

4th April 2022



CECA Wales Monday Briefing

Taking steps to reduce carbon impacts - together!

Last week some of our members met with officers from the Welsh Government, local authorities, trunk road agents and partners from the Mineral Products Association and the Concrete Centre for an exploratory meeting to gauge the appetite for collaborating on reducing the carbon impacts from highway maintenance activities. This followed on from the action plan we developed for our 2021 Joint Annual Report on “Decarbonising Our Infrastructure”. Whilst the subject was “reducing the carbon impacts of highway maintenance operations” I have had discussions with clients from other sectors who are keen to pursue similar opportunities so watch this space if you work in the rail, water or flood risk sectors.

The outcome of the meeting was that there is an appetite to pursue these opportunities and we will be meeting again to develop aspects of our discussions further. I will set this out in a separate paper which we will share with members. But in the meantime here’s a quick overview of our discussions :

- All agreed the urgency to address this matter and change the image of the industry
- The pausing of new road schemes as part of the Welsh Governments Roads Review offers an opportunity to redirect investment towards maintenance and adaptation of existing assets
- Collaboration across the client, contractor, designer and supplier interface will be critical
- We need to measure carbon impacts as we do financial costs and use this to support investment
- We need to consider strategic opportunities when it comes to utilising local materials, reducing transport costs and supporting the circular economy through the recycling of materials
- Materials specifications need to be reviewed quickly with an emphasis on carbon impacts and “quick wins”
- A low carbon/materials forum needs to be established to explore all these opportunities further

That’s a very short summary of our key findings but a more comprehensive report will follow. For those of you who don’t work in the highways sector I hope you will note that these findings are fairly applicable to other sectors and we will be using the report with other clients to initiate further discussions in those sectors.

CECA Wales Political Update

Infrastructure news from the Senedd and Westminster :

- **Metro projects:** Mike Hedges MS has called for more detail from Welsh Government about the creation of the [Swansea Bay City Region Metro](#). Natasha Asghar [tabled](#) two questions asking about the total funding of the North and South Wales Metro schemes.
- **Decarbonisation:** A new body, [Net Zero Industry Wales](#) is to be created to support Welsh industry decarbonise and create new jobs in the green industries of the future, Economy Minister, Vaughan Gething, announced today.
- **Energy:** The Welsh Conservatives have [called on](#) the Welsh Government to back nuclear energy in light of the Prime Minister meeting leaders from the industry this week. Jane Dodds MS [asked](#) about what financial support the Welsh Government has in place for small renewable energy projects.
- **Economy:** Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething MS has [announced appointments](#) to his Ministerial Advisory Board. The latest [Labour market data](#) for UK countries and regions has been released.
- **Procurement:** The Welsh Government has published a series of [procurement policy notes](#) which provide guidance to public bodies on their procurement processes.

The Senedd will break for Easter recess from Saturday 2 April to Sunday 24 April 2022.

CECA Wales Director Activities

My activities over the last week included :

- Hosting a meeting with Welsh Government officials, local authorities, trunk road agents, product suppliers and members to explore collaboration opportunities to reduce carbon impacts in highway maintenance activities
- Attending a CBI business lunch
- Attending a conference on Building Sustainably
- Meeting ACE to make arrangements for the forthcoming CECA Wales Joint Conference
- Hosting our new programme of NEC4 workshops for members

- Meeting with partners to discuss how the civil engineering sector can support schools to deliver the new Built Environment GCSEs

Client engagement and business opportunities

Network Rail has started the hunt for firms to deliver a £2bn works and renewal programme for control period 7 in the Wales and Western territories. The five-year framework will cover the majority of the Buildings and Civils portfolios such as Structures, Geotechnical Off-track & Drainage and Stations & Buildings. Network Rail will also retain the option for three one-year extensions taking the total term for partner firms to eight years.

Wales and Western framework lots

- Western Structures - £450m
- Wales Structures - £450m

Both Structures portfolio will cover the ongoing maintenance & renewals programme of civil engineering assets such as bridges, tunnels, retaining walls, culverts, scour works to piers & abutments, sea defences and estuarine works.

- Western Geotechnical Off-track & Drainage - £370m
- Wales Geotechnical Off-track & Drainage - £300m

Works will cover the ongoing maintenance & renewals programme of civil engineering assets such as embankments, cuttings, remediation, coastal & estuarial defences and earthworks drainage.

- Stations and Buildings - £430m

Work for both Wales and Western regions will cover the ongoing maintenance/renewals programme of assets such as canopies, buildings, depots, public/ passenger / operational rooms, platform furniture & structures, security systems, building services, car parks and subways.

Firms have until 20 April to register an interest, with invitations to tender issued in mid-June. For more information email Network Rail or go to the web [procurement portal](#).

Also in the rail sector, Transport for Wales are currently inviting tenders for delivering a £300m programme of station upgrades and improvements over four years. This investment into over 200 railway stations will improve the way they look, make them safer and provide more commercial and community opportunities. Work packages have been split into seven lots covering anything from low-value simple improvements to waiting rooms up major station upgrades. To register interest visit the [Sell2Wales website](#).

Training Events

Please note that our events programme for 2022 has been launched and will be constantly refreshed throughout the year. Here's the link <https://www.ceca.co.uk/wales/events/>.

Our series of NEC4 workshops for members is underway with further dates for the 2022 programme available via the link above. Due to higher demand for these courses we have arranged additional dates for June 6th, 10th, and 13th. Please be assured that we will ensure that CECA Wales members are able to access these courses albeit over a phased programme.