Rising Stars 2026/27

PART 1 – Cohort 1 Tuesday 3 – Wednesday 4 November 2026, Leonardo Hotel, Milton Keynes
– Cohort 2 Tuesday 24 – Wednesday 25 November 2026, The Eastside Rooms, Birmingham
– Cohort 3 Tuesday 26 – Wednesday 27 January 2027, Leonardo Hotel, Milton Keynes

Programme

Day 1 – Tuesday 3 November / Tuesday 24 November / Tuesday 26 January

Agenda Item/Title	Time	Mins	Speaker	Content
Registration and coffee	09:30	15		Delegate refreshments and networking.
Welcome and introduction	09:45	45	**Andy Murray** Executive Director Major Projects Association	
Discussion: What makes major projects different?	10:30	90	**Andy Murray** Executive Director Major Projects Association	
Lunch	12:00	60		Delegate refreshments and networking.
Judgement Index feedback	13:00	120	**Sophie Coulthard** Principle Consultant Judgment Index Ltd	
Break	15:00	20		Delegate refreshments and networking.
Leadership Styles / Communication Styles / Mindset, Emotions + Performance	15:20	100	**Sophie Coulthard** Principle Consultant Judgment Index Ltd	

Review of day 1 and Rising Stars Alumni	17:00	15	**Andy Murray** Executive Director Major Projects Association	
Break	17:15	75		To include accommodation check-in.
Dinner with guest speaker	18:30	150	**Rebecca Wooding (Cohort 1)** Associate Project Manager Arcadis **Paul Unwin (Cohort 2)** Programme Sponsor National Highways **Nick Lafit-Ward (Cohort 3)** Senior Project Manager NDA Group	
Close	21:00			

Day 2 – Wednesday 4 November / Wednesday 25 November / Wednesday 27 January

Agenda Item/Title	Time	Mins	Speaker	Content
Arrival and coffee	09:00	15		Delegate refreshments and networking.
Guest speaker: Grand Union Canal Transfer	09:15	60	**Clare Carlaw** Head of Engagement, Land & Consents Affinity Water	Part 1
Break	10:15	15		Delegate refreshments and networking.
Syndicate work: case study challenge	10:30	150		Part 2
Lunch	13:00	45		Delegate refreshments and networking.
Syndicate work: presentations	13:45	135		Part 3

Break	15:15	15		
Case study challenge: presentation feedback & awards	15:30	20		Part 4
Review of day 2	15:50	10	**Andy Murray** Executive Director Major Projects Association	
Close	16:00			

PART 2 – Tuesday 2 March 2027, Institution of Civil Engineers, London

Programme

Day 3 – Tuesday 2 March

Agenda Item/Title	Time	Mins	Speaker	Content
Registration and coffee	10:30	30		Delegate refreshments and networking
Welcome and recap	11:00	15	**Andy Murray** Executive Director Major Projects Association	
Leading Successful Teams	11:15	90	**Donnie MacNicol** Director Team Animation Ltd	Part 1
Lunch	12:45	45		Delegate refreshments and networking
Leading Successful Teams	13:30	90	**Donnie MacNicol** Director Team Animation Ltd	Part 2
Coffee Break and Photos	15:00	30		Delegate refreshments and networking
Panel Session	15:30	45	**Paul Unwin** Programme Sponsor National Highways	

			Sophie Coulthard Principle Consultant Judgment Index Ltd **Clare Carlaw** Head of Engagement, Land & Consents Affinity Water	
A Rising Stars Alumni and next steps	16:15	30	**Alumni Committee**	
Close	16:45	15	**Andy Murray** Executive Director Major Projects Association	
Networking	17:00			