

News story: LLW Repository Ltd earns Gold award

Elaine Woodburn, of GRAHAM Construction, pictured left, and LLWR's Cath Giel with team members celebrate their Considerate Constructors Scheme Gold award.

LLW Repository Ltd's (LLWR) Engineering, Design and Construction Framework (EDCF) with GRAHAM Construction has won a Gold award in a prestigious national scheme.

Delighted team members from both organisations were on hand at the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) ceremony in Manchester to receive the honour, which recognises high standards in the construction sector.

It was only the second time the Framework had entered the scheme and it earned a bronze award last year. In addition to striking gold, a Most Considerate Site runner-up accolade was also awarded to the west Cumbrian facility.

"We are on a journey of continuous improvement, so to better last year's pleasing performance amid stiff competition was superb," said Cath Giel, LLWR's Head of Public Affairs.

"We received more points from our CCS monitor this year than last so we were hopeful of improving on a bronze, but to win gold was outstanding.

"High standards are set for the organisation and for individuals, so this recognition is another feather in our cap.

"We take our community responsibilities extremely seriously, and a lot of hard work went into our entry." In the Framework's inaugural year in the scheme, the better of two scores awarded by a CCS monitor was 43 marks out of 50.

Two visits this time merited scores of 45 and 46 with maximum 10s scored in the 'Protecting the Environment' and 'Secure Everyone's Safety' categories.

The CCS monitor noted: "This project continues to be managed at the highest level, not only achieving an exceptional level in all five of the scheme's checklist sections, which in itself is an achievement, but also by being innovative."

Press release: Sajid Javid announces details of review of local government finance governance and processes

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, has today (11 April 2018) announced details of an independent review of the processes and procedures that underpin the Ministry's governance of the business rates system.

The review will be led by former Director General for Public Services at Her Majesty's Treasury, Andrew Hudson. Andrew has also previously held the position of chief executive of the Valuation Office Agency, as well as having worked in local government and has significant experience of working at the interface of policy and operations.

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, said:

As we move towards local government retaining 75% of locally collected business rates, it is vital that the business rates retention system operates as smoothly as possible. This review, led by an independent expert in this field, will ensure robust processes across the board.

Published today on GOV.UK:

News story: Home Secretary announces law enforcement crackdown on dark web

Speaking at the CYBER UK Conference in Manchester, the Home Secretary announced that as part of a £9 million fund, law enforcement's response will be bolstered to tackle those who use the anonymity of the online space for illegal activities such as the selling of firearms, drugs, malware and people.

More than £5 million will also be used to support the police to establish dedicated cyber crime units to investigate and pursue cyber criminals at a regional and local level.

The funding is part of £50 million of newly allocated money to ensure police

and prosecutors have the capabilities they need to tackle cyber crime at a national, regional and local level during 2018/2019.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

The world of cyber is fast-developing and we need a fast-developing response to match. One that recognises that it is the responsibility of everyone in the UK to fight the evolving threat.

That's why today I'm pleased to announce that we will be investing over £50 million over the next year to bolster cyber capabilities within law enforcement at a national, regional and local level.

We need to make sure we stay not just at pace but steps ahead of those who seek to exploit the possibilities of modern technology, and I am determined that this Government will continue to tighten the net.

A proportion of the £50 million will be used to develop a new national training programme for police and the wider criminal justice system, sponsored by the National Police Chiefs Council. This will equip them with the tools to properly investigate and prosecute cases of cyber crime, including those relating to the dark web.

The Cyber Aware campaign, a cross-Government initiative, will also receive a further £3 million of funding for 2018/2019 to educate the public and businesses with the latest advice on how to protect themselves from cyber crime.

[News story: Improving crowd resilience demonstration day](#)

Following the 2017 terror attacks which targeted crowded places, the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) and Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) launched a [£1 million competition](#) on 27 July 2017 to develop innovative approaches to improving crowd resilience.

We are holding a collaboration event to highlight these innovative ideas to suppliers already delivering solutions in the following areas within the crowded places supply chain :

- CCTV hardware
- CCTV software/video analytics
- Thermal imaging camera systems
- Managed Service Providers providing systems integration and/or buildings

- system management
- Event management companies
- Marketing companies

This is a unique opportunity to discuss collaboration on the five funded projects that are eligible for further Government funding.

To register

If you would like to [register your Expression of Interest](#) to attend the event in London on Thursday 3 May 2018, please note that you will need to provide a statement on your registration form regarding which capability your organisation already provides and where it is being delivered, or whether your organisation could offer benefit to the funded projects.

Registration deadline

The deadline for this Expression of Interest is Friday 27 April at 5pm. The DASA team will contact you to let you know whether you've been selected to attend.

[Press release: New figures reveal 1 in 11 anglers are junior anglers](#)

Fishing licence sales show a huge increase in popularity among children with 1 in 11 anglers being juniors according to new figures released by the Environment Agency today.

The introduction of free fishing licences for children in 2017 has led to a 53% increase with more than 79,000 junior licences issued last year.

The figures were welcomed by the agency in light of challenges in attracting juniors to the sport given the popularity of game consoles, TV and social media.

Kevin Austin, Head of Fisheries at the Environment Agency, said:

While today's figures are welcomed and encouraging, we mustn't rest on our laurels. Today's children are the anglers of tomorrow and it's important we attract them to the sport early. We're really pleased to see that a growing number of young people are taking up the offer of a free junior licence, helping them to enjoy the great outdoors and this great sport.

Children today have a wealth of technology at their fingertips, and

coupled with the costs parents face, it's easy to see why fewer children are enjoying outdoor activities. Through our continued investment into fishing, our aim is to ensure the sport continues for generations to come.

From April, the age of free junior licences change from 12-16 to 13-16. Junior fishing licence work will continue to be supported by Environment Agency partners such as Angling Trust, Get Hooked on Fishing and National Fishing Month. Those under thirteen will not be required to purchase a licence.

All fishing licence income is used to fund work to protect and improve fish stocks and fisheries. The Environment Agency works in partnership with the Angling Trust, Get Hooked on Fishing and National Fishing Month to offer free fishing events and activities.

To find an event close to you take a look at get fishing. To buy a licence online visit: www.gov.uk/get-a-fishing-licence

Notes to editor

- Figures quoted are for England and Wales
- Juniors still need to get a licence in order to fish but the licence will be free at get a fishing licence.
- These changes have also been implemented across Wales. Natural Resources Wales is the lead.

1. Junior sales

- 2015/16: 60,762
- 2016/17: 52,117