

CECA Southern

Chair's Strategic Plan 2026 - 2028

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Kevin Valentine

Chairman of CECA
Southern

It was a real privilege to take up the CECA Southern Chair role in April this year. Having served on the Board for the past three years, I've gained a clear view of the quality and impact of the work CECA delivers to influence our industry for the better.

A key priority for me during my time as Chair is strengthening the lines of communication between our members, the Southern Board and the CECA Policy Office. At its core, this is a member-led organisation. The Board, Dave Allen and his team, and I are here to ensure we focus on the issues that matter most to you and that we are making a tangible difference.

Whether at a regional level across the South West, South and South East, or through national policy, our aim is consistent: to drive continuous improvement for all our members.

This Chair's Strategic Plan sets out where we intend to focus our efforts over the next two years. Aligned to CECA's core pillars, it highlights the areas we believe will have the greatest impact in supporting successful infrastructure delivery across our region.

Many of these priorities will align with work already underway within the CECA Policy Office and across other regions and nations. We will stay closely connected through the Chairs' Strategic Forum, which Dave and I attend quarterly, to ensure a coordinated and joined-up approach.

We are realistic about what can be achieved in this period, but we are clear on our intent: to prioritise the areas that matter most to you and make meaningful progress against them.

I encourage you to take the time to review the plan and share your feedback using the details at the back of the document. If there are gaps, priorities we should reconsider, or areas where you would like to be more involved, we want to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's keep working together to strengthen our industry and deliver lasting improvements for our members, across the region and beyond.

Clients, Policy & Workload

- Identify workload opportunities and communicate them clearly to members.
- Engage with members across all levels to understand and influence the full client base.
- Assess how devolution will affect the industry and share findings with members.
- Ensure each sector group sets and monitors progress against clear strategic objectives.
- Strengthen relationships with key customers and consultants (e.g., ACE) to improve collective delivery.
- Develop a strategy to promote civil engineering as an attractive career at all entry points.
- Explore alternative recruitment methods to widen talent pathways.
- Promote civil engineering in universities and colleges through a coordinated approach.
- Support the NextGen group to set strategic goals aligned with this plan.
- Build CECA's profile to help members attract new entrants to the industry.

Skills, Training & Workforce Development

- Increase awareness of training and development funding routes, particularly through CITB.
- Participate actively in Local Skills Improvement Plans to help members address skills shortages.
- Consult with members on annual CECA training needs.
- Explore whether larger members can support their supply chain in producing consistent training approaches for shared clients.
- Support the establishment of at least one new training hub in the region.
- Identify key skills shortages and develop a plan to help address them.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing (HS&W)

- Use members' expertise to ensure CECA is well represented when engaging with the HSE.
- Explore with larger members whether a consistent approach can be achieved on procurement requirements for their supply chain.
- Share best practice on physical risks, wellbeing initiatives, and Fit to Work approaches.
- Set strategic objectives for the HS&W sector group.
- Determine the most effective platform for sharing HS&W information with members.

Sustainability, Environment & Social Value

- Engage with larger customers on realistic approaches to carbon reduction.
- Build members' understanding of the Science Based Targets initiative and scopes 1, 2 and 3.
- Promote circular economy principles and reuse/regeneration opportunities.
- Share best practice on waste management, biodiversity net gain and nature-based solutions.
- Promote social value best practice.
- Promote benefits of the Supply Chain Sustainability School and freely available learning resources.

Membership, Governance & Board Development

- Develop a plan to increase CECA membership and communicate the benefits clearly.
- Understand what members can contribute to CECA and how this can be harnessed to achieve more.
- Define CECA's governance, available roles and expected commitments to support new board appointments.
- Support CECA South West during its transition to new personnel.
- Review succession planning with NextGen.
- Maximise the impact of CECA's 30th anniversary celebrations.

Communications, Brand & Member Engagement

- Seek clarification from CSF on branding and social media governance.
- Improve CECA's website and social media channels.
- Enhance how CECA communicates with members.
- Produce a member handbook explaining CECA's governance, services, membership benefits and industry outcomes achieved.

Southern Board Members

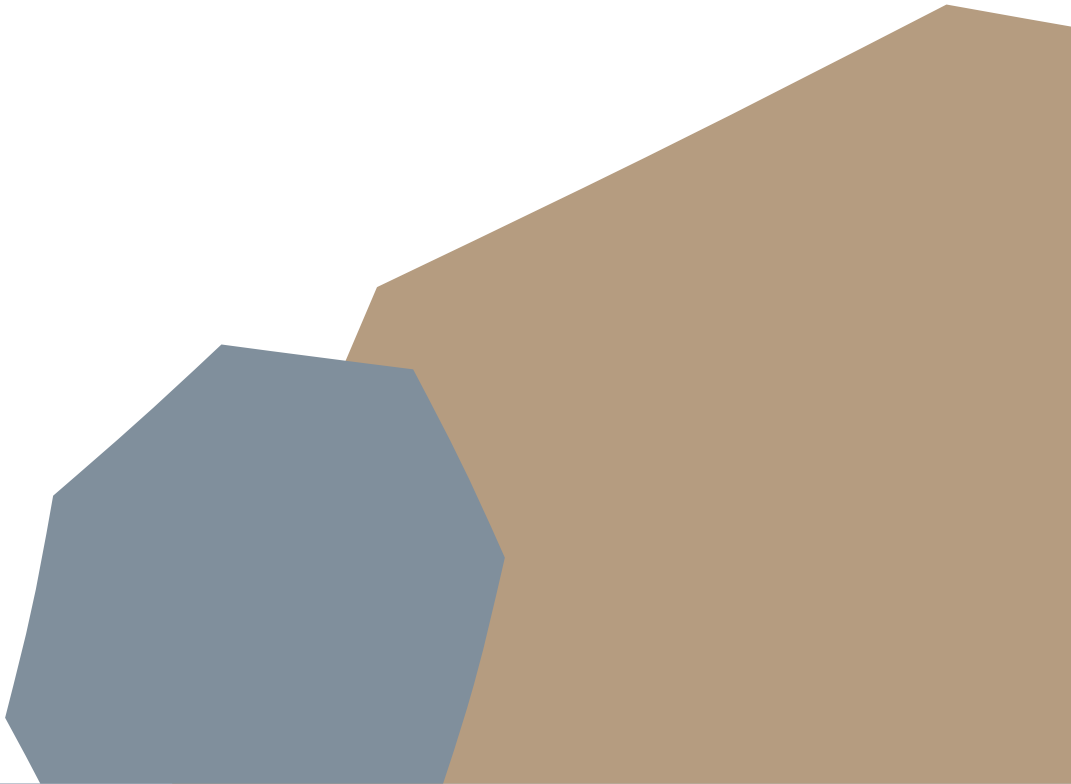
- David Allen, CECA Executive Director
- Kevin Valentine, Knights Brown, Chair CECA Southern
- John Kinirons Murphy, Vice Chair CECA Southern
- Samantha Barratt, Barhale
- John Breheny, Breheny Civil Engineering
- Brian Crofton, Jackson
- Simon Hyams, JN Bentley
- Tim Stedman, Four-Tees Engineering
- Andy Pritchard, Tilbury Douglas, CECA South West

CECA South West Representatives

- Hannah Jones, Regional Director, CECA South West
- Abie Hearn, Ringway, South West Advisory Group Chair

Want to provide feedback?

Please email info@cecasouth.co.uk with any comments you may have.



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