

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

3 NOVEMBER 2017



Housing Announcements



EM LA Challenge 2017



EMC HR Bulletin, October Edition



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers



East Midlands LA Challenge 2017

On 16 November 13 teams from local authorities in the East Midlands will take part in the East Midlands Local Authority Challenge. EMC will welcome the 13 teams, along with over 20 officers from a variety of organisations, without whom the management simulation event wouldn't be possible. Teams taking part this year are; Blaby District Council, Boston Borough Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, Compass Point Business Services, Gedling Borough Council, Kettering Borough Council, Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council, South Holland District Council and finally last years winners South Kesteven District Council. For more information on the Challenge visit [here](#).

This year the awards are;

- **East Midlands Local Authority Challenge Winners for 2017**
- **Best Chief Executive**
- **Best Residents' Magazine**
- **Best Presentation**
- **Best Partnership Working**



East Midlands Councils EMC News

Council Leaders Write to East Midlands MPs regarding Public Expenditure in the East Midlands

- In October Council Leaders in the East Midlands wrote a letter to all 46 MPs in the East Midlands highlighting concern regarding the low level of public expenditure that the East Midlands region receives. The letter invited the active support of MPs in working jointly with councils and the business sector in order to address this. This letter and offer to work with MPs in the region was highlighted on the BBC's Political Show East Midlands on Sunday 29 September. The episode can be viewed from [here](#). The letter and analysis of expenditure available [here](#).

EMC Support Activity

IT Security Network meeting - This week EMC hosted a regional IT Security network meeting, the East Midlands Government Warning, Advice, Reporting Point (EMGWARP), a network of IT Security practitioners. The meeting included a presentation from the East Midlands Special Operations Unit on Cyber crime. For more information on this network contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Development - This week EMC has held a number of development events for Councillors and Officers. Over 40 Councillors attended the Annual Policy Conference that covered areas such as Neighbourhood Planning and Housing. 12 people from across the region took part in an accredited Mediation and Conflict Resolution development programme. The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership held a workshop on 'Understanding the needs of refugee and asylum seeking children and young people' with 10 people from a cross section of different types of organisations taking part.

EMC Councillor Events

East Midlands Infrastructure Summit: Driving Growth - Investing in our Infrastructure, 27 Nov 2017 - Following a series of significant announcements on infrastructure investment in the East Midlands, East Midlands Councils and East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire) are hosting a special Summit to discuss the future of the region's transport projects and how local business growth can be maximised through their delivery [details [here](#)].

Local Government Finance, 12 Dec 2017 - The seminar will cover the emerging impact of major changes to local government finance: including the journey towards the 100% localisation of Business Rates, the end of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and the expectation of councils generating local economic growth to help fund services [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Funding for supported housing for older people to encourage building new homes - A tailored approach to protect and encourage the supply of a wide range of supported housing has been set out by government this week. All long-term housing will remain in the welfare system and a proposed 'sheltered rent' for sheltered and extra care housing will keep rent and service charge at an appropriate level, protecting the housing needs of older and vulnerable people.

Local areas will be taking a bigger role in providing short-term and emergency housing through a ring-fenced grant to local authorities by April 2020, allowing vulnerable people to access secure accommodation without worrying about meeting housing costs at a difficult point in their lives. The grant will be underpinned by a National Statement of Expectation setting out how local authorities should plan effectively for provision in their area.

The [consultation](#) on the detailed implementation of the flexible funding model for supported housing will run until 23 January 2018. For more information visit [here](#).

New guidance to ensure victims of domestic abuse can access safe social housing - New guidance to ensure victims of domestic abuse can easily access safe, long-term accommodation has been published this week.

The guidance, which is subject to a 10-week consultation, makes it clear that local authorities should treat victims of domestic abuse, currently in safe accommodation such as a refuge, as a priority for social housing. It also makes clear that those victims who have fled to refuges in other parts of the country should not be disadvantaged in accessing social housing. For more information visit [here](#).

LGA responds to Government announcement on funding proposals for supported housing - to read more visit [here](#).

Consultation outcome, Funding for supported housing - The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions published a joint consultation document 'Funding for Supported Housing' in November 2016 to seek views to design a new funding model for the supported housing sector. The government's response to the consultation is available [here](#).

Draft Tenant Fees Bill will be introduced to Parliament to ban letting fees for tenants - A new draft bill will be introduced to Parliament to ban letting fees. The [draft Tenant Fees Bill](#) will set out the government's approach to banning letting fees for tenants, helping millions of renters by bringing an end to costly upfront payments [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

Public Health England's Chief Executive Duncan Selbie's Friday message - for the latest editions of Public Health England's Chief Executive Duncan Selbie's Friday message see below;

- 3 November 2017 - available [here](#)
- 27 October 2017 available from [here](#).

Employers' Information



EMC HR Bulletin, October Edition - This month's bulletin gives information on a regional-level plan of work for EMC as an employers' organisation as well as joint work with trade unions over the forthcoming year. The learning and development section includes a snapshot of forthcoming events, including details of a webinar being provided by HMRC specifically for local government. Our round-up of all the latest information and developments nationally covers local government pay negotiations and the review of the national pay spine. This month's employment law article from Darren Newman looks at the issue of referring to previous warnings/incidents in disciplinary investigations and hearings. The bulletin [available [here](#)] include;

Negotiations - The Employers' side of the NJC for Local Government Services (Green Book) have decided to meet again in November so that any pay offer that is constructed is informed by the Chancellor's Budget announcement. A meeting will take place on 30 November, following which arrangements are likely to be made with the Joint Unions in early December to discuss a pay offer. As soon as there is any more information to share, we will keep you updated.

Pay Spine Review - Work is continuing to review the national pay spine with a view to addressing the erosion of differentials and the impact of the Government's targets for the National Living Wage. A meeting of the employers' technical sounding board will be held on 13 November 2017.

Pensions - New Automatic Enrolment brief guide - A new version of the automatic enrolment brief guide (version 7.0) is available on www.lgpsregs.org. This is a complete rewrite of the guide which aims to supplement the information provided by the Pensions Regulator (TPR). It covers automatic enrolment from the perspective of the Local Government Pension Scheme and Teachers' Pension Scheme and contains signposts to the detailed guidance available on TPR's website. The sample letters have also been updated and are now contained in a standalone document – clean and tracked version of these are also available on the website.

JNC for Coroners Circular - The LGA have produced a Coroners' Pay Circular to update authorities on their negotiations regarding the pay of Coroners following the job evaluation (JE) exercise to assess the roles set out in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. The circular can be found [here](#).

Local Government News and wider



LGA Publication, Councillor workbook: facilitation and conflict resolution - This workbook has been designed as a distance learning aid for local councillors. It is intended to provide councillors with insight and assistance with the key skills needed in relation to facilitation and conflict resolution to enable you to be effective in your role. To access visit [here](#).

LGA Publication, Councillor workbook: community leadership This workbook has been designed as a distance learning aid for local councillors. It is intended to provide councillors with insight and assistance with the key skills which will help you to be most effective in your role. To access visit [here](#).

LGA Publication, Councillor workbook: acting on climate change This workbook also includes a number of features designed to help you think about the role that you and your council can play in creating a low carbon, climate-resilient community. It includes key facts, case studies and questions to help prompt your thinking on key areas. To access visit [here](#).

Access to elections: Call for Evidence - A Call for Evidence asking for views on how people with disabilities experience registering to vote and voting itself. Please respond before 17:00 on Tuesday 14 November 2017. For more visit [here](#).

Early years funding benchmarking tool - Information on indicators of local authority (LA) early education services, and ways to compare an individual LA to other LAs. The early years funding benchmarking tool and the early years proforma covers all local authorities in England. These funding tools include projected spending in the 2017 to 2018 financial year to provide early entitlement places for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds.

Local authorities can use these tools to compare their local systems and outcomes against other local authorities. They can use these comparisons to support improvements in fairness and increase value for money [details [here](#)].

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment guidance updated - The PIP guidance now reflects a recent legal decision on the interpretation of people's needs for supervision in order to carry out activities safely [details [here](#)].

Asylum and Refugee Resettlement



New safeguarding strategy boosts support for lone child migrants - New training for foster carers announced as part of a new strategy to improve the care of unaccompanied children, to include;

- Specialist training for 1,000 foster carers and support workers to improve their skills and confidence in caring for unaccompanied child migrants;
- Updated guidance for councils on caring for unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery;
- Research to be commissioned on the effectiveness of existing support for unaccompanied children and families reunited under the Dublin Regulation and whether more help is needed

For more information visit [here](#).

LGA briefing on Local authority support for child refugees - available [here](#).

Consultation outcome Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children - The Government sought views on revised statutory guidance for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children. To access the report visit [here](#).

EMC Events

Webinar for Local Government by HMRC on IR35 - In response to concerns that EMC has raised on behalf of councils, HMRC have agreed to hold a webinar for local government on IR35, to take place on **10 November from 11am to 12 noon**. Details of how to register and take part are set out [here](#).

East Midlands PA Conference, 29 Nov 2017 - East Midlands Councils is proudly introducing a one day conference designed to support Office Managers, Secretaries, PAs, Team Administrators – in fact anyone who organises others to achieve their goals. For more information and to view the programme 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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