

A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

12 JANUARY 2018



Charnwood Awarded  
Member Development  
Charter - Again



EMC General Meeting



HS2 and East Midlands Hub  
Station in Toton



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers



## Charnwood Borough Council Awarded the Councillor Development Charter

This week Charnwood Borough Council were successfully re-accredited against the East Midlands Regional Councillor Development Charter; this is the third time they have been awarded this achievement demonstrating their ongoing commitment and engagement with investing in councillor learning and development.

The assessment team led by Lisa Butterfill at East Midlands Councils identified the following aspects as key to their success:

- A clear understanding of the importance and benefits of investing in councillor development for the councillor
- The effective partnership working between councillors and officers at all levels in the authority supporting their culture of learning and growing together

Charnwood Borough Council were first awarded the Charter in 2011, re-accredited 2014 and again in January 2018.

The Regional Charter for Councillor Development aims to promote best practice in councillor development. The Charter has an accreditation process set against standards, which have been developed in conjunction with the LGA and other regions around the country.

Launched in 2005 and based on a national template, the Charter aims to help councils adopt a structured approach to member development and to build elected member capacity, enabling members to have the knowledge and skills to effectively fulfil their roles now and to meet the challenges ahead.

For more information on the charter please visit our website or for an informal discussion on councillor development please contact Lisa Butterfill [Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## Government, Midlands Connect & East Midlands Councils agree priorities to maximise the benefits of HS2 and improve services on the Midland Main Line

The partial opening of the East Midlands Hub Station in Toton, several years before HS2 arrives in 2033, is part of a package of priorities the Department for Transport has agreed to work on with Midlands Connect and East Midlands Councils to maximise the economic benefits of HS2.

A commitment to work together to achieve four key outcomes was made following a meeting between the Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling and representatives of Midlands Connect and East Midlands Councils in Nottingham.

For the first time, all parties have agreed to work towards:

- Partially opening the East Midlands Hub station at Toton in the 2020s, at least for Network Rail services, to support and stimulate the development of the planned Innovation Campus nearby, which has the potential to create 10,000 new jobs;
- Early delivery of road infrastructure around the Hub to support the early phases of the Innovation Campus;
- Relocating the Network Rail/DB Cargo depot in Toton to another site within the East Midlands to facilitate the development of the Innovation Campus;
- Establishing an East Midlands “delivery body” to realise the potential of the Innovation Campus and associated Garden Village housing developments.

In addition to these four priorities, Midlands Connect and East Midlands Councils will continue to press the Department for Transport to ensure a link between the Midland Main Line and HS2 Phase 2b is operational for the start of HS2, to ensure classic compatible trains can serve the north of England from the East Midlands. This would benefit Leicester in particular, which is currently poorly served by direct services to the north.

All parties have also agreed to work together to improve services on the Midland Main Line following the decision not to electrify the line between Kettering and Sheffield. The full press release is available from [here](#).

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## Recap of the Cabinet Reshuffle

At the start of the week the Prime Minister Theresa May embarked on a cabinet reshuffle, we're sure by now that most will be update to date with the changes, but for a full run down of appointments visit [here](#).

Changes for East Midlands MPs

- Heather Wheeler MP (South Derbyshire MP) was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- Robert Jenrick (Newark MP) was appointed as Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
- Ben Bradley (Mansfield MP) was appointed as the Vice Chair for Youth at Conservative Campaign Headquarters
- Sir Patrick McLoughlin (Derbyshire Dales MP) has left the Cabinet, previously he held the position of Chairman of the Conservative Party

The events of the week also saw changes to Government departments;

- **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government** (formally Department for Communities and Local Government)
- **Department of Health and Social Care**

It is anticipated that Jeremy Hunt, the Health and Social Care Secretary, is to lead the Government's inquiry into social care funding as part of his newly-expanded brief. Mr Hunt will take responsibility for the Government's upcoming green paper into social care, with funding responsibilities remaining with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the time being.



**East Midlands Councils**

**EMC News**

**EMC General Meeting Date Change** - The EMC General Meeting will now take place on Friday 2 March (this meeting will still be held at Nottinghamshire County Council). The

agenda will be available in due course, all councillors are welcome to attend.

### EMC Councillor Events

**Negotiation Skills for Councillors**, 7 Feb 2018 - EMC is offering a half day workshop for Councillors on Negotiation Skills. This half-day module will help delegates to understand what negotiation is, and is not, in the business world. It will give them practical skills to enable them to prepare for a negotiation scenario, weighing up variables and anticipating challenges along the way [details [here](#)].

**How well do you understand the health and wellbeing needs of your local community?** 13 Feb 2018 - A free seminar for elected members from the East Midlands, 10am - 3pm, 13 February 2018. It is anticipated that the seminar will be of specific interest to members who do not traditionally have a role within health or social care, but who wish to understand more about the health needs of their local communities, and through developing this understanding, the positive impact that they can have on health and wellbeing of the local population [details [here](#)].

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### Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**A new national housing agency, Homes England** - A new housing agency, Homes England, has been launched by housing and communities secretary Sajid Javid and will be tasked with developing a new commercial approach to acquiring and developing land in areas of high demand and of strategic importance. Its work aims to help deliver an average of 300,000 new homes a year by the mid-2020s.

Homes England replaces the Homes & Communities Agency, established in 2008 to spearhead land acquisition and regeneration, as well as regulating social housing providers. This regulatory function will now be handled by a separate agency. For more information visit [here](#)

**Help to Buy schemes statistics** - [New statistics](#) show that over 350,000 people across the UK have now used the government's Help to Buy schemes to help them cross the threshold and buy their own home [details [here](#)].

**Committee investigates 'rogue landlords'** - The Communities and Local Government Select Committee Private Rented Sector (PRS) inquiry is focusing on the role of councils in the provision and regulation of private rented accommodation while the Committee is also examining the Government's draft Tenant Fees Bill ahead of its passage through Parliament [for the latest visit [here](#)].

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### Health & Social Care

**Latest delayed transfers of care figures** - the figures can be accessed from [here](#). The LGA response is available [here](#).

**LGA 'A child is referred to children's services every 49 seconds, councils warn'** - the LGA press release [here](#).

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### Employers' Information

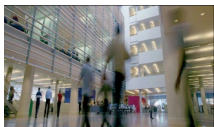


**Employment Law Update, 8 March 2018** - EMC is holding its annual Employment Law Event on 8 March. This event is aimed at senior HR and Legal professionals in the public sector and Elected Members with Portfolio responsibility for HR. To book a place visit [here](#). Early Bird Offer - if you book a place before the end of January the cost per delegate is just £99 plus VAT for EMC members.

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## Local Government News



**Rutland County Council Leader Tony Mathias Resigns** - Councillor Tony Mathias has announced that he is resigning as Leader of Rutland County Council and Ward Member for Oakham South East with immediate effect (announced on 8 January 2018). A leadership election will take place at a Special Council meeting - the date of which is to be confirmed. Councillor Hemsley, Deputy Leader will assume the full powers of the Leader until a new Leader is appointed. The press release is available from [here](#).

**Lincolnshire County Council Chief Executive Tony McArdle to step down** - Lincolnshire County Council's Chief Executive, Tony McArdle, will be stepping down after over twelve years in the role. He will hand over his formal Chief Executive responsibilities following February's council meeting, but will continue work on some key projects whilst a new Chief Executive is appointed, until departing in the summer [details [here](#)].

**Inspector appointed to investigate Northamptonshire County Council** - Independent inspection to better understand whether the council is complying with its 'best value' duty. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government press release is available from [here](#).

Responding to the announcement, Northamptonshire County Council Leader Heather Smith said she welcomed the inspection as civil servants will have the opportunity to assess "for themselves" the financial pressures the council has been warning the government about.

**Nottingham City Council asks for post-Grenfell funding** - The Nottingham City Council press release is available from [here](#).

**New metro waste service on the cards for Derby and Nottingham businesses** - Derby and Nottingham City Councils are set to launch a new combined 'Metro' commercial waste service, offering businesses a high quality, efficient service and boosting market share of Derby's £47m commercial waste market. If approved the new service will start from 1 April 2018 and will be operated by Nottingham City Council. For more information visit [here](#).

**Sajid Javid's speech to LGA Local Government Finance Conference 2018** - Sajid Javid discusses some of the key measures in the local government finance settlement. The full speech is available from [here](#). Presentations from this conference are available from [here](#).

**Devolution annual report 2016 to 2017** - This annual report brings together information about devolution agreements reached between government and areas up to 31 March 2017 [details [here](#)].

**The MJ Awards 2018 Entry open** - The MJ Local Government Achievement Awards 2018 are now open for authorities to submit an entry, there are 16 categories covering service delivery right across the sector. Further information is available from [here](#). The deadline for entries is 2 February 2018.

**LGA Publication 'Enabling School improvement'** - While the council role in education continues to evolve, one thing that has remained constant is the vital role that councils play in driving school improvement to ensure that children, young people and their families all have access to a good school place [available [here](#)].

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## EMC Events

**Exploring the Learning from Supervision, 21 Mar 2018** - EMC is offering Coaches across the East Midlands the opportunity take part in Coaching Supervision. This workshop will explore a little theory around supervision, ask coaches to participate in some practical exploration through discussing their experiences via an action learning process, and to reflect on what they have learnt. More information on this session is available from [here](#).

**Taking the Minutes, 22 March 2018** - EMC is holding a one day course on minute taking, designed to support people when taking minutes on Thursday 22 March 2018. Delegates learn how to set and use an agenda - including what 'any other business' is really for - and find out who should be doing what if the meeting is to work well. To book a place visit [here](#).

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## EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE  
Vice Chair: Cllr Jon Collins  
Vice Chair: Cllr Chris Millar  
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney  
Labour Group: Cllr Anne Western  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Mayor Kate Allsop  
  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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