

## MONITOR:ICE REVIEW

# ICE review

**A review of recent and forthcoming developments at the Institution of Civil Engineers by president Barry Clarke. For further information please call the communications team on +44 20 7665 2107, email [press.office@ice.org.uk](mailto:press.office@ice.org.uk) or visit [www.ice.org.uk/news-public-affairs](http://www.ice.org.uk/news-public-affairs).**

### Responding to the Queen's speech

In May 2013, Queen Elizabeth II delivered her annual speech setting out the UK government's legislative programme for the next year.

The speech included the High Speed 2 paving bill, which will grant spending powers to the government to fast-track work on both phases of the new rail link between London and central and northern England. However, ICE remained cautious in its response, noting that an ambitious project of this type would require steely political and financial commitment to ensure its delivery.

Also included in the speech were mentions of the long-awaited energy bill and the water bill. ICE stressed the importance of including a clear target for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the energy bill to help provide much-needed clarity on long-term strategic direction, build confidence within industry and among investors, and demonstrate the government's commitment to creating a 'low carbon' economy.

ICE remained concerned over the narrow focus of the water bill and its lack of clear strategy to ensure effective water demand management and to tackle the UK's water security issues. Uncertainties around the future of collaborative working and investment caused by increased competition need to be acknowledged and resolved, said ICE.

### Calling for shake-up of UK transport

In June 2013 ICE launched its flagship *State of the Nation* report, which this year focused on transport. Calling for an urgent shake-up of the UK transport sector, the report warned that political disagreements, patchy investment, inadequate maintenance and the absence of clear, strategic thinking was undermining the contribution transport infrastructure could make to Britain's economic growth, competitiveness and quality of life.



ICE's 2013 State of the Nation report calls for an independent infrastructure commission to advise on UK transport strategy

Recommendations included the creation of an independent infrastructure commission, operating at arm's length from the government, which would inform the development and implementation of UK transport strategy.

The extension of devolved power on transport, enabling decisions on networks to be made by those with knowledge and understanding of their area, was also called for. Looking forwards, the report also mooted a new transport futures board to provide solutions on politically sensitive and complex issues, starting with how transport will be paid for in the future.

In addition, the report highlighted the need for immediate action to improve the condition of UK roads.

The report's launch was attended by a range of key political, industry and media stakeholders, including roads minister Stephen Hammond who spoke at the event. ICE is continuing to progress the report's recommendations. The report can be downloaded from the ICE website at [www.ice.org.uk/information-resources/Infrastructure-policy-and-reports/state-of-the-nation](http://www.ice.org.uk/information-resources/Infrastructure-policy-and-reports/state-of-the-nation).

### Providing guidance for asset managers

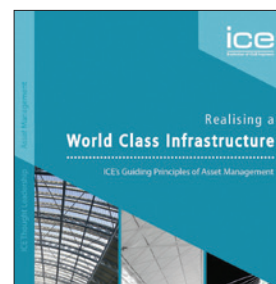
Also in June 2013, the joint management panel of ICE and the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (ICES) launched a new best-practice guide on

asset management. Entitled *Realising a world class infrastructure: ICE's guiding principles of asset management*, the publication aims to aid civil engineering organisations and professionals to recognise the benefits and importance of effective infrastructure management.

The guide set out how more effective and proactive asset management practice – which should begin at the stage the asset is created and consider the whole life cycle of the asset – could help to reduce disruption to national road, rail and water systems.

Other potential benefits include delivery of services for citizens aligned with local investment priorities; reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and improvements in environmental sustainability; increased co-location, partnership working and sharing of knowledge; generation of efficiency gains, capital receipts or income stream; an increase in intelligent use of assets to deliver organisational and cultural goals; and improvements in governance, effective leadership and change management.

The guide marks the start of a long-term programme of work the ICE/ICES management panel is undertaking to embed the guiding principles and affect a change in culture in infrastructure management. It can be downloaded from the ICE website at [www.ice.org.uk/information-resources/document-library/guiding-principles-of-asset-management](http://www.ice.org.uk/information-resources/document-library/guiding-principles-of-asset-management).



The new ICE/ICES management panel guide promotes best practice in infrastructure asset-management