

this month

Hold on tight



So the bookies were wrong, the financial markets were wrong and so were most of the polls. The UK woke up on 24 June to a decision to leave the European Union (EU).

This is a decision that will influence British politics for a long time and the focus for most people and of course businesses, will be on trying to ensure some level of calm and stability.

Then the country has to work out the most effective plan to move forward and whatever your view there is no doubt there are going to be some major challenges ahead.

Our news, analysis and opinion (on pages 4, 5, 8 and 10) explore the impact of the referendum and attempt to make sense of what has happened and what it might mean in the future for the transport and highways sectors.

For local government there will be more uncertainty as we face the prospect of a new prime minister and a new leader of the opposition alongside tense EU negotiations. This may well deflect attention away from the devolution agenda that has been gaining pace in the last two years. But surely, devolution takes on a new meaning now.

Leaving Europe means investment in our cities and towns is even more important than before and placing councils and other key stakeholders at the heart of the decision-making process has to be a priority.

But perhaps more importantly, whether you are part of a devolution proposal or not, is the need to continue with collaboration and with your own ambitious transport and infrastructure plans. Only this way of thinking will see us through the turbulent times ahead and there are already plenty of success stories up and down the country to use as a platform for greater things.

The point is, you don't have to be part of bi or tri-county partnership or have a proposal rubber-stamped by the Government to get on with delivering a more modern approach to transport integration or to deliver infrastructure schemes that can boost the local economy and deliver on improving social, economic and environmental ambitions.

Whether large or small, authorities should not be afraid to face up to a future of making their own decisions and hopefully, once the fallout from Brexit is over, collaboration will be top of the agenda again.

Adrian Tatum,
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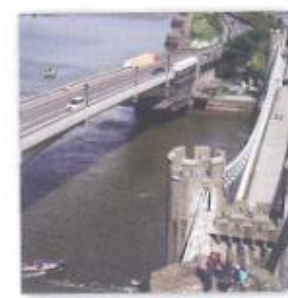
surveyor



• p10 EU referendum: a Brexit for champions?



• p28-29 Tyrrens UK's Derek Hampton talks best practice



• p36-37 Summer clean: repainting a road bridge by Conwy Castle

NEWS Pages 4-7

NEWS ANALYSIS

Page 8 – Dominic Browne reports on the sector's reactions to Brexit

Page 10 – **OPINION**
Dominic Browne on maintaining post-referendum market stability

FEATURES

Page 12-13 – **INTERVIEW**
Rupert Clubb, new president of ADEPT, talks to Chris Ames about speaking clearly but constructively

Page 14-15 – **TRAFFEX LIVE 2016**
Surveyor looks at this year's UK Roads Traffex Live National Crash Demo Day

Page 16-18 – **PROFILE**
JCB presents its inspirational past, and future plans, to Dominic Browne

Page 20 – **Q&A**
Kate Morris, director of AECOM, on forging a successful career in a male-dominated industry

Page 22-23 – **ITS CONGRESS REVIEW**
Adrian Tatum reports on preparing UK roads for connected and automated cars

Page 24-25 – **ROUND TABLE**
Transport devolution is in the headlights at the Surveyor/Penna round table debate

Page 26-27 – **HIGHWAYS**
Steve Gooding explains how driverless cars will bring rewards once planning hurdles are overcome

Page 28-29 – **PLANNING**
Derek Hampton of Tyrrens UK talks to Dominic Browne about combining Scandi culture with British best practice

Page 30-31 – **DEVOLUTION**
Adrian Tatum examines devolution for transport service delivery in the UK

Page 32-33 – **HIGHWAYS**
Leading asset management is keeping Cornwall's roads in top condition

Page 34-35 – **URBAN REALM**
Skanska's partnership with Peterborough City Council has created a tailored regeneration scheme for the community

Page 36-37 – **HERITAGE SITES**
Rhodri Clark on repainting the road bridge beside Conwy Castle in the busy tourist season

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Page 38
Appointments and tenders

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