

Avoiding the infrastructure crunch: getting **Britain** working

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Infrastructure Alliance

We believe it is essential that industry works with Government and parliamentarians to deliver the infrastructure the UK needs in order to rebuild our economy, reduce congestion in our transport networks, develop the industry's skills base and ensure future energy needs are met.



Infrastructure Alliance

The Infrastructure Alliance brings together four leading trade bodies – the Association for Consultancy and Engineering, the Civil Engineering Contractors Association, the Construction Products Association and the Institution of Civil Engineers. The Alliance works in close partnership with CITB-ConstructionSkills, the sector skills council for our industry.

We believe it is essential that industry works with government and others to tackle these issues head-on.

There is a real risk that the UK's economic recovery will be held back if fears of an emerging crisis in the UK's infrastructure sector are realised. Congestion in the UK's transport networks is set to worsen; there is uncertainty about how the country's future energy needs will be met, and the current downturn is putting the industry's skills base at risk.



Our objectives

Improving delivery

We believe that all the parties should come together to agree a consistent approach to delivering infrastructure – effectively turning the government's National Infrastructure Plan from a prospectus into a delivery plan. This should include a clear set of actions for government in each sector and a realistic assessment of how priority projects and programmes will be paid for; and how skills and training provided, to ensure they are delivered on time and on budget

Rebalancing investment

While the South East of England will remain the economic driver for the UK, a return to sustained growth can only be achieved by rebuilding activity in communities across the UK. Opening up access to regional ports and airports will boost UK jobs and exports, while investment in nuclear and renewable energy will stimulate growth in areas that would otherwise show limited economic activity, rebalancing investment across the UK.

We would also like to see public spending rebalanced, in line with recent International Monetary Fund recommendations. The IMF highlighted that infrastructure investment produces a high multiplier effect, and should be prioritised over other forms of spending with lower growth impacts.

Immediate action on maintenance and minor works

The Infrastructure Alliance proposes the injection of short-term funding into maintenance and minor works for public infrastructure. Such works are 'shovel-ready' meaning that any additional funding will have an instant impact on employment and economic activity.

Work to local roads and flood defences will support growth by reducing congestion and potentially opening up new land for development, safe from the risks associated with flooding.

Securing a world class workforce

While conditions for the infrastructure sector are currently challenging, a look to the horizon promises a potentially significant boost in activity through delivery of major projects like HS2, new nuclear power stations and renewable energy.

It is essential that there is a workforce available to deliver these projects. The Infrastructure Alliance proposes that further work is carried out to develop forward pipelines for infrastructure investment. These pipelines can then be used to identify how best to invest in skills across the industry as a whole, making sure that the UK supply chain is ready to meet demand when it arises.

ACE

The Association for Consultancy and Engineering represents around 600 member companies, large and small, at the heart of delivering, maintaining and upgrading the UK's buildings, structures and infrastructure, including critical sectors such as water, rail, housing and energy.

ACE's members contribute around £10 billion to the UK economy and are some of the world's leading consultancy and engineering businesses, renowned for the quality and excellence of their work around the globe, as well as the crucial delivery of expertise and developments at home.

CECA

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) acts as a conduit between industry and government, working on behalf of infrastructure providers who employ up to 200,000 people in the UK, delivering work worth around £15 billion every year.

CECA is made up of eight autonomous regional companies based across the UK. CECA maintains a close relationship with clients, government and the media to ensure that our members' expertise is shared as widely as possible.

The Construction Products Association

The Construction Products Association represents the UK's manufacturers and suppliers of construction products components and fittings. It acts as the voice of the construction products sector representing the industry-wide view of its members, which includes 24 of the largest companies in the industry, as well as 43 sector trade associations.

The products sector has an annual turnover of more than £50 billion and accounts for 40% of total construction output. The industry employs more than 50,000 people and is made up of 25,000 companies.

ICE

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) is an independent, charitable body, representing over 80,000 professional civil engineers around the world. Our vision is to place civil engineering at the heart of society, delivering sustainable development through knowledge, skills and professional expertise.

Established in 1818, the ICE is recognised worldwide for its excellence as a centre of learning, as a qualifying body and as a public voice for the profession. Under our Royal Charter, we have a responsibility to provide independent expert advice on infrastructure issues.

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