



Innovation Chain North

Our highlights and a look ahead to 2026!



A fantastic 18 months for ICN

As we reflect on the past 18 months of the framework, we are pleased to share the progress and milestones that have shaped another successful chapter for our framework. Since the launch of the new framework in **August 2024**, activity has been consistently strong, exceeding our initial expectations.

Despite uncertainties surrounding new funding programmes, **32 clients** joined ICN - the highest number across all previous versions of the framework. Call-off activity remained steady throughout the year and reached its peak in **January 2026** with **36 direct awards**. Total throughput since August 2024 now stands at **£402 million**, representing **27%** of the projected framework value. With just under three years remaining of the four-year term, ICN is firmly on track to reach our **£1.5bn throughput target by July 2028**.

We are pleased to have welcomed several new clients who are engaging with ICN for the first time. Their involvement strengthens our network and contributes to the increased delivery of much needed, high quality affordable homes for customers and communities, widening the positive impact of the framework.



Caseys transformed access at Valley Farm, Oldham with a new path and fencing, helping visitors reach the animals more easily.



Donation of a bleed safety unit at The Meros World Foundation.



Previously unused land by the Vaughan Street church in Royton was redesigned into community spaces, with local school children planting bulbs.

Sharing social value success across the framework

In the past year, we delivered our first **ICN Social Value session**, bringing together operational contacts and social value representatives from across our client organisations. This brilliantly attended session explored

the ICN Social Value Pledge, how it works, and the outcomes delivered to date. There was real enthusiasm in the room to deliver great social value outcomes and feedback was extremely positive, with clients valuing the clarity, shared learning and practical examples of community impact. We look forward to building on this progress at our next Social Value event in **July**.

Social value also took centre stage at our **ICN Annual Event in September**, where suppliers Casey and CPC showcased some fantastic schemes and outcomes achieved through their Social Value pledges. Their presentations highlighted the real difference our partners are making within local communities. The event also featured insights from **Ciaran Tully from the National Housing Federation**, who reflected on the regulatory and political landscape and what the sector can expect next.

Looking ahead, ICN will publish a **dedicated Social Value Report** in 2026, summarising the outcomes delivered across the framework.

What's Coming Up in 2026

February – March: Supplier Meetings

Our biannual supplier meetings are in full swing, beginning in early February with Employer's Agents, Principal Designers and Building Surveyors. These sessions include updates on ICN activity, sector hot topics, shared learning, feedback, and opportunities for Q&A.

A dedicated client meeting in March will conclude the biannual cycle, bringing in feedback gathered from suppliers. These sessions are essential for transparency, collaboration and consistent engagement across the framework and we would encourage all partners to attend if at all possible.

April / May: Meet the Contractor Event

In April / May, we are trialing our first Meet the Contractor session at our Head Office in Didsbury. This event will give clients an opportunity to meet framework contractors, discuss upcoming projects and learn more about each organisation. Additional sessions for consultants will follow.

May: North East Supplier Engagement

In May, the ICN team plan to travel to the North East to meet with suppliers in the region and showcase the fantastic ICN offer to potential new and existing clients. This event reinforces our commitment to accessible, regional engagement across the framework and an area we are keen to develop further in the future.

July: Social Value Event

Our July session will bring together social value representatives from client and supplier organisations to discuss approaches, share experiences, best practice and further strengthen outcomes across the sector.

October: ICN Annual Event

The ICN Annual Event returns in October, with guest speakers to be confirmed closer to the date. The event offers a valuable opportunity for clients and suppliers to hear sector updates, share insights and network over coffee and pastries. The event is always fully booked, so please keep an eye out for meeting invites and be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

Thank you to all our clients and suppliers for your continued support. We look forward to working with you all, building on this momentum in 2026, and continuing to deliver positive outcomes for customers and communities.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)