climate we find ourselves in. Combined with global uncertainty and our need to meet net zero goals in an affordable way, the next Infrastructure Decade will undoubtedly be one full of challenge, excitement and innovation.

Where specific monies are invested remains a matter for debate. Civil engineering contractors work across all infrastructure sectors, across the regions and nations of Great Britain. With cross-government support, we stand ready and primed to deliver the transportation and utilities we need for the next decade.

To build on this policy agenda, over the course of 2024 CECA will publish policy papers on the key themes of road, rail, water, and power.



Invest in the future

The UK's future depends on an incoming Westminster Government sticking to the plans outlined in the National Infrastructure Strategy (NIS).

These plans - based on independent assessment and produced by a body which has cross-party support – scope UK infrastructure needs and prioritise long-term cost reduction via best practice and innovation. If some projects are no longer viable, Government must offer alternatives, including reprofiling to ensure reliability of service.

CECA calls on an incoming Westminster Government to hold its nerve and:

- **Deliver existing project pipelines and maintain investment commitments.**
- **Reinstate plans for the delivery of HS2 in full, and accelerate delivery of Northern Powerhouse Rail and the Transpennine route.**

Every £1 billion of infrastructure construction increases overall economic activity by £2.842 billion.

Maintain confidence

The maintenance and delivery of our future infrastructure is now at serious threat due to current instabilities.

Pausing projects with little reference to detail and future timescales for project delivery does little to bring the confidence of delivery through the supply chain, impacting on the UK's future prosperity. Our industry stands ready to adapt, but we need further clarification on what to adapt to.

At a time at when major infrastructure investments have been thrown into doubt by economic uncertainty, it is essential that an incoming Westminster Government and industry work together to avoid catastrophic infrastructure failure in the long-term.

In order to secure growth an incoming Westminster Government must:

- **Ensure the 'Star Chamber' for infrastructure announced at Autumn Statement 2023 immediately puts infrastructure back at the heart of policy making**
- **Revise purdah guidance to reflect that key 'gateway' project decisions can be taken during the purdah period as long as they are not publicised**
- **Establish an 18 month 'fix' on investment in the period before and after elections, to be agreed by all major parties. This would allow clients to plan their projects knowing that they will not be abandoned.**

Enabling our regions to thrive

The levelling up agenda has led to notable and welcome investment in our nations and regions. Yet recently, it has been somewhat short-termist, with critical projects subjected to last minute delay and cancellation.

A long-term infrastructure plan, as envisaged by the National Infrastructure Commission can thrive only if it is actively supported by its delivery partners working together to upgrade and maintain our networks.

An incoming Westminster Government must:

- Turbo-charge pipeline visibility at all levels of government. Combined with next level detail, action programmes and a consistent volume of work.
- Strengthen the National Infrastructure Commission by linking its plans to sub-national infrastructure bodies, which build on the work of the already established sub-national transport bodies.
- Establish industry-led local infrastructure and construction partnerships to support the evolution of Local Enterprise Partnerships. These could work with clients to coordinate funding for local training and development.
- Support industry to develop an independent and impartial advisory bank of expertise to offer local authorities advice on planning issues, unblocking projects and optimum procurements.

World-class connectivity

The UK does not maintain a reliable and efficient transport network. While there is good connectivity in our cities, our towns and surrounding regions do not fare so well.

Some of our road and rail routes remain congested, with no viable overall plan for an integrated transport network for England which is essential for a resilient and sustainable economy seeking to achieve its carbon reduction obligations.

To ensure future mobility an incoming Westminster Government must:

- Publish a high-level English Transport Strategy which supports Sub-National Transport Bodies (including Transport for London), integrates with the devolved nations and delivers firm five-year capital settlements complemented by indicative five-year funding.

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Strengthening our resilience

UK infrastructure resilience has taken a hit over the last few years, especially in relation to waste water and water management, energy security and managing our flood defences. Our aging highway and rail infrastructure is already moving in this direction.

Without serious action - notably in our response to climate induced failure - the entirety of our infrastructure network will catastrophically fail. Yet, we remain in a period of fiscal restriction, with little appetite for additional spend. This approach will negatively impact our future society.

CECA calls on an incoming Westminster Government to:

- Publish cross-cutting National Water Strategy driving collaboration across sectors, government departments, regulators and industry.
- Drive improved ways of working in key areas such as upgrading wastewater network & reducing water demand.
- Work with industry to develop infrastructure financing opportunities that work for all.
- Maintain commitment to a balanced energy mix.

Supporting our SMEs

SMEs are the lifeblood of our economy and are a vital part of construction supply chains. Yet, their viability can immediately change as a result of unfair business practices and burdensome procurement requirements. This puts the delivery of future infrastructure projects at risk.

To support SMEs an incoming Westminster Government must:

- Accelerate progress to abolish retentions.
- Publish payment value measurements alongside volume of transactions.
- Ensure social value requirements are reflective of SME needs and that they are properly measured and audited.

The UK ranked a disappointing 22nd out of 64 countries for the quality of its infrastructure in the 2023 IMD World Competitiveness Rankings.

Maximise best practice & drive innovation

Construction innovation investment is currently at a record high. It is vital that this is maintained to ensure the UK construction industry delivers world-class schemes in line with public expectation.

Alongside this innovation drive is a firm commitment from industry to best practice and efficiency.

To secure future efficiencies and save taxpayers' money an incoming Westminster Government must:

- Encourage public and private sector clients to adopt and track progress against the utilisation of best practice models such as the Construction Sector Playbook, Project 13 and the recent Cabinet Office frameworks review.
- Link progress on meeting net zero goals to GDP, to drive innovation and long term economic growth.
- Drive consistency in carbon reduction via the procurement process.

Skills for the 21st Century

The construction industry has struggled to attract enough skills and talent for a long time. This is impacting on the maintenance and future delivery of our infrastructure. This issue was exacerbated by the Global Financial Crisis in 2008, when contractors were forced to shed staff after the pausing or cancellation of many projects. The impact of the UK's departure from the European Union also cannot be overstated, with many companies now struggling to find the right staff at home and abroad.

While great steps have been taken to drive productivity, innovation, and attract new entrants – in part as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic – the construction industry remains in a skills crisis.

To secure growth and jobs an incoming Westminster Government must:

- Sign a joint commitment with industry to recognise and map the skills needed.
- Develop an apprenticeship system for construction employers that is supported by public sector clients.
- Recognise the value of economic migration.
- Reward the social benefit of skills investment via procurement.

CECA members deliver work worth more than £15 billion per annum to the economy, undertake 75-80% of all civil engineering activity in the UK, and employ more than 250,000 people.

If you would like to contact CECA member companies in your constituency please e-mail enquiries@ceca.co.uk or telephone 020 7340 0450.

Absolute Civil Engineering
ACS Construction Group
Adenglow Ltd
Adept Concrete Cutting Ltd
AE Yates Ltd
Aggregate Industries UK Ltd
AH Nicholls
Albion Drilling Group Ltd
Alpha Construction Ltd
Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd
Amalgamated Construction Ltd
Amco-Giffen
AMD Contract Services
Andrew Scott Ltd
Anwen Construction
APK
Applebridge Construction Ltd
Arthur Civil Engineering Ltd
ATB Civil Engineering
Avon Construction
B Jeffrey Construction Ltd
B & M McHugh Limited
Balfour Beatty
BAM Nuttall Limited
BAH Ritchies
Banks Group
Barhale
Barton Ltd
BCE Northern Ltd
BCM Construction
BDB Special Projects
BEAR Scotland Ltd
Beaver Bridges Limited
Bechtel Infrastructure UK
Bethell Construction Ltd
Big Cat Contracts
Binnies UK
Bouygues Travaux Publics (UK) Ltd
Breedon Hebrides
Breedon Northern
Breheny Civil Engineering
Bridge Civil Engineering Ltd
Brims Construction Ltd
Britcon Ltd
BT Jenkins Ltd
CA Blackwell (Contracts)
Cairn Cross Civil Engineering Ltd
Cantidad Ltd
Carnell
Causeway Technologies
Centregreat Ltd
CG Godfrey Ltd
CHAP Civil Engineering
Cheetham Hill Construction Limited
Chevron Traffic Management
City Asphalt
Civils & Remediation Ltd
Clancy Group
Cleantech Civils Ltd
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Construction Marine Ltd
Constructive Evaluation Ltd
Corrie Construction Ltd
Costain Ltd
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Crouch Waterfall
Crown Highways Limited
Crummock
CT Construction Limited
Cubby Construction Limited
Currall Lewis & Martin (Construction) Ltd
D&P Reinforcements Ltd
D Morgan plc
Danaher & Walsh (Civil Engineering) Ltd
David Beecroft Ltd
David Hardie Engineering Ltd
Deans Civil Engineering Ltd
Devon Maintenance+
DHG Civil Engineering Ltd
Diamond Drilling & Cutting Ltd
DSD Construction Ltd
DXI Regeneration
Dyer & Butler
E & J W Glendinning Limited
ESS (CE) Ltd
Edward Mackay Contractor
Eiffage Génie Civil UK
Enable Infrastructure
Englobe UK - Celtic Englobe
ERH Communications Ltd
Eric Wright Civil Engineering Limited

Erith Contractors Ltd
ERS Remediation Ltd
ESH Group
Farrans (Construction)
Ferrovial Construction (UK)
FM Conway Ltd.
Forest Traffic Services Ltd
Forkers Ltd
Forkers Scotland Ltd
Four-Tees Engineers Ltd
Fox (Owmbly) Ltd
Fred Mence (Construction) Ltd
Freyssinet UK
G&B Civil Engineering Ltd
Galliford Try
Garvey Developments Ltd
Gatwick Construction
Gelli Civil Engineering Ltd
George Cox
George Leslie Ltd
Gilpin Demolition Group
Global Infrastructure Ltd
GRAHAM Construction Ltd
Greenfisher Contracting Ltd
Groundwork Services (Durham) Ltd
Gunita (Eastern) Ltd
Hall Construction Services Ltd
Hamon UK Ltd
Hargreaves Services plc
Heidelberg Materials
Henderson & Taylor
Herbosch-Kiere Marine Contractors Ltd
Highway Construction Services Ltd
Highway Traffic Management Ltd
Hillhouse Quarry Group+5:351
Hochtief Construction UK
Hogan Construction Ltd
Horan Construction Limited
Horizon Civil Engineering Ltd
Hunter Construction (Aberdeen) Ltd
I & H Brown Ltd
Ian Thomas Construction Services Ltd
InDepth Civil Engineering Ltd
Ingenium Civil Engineering
Insitu Technical Services Ltd
Instarmac International
Invennt Ltd
J Browne Construction Co Ltd
J Coffey Construction Ltd
J McCann & Co Ltd
J Murphy & Sons Ltd
Jacks 1 Civil Engineering Ltd
Jackson Civil Engineering
James Strang Ltd
JB Riney & Co Ltd
Jennings Building & Civil Engineering Ltd
Jim Hastings Ltd
JN Bentley
John F Hunt Regeneration Ltd
John Gunn & Sons Ltd
John Hellens (Contracts) Ltd
John Mee Construction Ltd (t/a Vac-Ex)
John Sisk & Son Ltd
Jones Bros Ruthin (Civil Engineering) Ltd
Jones Brothers (Henllan) Ltd
JSS Rail Ltd t/a Sisk Rail
JT Mackley & Co Ltd
K M Construction
Kaberry Construction
Kelburne Construction Ltd
Keltbray
Kier plc
Kilmac Ltd
KKB Remediation
Knights Brown
Land & Water
Lanbuild Ltd
Lawson Construction
Leehill Construction Ltd
Leiths Group
Les Searle Plant Hire & Sales Ltd
Lewis Civil Engineering
LJN Ltd
Luddon Construction Ltd
Lumsden & Carroll Construction Ltd
Mabey Hire
MAC Surfacing
Mackenzie Construction Ltd
Malcolm Group
Mapei
Markon Ltd
Mason Street Furniture Ltd
MB Roche Civil Engineering Ltd
McCoda Ltd
McFadyen's Contractors (Campbeltown) Ltd
McGowan Environment Engineering Ltd
McInnes Bros Ltd
McLaughlin & Harvey Construction Ltd
McPhillips (Wellington) Limited
MegaTech Projects Ltd
Meldrum Construction Services Ltd
Metrail Ltd
Mildren Construction
Milestone Infrastructure
Miller Construction (UK) Ltd
Morgan Sindall
Morrison Construction
MTM Construction Ltd
MW Groundworks
MWT Civil Engineering Ltd
Noel Fitzpatrick Ltd
Northumbrian Roads Ltd
NRS Group

NTS
Octavius
Onwave UK Ltd
Osprey Group
Ovenden Allworks Ltd
Palmer Construction Ltd
Parker Plant Hire
Pat Munro (Ainess) Ltd
PBS Construction (North East) Ltd
PC Richardson & Co Ltd
Peter Duffy Ltd
Pinkney Construction
PLPC Ltd
Pod-Trak Ltd
Pontoonworks
PORR UK Ltd
PP O'Connor
Priority Construction Ltd
Pro Direct Surfacing Ltd
Pro Rail Services Ltd
QTS Group Ltd
Quantum Geotechnical Ltd
R Lindsay & Co Contractors Ltd
R&C Williams Ltd
R&W Civil Engineering Ltd
Rainton Construction Ltd
Rainton Construction Scotland Ltd
Raynesway Construction
Renew Holdings Ltd
Rhino Training Ltd
RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd
RJT Excavations Ltd
Road Maintenance Services Ltd
Robertson
Ross-shire Engineering Ltd
Roy Beech (Contractors) Ltd
Ryearch Ltd
Safelane Global
SB Civil Engineering Ltd
SB Utilities Ltd
Schofield Contracting Ltd
Scott Bros Ltd
SCP Transport Design
Select Castle Ltd
Seymour Civil Engineering Contractors
Sir Robert McAlpine
Sirius Group
Skanska
Smart Drainage Ltd
Southbay Civil Engineering Ltd
Speedy Asset Services Ltd
STEM Construction Ltd
Stema Shipping (UK) Ltd
Stepford Contracts Ltd
Stobarts Ltd
Storie (Argyll) Ltd
Stony Contracting Ltd
STRABAG UK Ltd
Suttle Projects
SWH Group
T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd
Tag Construction Ltd
Tangent Construction
Tarmac
Taylor Woodrow
Taxiker
TCS Exhaustion Services
Tercon Ltd
Tilbury Douglas
TMS Maritime Ltd
Tough Construction Ltf
TPM McDonagh (Civil Engineering) Ltd
Trackwork Ltd
Traffix
Triton Construction
TSL Contractors
TwoPlusTwo Commercial Services
UB Civils Ltd
V J Donegan & Co Ltd
VHE
VolkerFitzpatrick
VolkerHighways
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VolkerStevin
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Walsh Construction
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William Birch & Sons Ltd
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Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd
Wirvic Construction Ltd
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