

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

## Top items this week

8 JUNE 2018



Local Government News



East Midlands Rail Franchise



Revised Pay Offer for Chief Officers & Chief Executives



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers



## Let's make the most of the East Midlands Rail Franchise!

The region's transport board, Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) has welcomed the publication of the Invitation To Tender (ITT) for the new East Midlands Rail Franchise as an opportunity to transform rail services across the region.

The ITT will provide the framework against which three companies (Abellio, Arriva Rail and Stagecoach) will make their bids for the new franchise, which will come into effect in late 2019.

TfEM and East Midlands Councils (EMC) have been working closely with the Department for Transport (DfT) on the franchise competition over the last 2 years to get the best outcome for passengers, businesses and local communities. As a result, the ITT includes key priorities championed by TfEM and EMC, including:

- Incentives for improved journey times for services on the Midland Main Line (MML), a key step towards regional aspirations (Leicester to London in 60, Nottingham in 90);
- Significant improvements in capacity for journeys to London on the MML south of Corby;
- Improvements to the quality of rolling stock elsewhere and incentives for faster and more efficient trains;
- Improved early/late evening services;
- Sunday service enhancements throughout the franchise;
- Incentives to improve services on the Derby-Crewe corridor;
- Incentives for improved seasonal services to Skegness and for special events (e.g. Nottingham Goose Fair, Lincoln Christmas Market, major sporting events);
- Incentives for improved inter-regional connectivity, for example to Cambridge, Norwich and Sheffield and beyond;
- Funding for station accessibility improvements (£2.5 million), focussed on small and medium sized stations, with incentives for additional station enhancements;
- Funding for Community Rail Partnerships;
- High quality WiFi;
- A roll out of smart ticketing, multi-modal & value for money options for commuters travelling fewer than 5 days a week;
- A neutral approach to branding independent of the franchise process;
- An ongoing role for EMC/TfEM in the management of the franchise once awarded to ensure it delivers for local people.

In addition, there will be incentives in the ITT for the franchise to deliver:

- Improved services to serve East Midlands Airport and London Luton Airport;
- Maintaining connectivity between non-London stations on the MML; and
- Re-instating peak services between Wellingborough and Bedford lost as a result of the new Thameslink timetable

**While we welcome this announcement, EMC will continue to work with DfT and the bidders to maximise the benefits for this region, particularly within the current context of low levels of transport infrastructure spending.**

The full press release is available from [here](#).

**Written statement to Parliament, East Midlands rail franchise invitation to tender** - details [here](#).

**The East Midlands Franchise Stakeholder Briefing Document** - [here](#).

## EMC Councillor Events

**Chairing and Facilitation Skills for Councillors, 26 Jun 2018** - EMC is running a half day Chairing and Facilitation Skills event for Councillors. [details [here](#)].

**Charing and Leading Scrutiny, 11 July 2018** - Rutland County Council and EMC are working in partnership to offer Chairs and aspiring Chair of scrutiny the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in scrutiny [full details [here](#)].

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## Local Government News



**Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) looks to sell County Hall to maximise income** - NCC is looking to minimise its property costs by disposing of County Hall and increasing occupancy at its corporate headquarters One Angel Square. The authority is looking to bring down its annual rental costs and generate income by sub-letting parts of One Angel Square to partner organisations and achieve best value for money from the building. The proposals are due to be discussed at a Cabinet on Tuesday 12 June, [details [here](#)].

**Recruitment process launched for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) chief executive** - NCC will launch a recruitment process to appoint a chief executive on a fixed term basis. The new chief executive will lead the county council until new unitary authorities are established through local government reform in Northamptonshire. County council leader Cllr Matthew Golby said: *“After discussions with the commissioners we will shortly be launching a recruitment process to fill the chief executive post with a fixed term appointment. We aim to conclude the recruitment process as quickly as possible.”* The full press release is available from [here](#).

**Residents, businesses and other stakeholders in Northamptonshire are invited to have their say on a re-structure of local government in the county** - The invitation follows a Best Value Report on Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), which concluded that NCC’s financial, cultural and structural problems could not be solved in isolation and recommended that plans be developed for two unitary authorities. Formal consultation on the draft proposal starts on 13 June and runs for six weeks until 24 July 2018. It will include an open questionnaire available online; paper copies will also be available, a representative telephone survey, focus groups with residents in each area as well as events with other stakeholders. Press releases are available on each of the local authorities websites in Northamptonshire, the Kettering Borough Council press release is [here](#).

**Building a Stronger Britain Together** - The counter-extremism strategy encourages partnership between the government and people involved in projects that counter extremism and build stronger communities.

The Building a Stronger Britain Together (BSBT) programme supports civil society and community organisations who work to create more resilient communities, stand up to extremism in all its forms and offer vulnerable individuals a positive alternative, regardless of race, faith, sexuality, age and gender. The programme allows organisations that share these aims to bid for in-kind support and grant funding for specific programmes that deliver goals set out in the Counter Extremism Strategy. 124 groups have been successful so far - details [here](#). For more information visit [here](#).

**LGA Councillor workbook: commissioning services** - This workbook is based on the learning and experiences derived from the LGA's Commissioning Academy programme which brings together senior commissioners from across the public sector to learn from the example of the most successful commissioning organisations, developing a cadre of professionals that are progressive in their outlook on how the public sector delivers outcomes to local communities. To access the workbook visit [here](#).

**An introduction to Commissioning for Councillors, 20 September** - EMC is holding a full day seminar on Commissioning. The objectives of a seminar are to enable councillors to develop their understanding of:

- Commissioning in the context of public sector reform
- How a commissioning council works
- Procurement, contract management and performance monitoring
- Ways in which a robust and effective procurement strategy can benefit from transparency and democratic oversight
- How contracts may be drawn up to be fit for purpose
- The benefit of early engagement with stakeholders, and techniques for this
- The role that Overview and Scrutiny can play in both the procurement process and commissioning

For more information on the Commissioning Seminar is available from [here](#).

**PwC Report ‘Local State We’re In 2018’** - PwC survey of local authority chief executives and leaders across the UK, plus a poll of over 2,000 members of the public. To read the report visit [here](#).

**Getting Public Space Protection Orders right, 5 June 2018** - Presentations from this LGA event are available from [here](#).

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## Health and Social Care



**New research into funding for adult social care published** - The Review of Adult Social Care Relative Needs Formulae proposes a new formula to be used with the Local Government Finance Settlement. For more visit [here](#).

**Case Study hosted on LGA site, Healthy Minds Lincolnshire Service - Lincolnshire County Council** - The Healthy Minds Lincolnshire Service is a partnership to support emotional wellbeing needs of young people, focusing on early intervention, promoting resilience and the prevention of emotional wellbeing concerns escalating to mental health issues [details [here](#)].

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**New powers for councils to deliver homes for local families** - Councils will receive new powers to help them deliver the homes their communities need under proposed regulations published this week. Under new rules, councils will be able to seek government's approval to launch a New Town Development Corporation, which will be responsible for delivering new towns and garden communities in their area. The new bodies themselves will be responsible for master planning and project development, bringing on board private investment, partnering with developers and overseeing the completion of a new town or garden village with each expected to deliver tens of thousands of new homes. For more visit [here](#).

**The New Towns Act 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations** - This document is a summary of consultation responses to the draft regulations, including the government response and changes that have been made in light of the consultation. For more visit [here](#).

**New Housing Director General appointed by department** - Jeremy Pocklington has been appointed the new Director General for Housing will be appointed to oversee important work to help deliver the homes for the country [[here](#)].

**Public attitudes to house building: findings from the British Social Attitudes survey 2017** - This is a report of public attitudes to house building based on questions from the British Social Attitudes survey 2017 [details [here](#)].

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## Midlands Connect

**Midlands Connect Unveils Bold 20-year Vision to Relieve Congestion on Region's Motorway Network** - A long-term vision to significantly reduce congestion on the Midlands' motorways has been unveiled by Midlands Connect, the pan-regional transport partnership, with ten recommendations to improve the 'Midlands Motorway Hub' and get the country moving faster. For more visit [here](#).

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## Employers Information

**Revised Pay Offer for Chief Officers & Chief Executives** - Today (8 June) the National Employers made a revised pay offer to Chief Executives and Chief Officers. The revised offers are available from [here](#). Representatives of Chief Executives have accepted the offer and a circular will be issued soon to confirm the agreement. Representatives of Chief Officers are yet to respond.

**East Midlands Regional Employers' Board** - The Board met on 8 June and included an update on key developments on employment issues affecting local government. Updates were provided on Local Government Pay, Employment Law developments, increases to Statutory Pay, ACAS Guidance on Religion and Belief Discrimination and Shared Parental Leave and Pay.

**Regional Joint Council** - The Regional Joint Council met on 8 June, the meeting included a presentation on Nottingham City Council's approach to supporting Care Leavers with Apprenticeship and employment opportunities.

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## EMC Events

**East Midlands Coaching Conference, 3 July 2018** - The East Midlands Coaching Network will host the 6th Annual Coaching Conference on 3 July in Melton Mowbray. The full programme for the event and to book a place visit [here](#). This years Coaching Conference will offer a focused space for coaches to develop themselves, by focusing on just three themes across the programme, extended time on each area will allow for in-depth exploration and lots of coaching practice. Our 2018 three core themes for the conference are;

- **Support for working in a one to one coaching relationship** - Structural Dynamics and Communication in Coaching
- **Support for working in a group coaching setting**, exploring what Team coaching is and how it works in practice
- **Support for coaches, with a session on Self-Care in Coaching**, where coaches will explore what happens when we forget to pay attention to this for coaches and their clients

**Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children - Age Assessment Training, 5 July** - EMC is holding a one day training event on Age Assessments for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). This practical event will cover the legislative background to asylum claims; look at the relevant guidelines applicable; look at the Merton and other relevant decisions, and the issues involved in preparation for the assessment and then the assessment itself. For more information and 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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