

EMC POLICY BRIEF

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

Top items this week

6 OCTOBER 2017



Housing Announcements



East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy



Programme Manager - Strategic Infrastructure



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers



Thousands of jobs and almost £4billion for economy detailed in HS2 Strategy

'People, place and connectivity' are the focus of a new **East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy**, revealing how the planned high speed rail network could add thousands of jobs and billions of pounds to the region's economy.

In July (2017) Government confirmed its preferred route for HS2's 'Phase 2b' line, or 'eastern leg'; proposed to run from the West Midlands, through Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire – between the large urban conurbations of Nottingham and Derby – through to Leeds. The line includes plans for an East Midlands 'hub' station at Toton, Nottinghamshire – set to be the network's best connected point outside London – an HS2 maintenance depot at Staveley, north Derbyshire, and provision for HS2 classic compatible trains serving the current Chesterfield train station. It's estimated this eastern leg would open fully in 2033, but local partners believe there's potential to partially open the hub station at Toton by 2030.

Now the East Midlands HS2 Strategic Board – an EMC led partnership of the region's local authorities, businesses and Local Enterprise Partnerships – has submitted its **East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy: World Class-Locally Driven** to Government [available from [here](#)].

The new in-depth strategy – building on an initial proposal published September 2016 – details the opportunities HS2 presents to drive long term growth for the regional economy, equivalent to an additional 74,000 jobs and almost £4billion of GVA (Gross Value Added) by 2043, and how this could be achieved.

- An **East Midlands Hub Growth Zone** featuring a new Innovation Campus at the Toton 'hub' station to accommodate high growth businesses and universities' research, and with the capacity to create up to 10,000 high skilled jobs and improved community facilities; which will be at the heart of a network of 'garden village' developments, including the nearby Stanton and Chetwynd Barracks sites. A **North Derbyshire Growth Zone** around Chesterfield and Staveley would put the planned HS2 Staveley depot at the heart of a series of mixed use regeneration opportunities, improve links between Chesterfield station and the town, and create an attractive gateway to the Peak District National Park and to other visitor attractions.
- **Greater connectivity** – In addition to the greater rail connectivity HS2 would bring. The *Strategy* proposes improvements to local connectivity – using various modes of transport including road, bus, rail, tram, cycling, pedestrian – between East Midlands economic centres such as Derby, Leicester and Nottingham city centres, and East Midlands Airport; and between the towns and villages surrounding Toton and Chesterfield. The *HS2 Growth Strategy* also sets out comprehensive proposals for addressing congestion and improving connectivity on the A52.
- **Delivering jobs and training opportunities** – Research undertaken for the *East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy* indicates HS2's that by creating better links within the region and between it and the wider world, and by providing commercial opportunities for local supply chains – HS2 could boost jobs growth above projected UK trends; equivalent to an extra 74,000 jobs and almost £4billion of GVA by 2043. Manufacturing and technology sectors would particularly benefit. It proposes jobs and skills promotion be based around the themes of inspiring young people, building further education capacity, harnessing the power of universities and supporting individuals.
- **Providing opportunities for business** – Construction of the HS2 network, and providing services and maintenance once it is operating, represent major commercial opportunities for a wide range of sectors; including for construction and transport equipment manufacturing supply chain firms.

The press release is available from [here](#) and the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy is available to download from [here](#).

Secondment Opportunity, Programme Manager - Strategic Infrastructure - East Midlands Councils and Transport for the East Midlands

EMC is offering a fixed term or secondment opportunity as Programme Manager to support its responsibilities for strategic infrastructure and policy, particularly relating to strategic transport priorities. EMC supports strategic infrastructure and economic growth across the region through its input to initiatives and programmes such as Midlands Connect, HS2 and its emerging growth strategy, rail franchising and the upgrade and electrification of the Midland Mainline. To apply for this post please complete the application form [available [here](#)] and e-mail to Lois Dale lois.dale@emcouncils.gov.uk by Friday 27th October 2017. Job description and person specification can be found [here](#).

Local Authority Challenge 2017 - Local Authority Challenges are taking place across the country this autumn. EMC would like to congratulate Cornwall Council for winning the South West Challenge this week. The East Midlands LA Challenge takes place on 16 November 2017 at Donington Race Track. It will be an interactive, high pressure exciting development focused competition, last year we welcomed 20 teams. To register a team visit [here](#).

EMC Boards Activity

East Midlands Employers' Board - The latest East Midlands Regional Employers' Board took place on 4 October. The meeting included discussions on the Regional Employers' Work Plan for 2017-18. Members of the Board provided a steer on issues they would like to see featured as part of the work plan, based on priorities or key concerns for their councils as employers, areas discussed included;

- GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) which will come into force in 2018
- Apprenticeships – supporting councils to maximise return on the levy and identify apprenticeships to assist with skills shortage areas and workforce development
- Pay and rewards
- Health and social care integration
- Recruitment and retention within planning, building control and social care.

For more information on the Regional Employers' Board visit [here](#).

EMC Councillor Events

EMC Councillor Policy Update Event, 03 Nov 2017 - East Midlands Councils is holding its annual Policy Update Event for Councillors in the East Midlands on Friday 3 November 2017. Covering the latest information from policy experts predominantly relating to **Planning and Housing** there will also be an opportunity to hear from Professor Colin Copus and Rachel Wall (De Montfort University) on the national **"Hearing the Voice of the Councillor" project**. 20 places remain available, early booking is advised. For more information visit [here](#).

Local Government Finance Seminar, 12 December 2017 - This seminar is aimed at both new and experienced local authority members, who want to understand the basics of local government finance and financial management – and develop a grasp of the financial implications of recent changes. For more information on the event visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

£2.5m cash boost for garden towns - A £2.5m cash boost to speed up the delivery of over 155,000 new homes across England, has been announced. Nine locally-led garden town developments, will each receive new funding to fast track the build out of these large housing projects.

In the **East Midlands** this includes the North Northants Garden Communities, which will receive £50,000 funding allocation for 18,000 proposed new homes. For more information visit [here](#).

Future of East Midlands Rail Franchise - A reminder that the East Midlands Rail Franchise Consultation being run by the Department for Transport will close on 11 October 2017. Details on the consultation can be found [here](#), information provided by EMC on the consultation can be found [here](#).

£2 billion boost for affordable housing and long term deal for social rent - Government has confirmed plans for a new generation of council and housing association homes. Funding for affordable homes will be increased by a further £2 billion to more than £9 billion. For more information visit [here](#).

Provision of the Housing Intelligence Service for the East Midlands (Hi4EM) - Hi4EM (<https://hi4em.derby.gov.uk>) is an Instant Atlas website for Local Authorities within the East Midlands – it sources, displays and maps a range of data relating to housing markets, demographic and socio-economic characteristics across the region. Derby City Council has maintained this site on behalf of East Midlands Authorities for a number of years, but are no longer in a position to be able to absorb the cost of maintaining this system and therefore we are reviewing options for the service's future viability and scope. Derby City Council is keen to understand views of the service and whether Hi4EM provides useful evidence to help local authorities to identify and manage housing needs. The service can only continue to be delivered on a chargeable basis and authorities are asked to register their interest with Derby City Council if they are willing to pay to subscribe to the service for 2018/19. For more visit [here](#).

Employers' Information



Disability Confident: employers that have signed up - The Disability Confident scheme aims to help employers make the most of the opportunities provided by employing disabled people. It is voluntary and has been developed by employers and disabled people's representatives. In the East Midlands **27 local authorities** have signed up, to view the list of authorities visit [here](#).

Psychometric Testing Support - This week EMC staff have supported several authorities with the online psychometric testing to support their recruitment needs. This has included support from qualified EMC staff who have advised on the relevant assessments and provided feedback to both candidates and the authority. For more information on this support contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

Local Government News



Rushcliffe achieves further success in asset investments - Rushcliffe Borough Council has announced the acquisition of 20,000 square feet of prime industrial estate in Coalville, Leicestershire. The building is already tenanted and the Council is looking forward to developing a long term relationship with the occupier providing a local business with stability and security, and the Council with a much needed income stream.

This purchase was made possible after the Council agreed to increase the Asset Investment Strategy fund to 15.5million and to invest in property beyond the Borough boundary. The Asset Investment Strategy is one of the Council's ways of becoming self-financing in advance of the complete withdrawal of central government support in 2020. For more information visit [here](#).

New analysis reveals that 100% business rate retention would pose challenges for county authorities - The [independent analysis](#) undertaken for the County Councils Network (CCN) modelled the impact of 100% retention in England. The network has now published the findings as government considers future proposals on where to take the policy after legislation dropped off the Parliamentary calendar, with DCLG encouraging bids from all parts of the country to pilot full retention during 2018-19. For more visit [here](#).

Counties across the East Midlands have been calling for fairer funding, Northamptonshire details [here](#), Lincolnshire details [here](#) and Leicestershire details [here](#).

Health & Social Care

Chief Executive of Public Health England, Duncan Selbie's Friday message - The latest edition is available from [here](#). This weeks messages reflects on the detrimental effects that childhood obesity has on children, and on demand for NHS services. The message discusses the prominent role for local authorities and NHS clinical commissioning groups to work together to implement weight management services, and provides details of the new guide published, available [here](#).

Duncan Selbie's message provides details of his recent interview for the Municipal Journal on the unique role local government have to convene and influence, in this instance in improving mental wellbeing. The article can be accessed from [here](#).

EMC Events

Mediation & Conflict Resolution Skills, 3 day programme starting on **31 Oct 2017** - East Midlands Councils together with experienced practitioners from South East Employers are providing an opportunity to undertake a 3 day ILM endorsed programme in Mediation and Conflict Resolution which will give you the skills and confidence to undertake mediation from initial meeting with the parties to closure, following a mediation model. For more information or to book a place visit [here](#).

Understanding the needs of refugee and asylum seeking children and young people, 02 Nov 2017 - EMC is holding a one day event on understanding the needs of refugee and asylum seeking children and young people. For more information visit [here](#).

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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