

## MONITOR:ICE REVIEW

# ICE review

**A review of recent and forthcoming developments at the Institution of Civil Engineers by ICE president Geoff French. For further information please contact the communications office on +44 20 7665 2152, email [communications@ice.org.uk](mailto:communications@ice.org.uk) or visit [www.ice.org.uk/news-public-affairs](http://www.ice.org.uk/news-public-affairs).**

### Hosting new UK infrastructure plan



HM Treasury chief secretary Danny Alexander launching the UK government's National Infrastructure Plan 2013 at ICE's headquarters

The UK government launched its *National Infrastructure Plan 2013* in December at ICE's headquarters at One Great George Street in London.

ICE director general Nick Baveystock opened the launch, which was attended by over 100 industry leaders and the media. HM Treasury commercial secretary Lord Deighton and chief secretary Danny Alexander both made speeches.

The new plan includes an updated pipeline of projects and the announcement of £25 billion of funding from the insurance industry. Importantly there also appears to be some evidence of a shift towards actually delivering the plan – a key call from ICE.

We have also been working closely with politicians and decision makers to encourage the government to clarify its long-term aspirations for UK infrastructure. ICE continues to push for clear objectives to be established for each network, showing how infrastructure projects in the government's 'top 40' contribute to those objectives.

The new plan is a positive step forwards and presents us with an opportunity to drive this agenda forward.

### Launching *Shaping the World* initiative

ICE rolled out an important and exciting initiative called *Shaping the World* in October. It is designed to help civil

engineers work together to alleviate the effects of some of the huge challenges facing the world – from population growth and rising energy demands through to shortages in infrastructure funding.

Past ICE president Barry Clarke launched the initiative and funding appeal with patron HRH The Princess Royal at One Great George Street. The appeal seeks to raise £5 million to allow ICE to deliver a sustained long-term programme of activities.

The first stage will involve upgrading ICE's London headquarters to become an international 'hub' for civil engineering. This will better enable us to showcase our work across the world, inspire the next generation to enter the profession and concentrate the greatest engineering and business minds in one place.

ICE will then develop and deliver a global programme of work with schools, academic institutions, governments, leading industry figures and third-sector organisations.

For further information visit [www.shapingtheworld.org.uk](http://www.shapingtheworld.org.uk).



HRH The Princess Royal and ICE president Geoff French at ICE's Shaping the World launch and funding appeal

### Progressing infrastructure commission

Significant progress was made in November on ICE's call in our 2013 *State of the Nation: Transport* report for an independent commission to help ensure UK infrastructure projects stand above political fault lines.

Shadow chancellor Ed Balls asked



ICE vice president Sir John Armit is drafting a white paper on how an independent UK infrastructure commission could operate

ICE vice president and Olympic Delivery Authority chair Sir John Armit to draft – by summer 2014 – a white paper and legislation setting out how such a commission could operate. The shadow chancellor said it was an attempt to bring about cross-party agreement on the concept before the next general election.

As my predecessor Barry Clarke mentioned in the November 2013 issue of *Civil Engineering*, Sir John published an independent report on long-term infrastructure delivery in the UK in September last year. Commissioned by the Labour party, his report called for the upgrading of UK infrastructure to be made a national priority alongside health and education.

He also made a number of recommendations aimed at removing the politics from decision making when it comes to Britain's infrastructure delivery. The key recommendation was for a national independent commission, which would be tasked with looking 25–30 years ahead at the country's infrastructure needs and setting priorities to be voted on by parliament.

We look forward to seeing Sir John's draft white paper and legislation in the summer.