

News story: Our commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR)

As a government organisation and a large employer, corporate social responsibility (CSR) is important to us. We're committed to ethical and sustainable business practices. This means we take account of our social, economic and environmental impact. CSR is good for the planet, our employees, customers and communities.

There are 4 main strands to our CSR activities.

1. Environment (estates and environment)

We're committed to reducing our direct impact on the environment by actively managing our waste, emissions and consumption of natural resources.

2. People (human resources, health and wellbeing)

We aim to create a workplace that encourages diversity and equal opportunities for all. We actively encourage professional development through our 5-days-a-year learning programme and support employee health and wellbeing.

3. Procurement (finance and purchasing)

We seek out the most advantageous procurement route for the life of a project. This means 90% of our supply chain contracts are through government frameworks, where suppliers have been tendered, audited and checked against important criteria like financial stability and environmental compliance.

4. Community (volunteering, skills matching and fundraising)

To play a positive role in society, we've built a culture that promotes employee volunteering, skills matching and fundraising. We actively support local businesses and the communities in which we operate.

Origins of our CSR

In 2014, we created our CSR strategy. Its aim was to bring together and recognise the range of CSR activities we were already doing and to outline future commitments under each of the 4 main strands. We wanted to show how we're contributing to sustainable development and adopting responsible behaviours that reflect our core values as an organisation.

Our CSR today

Since 2013, we've raised over £50,000 for charity and this year we've been accredited with the [MIND gold award](#) and the [IIP gold award](#).

Our CSR activities have grown significantly over the last 5 years. We've increased our volunteer days from 3 to 5 days a year. This means each employee now gets 5 days a year to go out and support local projects and charities. We also have CSR ambassadors across the organisation, who help the CSR team set up and run various community projects.

Some of our current team volunteer days include:

- Bute Park Litter Pick
- Cardiff Food Bank
- Cardiff Dogs Home
- Ty Hafan Craft Centre

Our CSR Coordinator, Leanne Hugglestone, spoke to us about her passion for CSR and our responsibilities as a government organisation to help the local community.

Leanne said:

According to 'Business in the Community', a good goal to have for staff volunteering is around the 18 to 20% mark. Last year we hit 28% unique volunteers in Companies House.

Leanne explains how we've impacted our community, and the future of CSR at Companies House. From donating our office furniture worth over £40,000, to helping local charities through the knowledge and skills of our staff volunteers.

To stay up to date with our CSR activities, [follow us on Twitter](#) and search #CompaniesHouseCSR.

[Notice: Competition guidance for Agri-tech Catalyst round 7: agriculture and food systems innovation](#)

Updated: Taken out the requirement for the technical lead to provide an address as this is not included in the application form.

Please read the [full competition scope](#) before you make your application.

There must be a UK administrative lead. The technical project work can be led by an organisation from the UK or an eligible African country.

The administrative lead:

- must be UK based
- can be a business (of any size), academic organisation, charity, public sector organisation or research organisation for early and mid stage projects
- must be a business (of any size) for late stage projects
- work in collaboration, including with at least one organisation from an eligible country in Africa
- carry out your project work in the UK or an eligible African country or both

[News story: Programme: EU-UK Article 50 negotiations Brussels, 21 to 22 August 2018](#)

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[News story: Thousands to benefit from new Congleton bypass](#)

Thousands of drivers every day will benefit from faster journeys thanks to a new bypass for Congleton.

The Department for Transport has today (20 August 2018) approved the brand new route, and will provide £45 million towards the £75 million project, which will save drivers on average 7 minutes per journey.

It will mean a 3.5-kilometre road connecting the A534 west of Congleton with

the A536 to the north of the town, benefitting around 17,000 motorists alone.

The link road will also directly support more than 1,000 new homes, and will open up 9.3 hectares of business land by 2035 – as well as indirectly supporting an extra 1,475 homes and 10 hectares of employment land to the north of Congleton.

Transport Minister Liz Sugg said:

We are investing record amounts in improving our roads up and down the country to get drivers to shops, friends or work quicker than before.

This new bypass will not only lead to fewer accidents and cut congestion in Congleton, it will take lorries out of the town centre and improve air quality for its residents.

The link road will also help create new homes and jobs around Congleton, boosting the local economy.

[Congleton bypass](#)

Cyclists will also get a better link around Congleton as a cycleway and path will be built alongside the road.

The Leader of Cheshire East Council, Councillor Rachel Bailey, said:

Confirmation of this funding for a much-needed road scheme in Congleton is excellent news for this council and, I am sure, for the people of the town.

This will significantly improve the quality of life for local people. It will remove congestion from the town centre, unlock key employment and housing sites, boosting the local economy, as well as creating vastly improved connectivity from the Macclesfield area of the borough through to the M6 corridor to Sandbach and Crewe.

This is fantastic news.

The works will start in October and end in 2020. Cheshire East is providing £9.63 million and £20.8 million will come from private developers.

The investment comes as part of a £55 million government boost for local road schemes, with money also being spent on [improvements around Newhaven Port in Sussex](#).

News story: Sussex economy boosted by multimillion pound road improvements

Hundreds of jobs will be created with an improved link to Newhaven Port approved today (20 August 2018).

The government has committed £10 million to the Newhaven Port access road scheme to move HGVs away from using unsuitable local roads, while also supporting Newhaven Port's vital role in transporting goods both internationally and around the UK and to support the local economy in Newhaven and the wider East Sussex area.

The £23 million project will allow direct access into the East Quay area of Newhaven Port, and will help create 436 jobs – indirectly supporting a further 1,430 – around Newhaven.

It will take HGVs away from Railway Road and Beach Road, which are unsuitable for the heavy vehicles and will also support Newhaven enterprise zone through the unlocking of an additional 80,000 square metres of business space.

Transport Minister Nusrat Ghani said:

Newhaven Port was one of my first visits as Maritime Minister and that is why I am delighted that we are investing in improvements to the road connections between our key economic areas and our ports.

This scheme will reduce the number of lorries on currently busy local roads – making life easier for others using the roads.

The new access road will create hundreds of new jobs, while also supporting the Newhaven enterprise zone, further boosting the local economy.

Newhaven Port access road

Cyclists and pedestrians will be able to use a new cycleway and path alongside the new road.

The works are due to start shortly and are scheduled to be completed in February 2020. East Sussex County Council will provide the remaining £13.02 million.

Councillor Rupert Simmons, East Sussex County Council lead member for economy, said:

We very much welcome approval of the government funding which means we can now bring this scheme to fruition.

The road will create a direct access to the East Quay and is a key part of our plan for the economic regeneration of Newhaven.

It will be a catalyst for growth and for the creation of much-needed jobs for people in Newhaven and the surrounding area.

The work announced today is the second phase of the road improvements after the first section was completed in 2015.

It will see a 650 metre road built between the Pargut roundabout and the proposed port roundabout. It will also include a new 122 metre-long bridge over the Newhaven-Seaford branch line and Mill Creek Canal.

This scheme was included in the department's [port connectivity study](#) which has shown that better connections to English ports could help businesses thrive and boost the nation's economy. The study highlighted that improved road and rail links can provide more effective freight journeys between key economic areas and ports, boosting productivity, lowering costs and giving access to international markets.

It also comes as part of a £55 million government boost for local road schemes, with money also being spent on road improvements in Cheshire.