

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

Top items this week

11 JANUARY 2019



Asylum Support Contracts
Announced



People Conference 2019



EMC General Meeting,
1 February 2019



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

People Conference 2019: Managing and Developing People in a Changing World

6 February 2019, Melton Mowbray, 9:30 – 15:30

For the inaugural regional People Conference, the focus is on **Managing and Developing People in a Changing World**.

The Conference is an opportunity for HR, L&D and OD professionals to hear from Chief Executives, leading experts and practitioners on issues such as transformational culture change, improving performance and productivity and leadership for the 21st Century.

Chaired by Chief Executive of North West Leicestershire, Bev Smith, the programme offers a blend of thought-provoking keynote speakers and workshops, so that delegates gain insights and access practical models that help build capacity and performance within the context of change.



Keynote speakers include:

- Ed Houghton, Head of Research, CIPD
- Improving Performance Cultures; Productivity and Capacity Enhancement (PACE) - Steve Whiddett, Whe (UK)
- Developing Change-Ready, Change Capable Organisations - Dr Alison Carter, Institute for Employment Studies

Workshops include:

- Using Coaching to Develop Performance and Engagement, Trayton Vance, Coaching Focus
- Productive Places & Key Metrics led by Naomi Cook/Nigel Carruthers, LGA

Venue : Pera Business Park Nottingham Road Melton Mowbray LE13 0PB

Cost: EMC are delighted to offer an early bird option: with a free delegate place available for every delegate place booked. This offer is available for bookings made by end of Friday 18 January 2019. The cost per delegate is £175 for members of EMC; Associate Members - £210; Non-Members - £250 (Plus VAT). For more information [here](#).

East Midlands Infrastructure Summit, 8 February 2019

The Regional Infrastructure Summit will take place on 8 February 2019, hosted by Leicester City Council at City Hall, Charles Street. Leicester. Bringing together leading businesses and politicians, the East Midlands Infrastructure Summit will provide an opportunity to review progress in taking forward our joint priorities for strategic transport investment and to consider future challenges and opportunities. Further details are available [here](#).

Keynote Speakers include Sir Peter Soulsby, Chair of Transport for the East Midlands and Leicester City Mayor and Sir John Peace, Chair of Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect.

The Agenda for the Summit will include;

Infrastructure investment as a driver of economic growth presentations, including;

- The A46 Corridor: Simon Statham, Head of Technical Programmes, Midlands Connect
- Midlands Connect Rail Programme: Stephen Pauling, Head of Rail, Midlands Connect

Future proofing our transport networks presentations, including;

- Connectivity to HS2: Andrew Pritchard, East Midlands Councils and Transport for the East Midlands
- Growing East Midlands Airport: Karen Smart, MD

The event is free to attend, places are fully subsidised for members and partners of EMC, to book a place, please email Lois Dale lois.dale@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC News

EMC General Meeting - the EMC General meeting will take place on 1 February 2019 at Nottinghamshire County Council. The agenda will be available in due course, all councillors are welcome to attend.

East Midlands Councils Job Vacancies, Regional Migration Manager - EMC is now offering an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills and attributes to strategically lead the management and delivery of migration programmes. For more information visit [here](#). Apply by 25 January 2019.

EMC Councillor Events

Writing Press Releases, 26 Feb 2019 - EMC is holding a full day workshop for Councillors and Officers on Writing Press Releases. Whether you're an officer or a councillor, a well written news release can get you in the editorial media for free. But how you actually write that news release can make the difference between success and failure. For more information on this workshop visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



James Brokenshire prioritises social houses for former servicemen and women with PTSD - Former service personnel suffering from PTSD or other mental illnesses will be prioritised for social housing under proposals published for consultation by Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP. The new measures will also help people who divorce or separate from their partners in the Armed Forces by exempting them from rules requiring them to be a local resident before being given a property. Council staff will also get extra training so they can give current and former Armed Forces personnel the housing support they need. An 8-week [consultation](#) on the new rules started this week, more information visit [here](#).

Health & Social Care

The NHS Long Term Plan: 10 key public health points - [The NHS Long Term Plan](#) (LTP) aims to relieve pressure on services and ensure sustainability for future years. There are a multitude of aims and initiatives within the 136 page document; this blog gives a brief overview of the key public health priorities [details [here](#)].

Department for Work and Pensions



£2.7 million fund to tackle parental conflict - A £2.7 million fund to increase support for disadvantaged families at risk of parental conflict has been announced by the Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance.

£1.1 million of funding for projects to support families at a greater risk of parental conflict - Parental conflict could be caused by a range of complex issues experienced by families, including debt trouble, divorce and mental health issues. Projects will look at new solutions to address parental conflict as part of these wider family challenges.

Innovation might include suggestions on how local services can work together better or targeted interventions for families.

£1.6 million of funding for digital support to help parents find help online - Pioneering approaches are needed to better improve access to digital support for families at risk of parental conflict.

Grant participants will be asked to develop creative solutions which target digital help at parents with low digital skills and who live in low income and workless households.

The Reducing Parental Conflict Challenge Fund is part of a wider programme which encourages councils across England to integrate approaches addressing parental conflict into their local services for families.

Eligible bidders could include local authorities, digital organisations, organisations from the public and private sector, voluntary and community organisations, and social enterprises [details [here](#)].

Asylum and Refugee Resettlement



Asylum Support Contracts Announced - The Home Office has announced the new contractual arrangements for asylum support this week (The Ministerial statement can be found [here](#)). In summary:

- Serco have been awarded the contract for Initial Accommodation, Dispersed Accommodation, Transport and associated Support Services [[press statement](#)].
- Migrant Help have been awarded the single, national contract for Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Assistance services [[statement here](#)]

The **East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership** is working with the Home Office and the awarded providers to establish regional delivery boards to support the transition to these new arrangements and will keep members informed as this develops.

Employers' Issues

LGA Apprenticeships Survey 2019 - This week the LGA has launched their annual apprenticeships survey of the sector. The survey will be open until 5pm on Monday 11 February, links to the survey will be sent directly to local authorities, further information will be included in the EMC HR Bulletin published later this month.

Local Government News



Corby to agree official response to SoS's unitary consultation - Later this month, Corby Borough Council will agree the way in which the Borough responds to the Secretary of State's consultation on unitary proposals for Northamptonshire.

Corby councillors will meet at a Full Council meeting due to take place at 7pm on Wednesday 16th January.

After consultation with residents and businesses in Corby, the Borough Council decided back in August 2018 not to sign up to the proposals of unitary councils to be created which was submitted to the Secretary of State by the seven other Northamptonshire local authorities.

The recommended response to the consultation that is being put forward to Full Council will reiterate the Council's position that it continues to want to remain as distinct principal local authority, and it does not support the submission made by the other seven principal authorities in the county.

The Leader of Corby Borough Council, Cllr Tom Beattie, said:

'We have always been clear that we do not support the unitary proposals, we believe that there are benefits from current and future joint working arrangements that can be achieved without Unitarisation.

'That being said if this is what is decided by the Secretary of State we will of course continue to work with the other Northamptonshire local authorities to ensure that our residents get the best possible outcome and services that they deserve. We do believe, however, that in order to achieve a successful reorganisation of this scale that the proposed vesting day of 1st April 2020 is extended and this is proposed within our recommended response and proposed 'Evolutionary Model'.'

The full report and recommendations going to Full Council is available from [here](#). To read the press release visit [here](#).

People asked to take part in Northamptonshire County Council's budget scrutiny process - People are being asked to speak and ask questions about any area of Northamptonshire County Council's draft budget at an extra scrutiny committee meeting later this month. For more visit [here](#).

Developing an approach to mandatory CCTV in taxis and PHVs - The LGA has developed this guidance to bring together some of the questions that authorities may want to consider if they are thinking about introducing a mandatory CCTV policy for licenced vehicles in their area [access the guidance [here](#)].

Local auditor reporting in England 2018 - The number of NHS and local government bodies with weaknesses in their arrangements for delivering value for money is increasing according to a National Audit Office report published this week.

This National Audit Office report describes the local audit landscape; summarises the issues being reported by local auditors, and how these have changed over time; and examines how local bodies, central government departments and arm's-length bodies use the information to address the weaknesses reported. The report is available from [here](#).

EMC Events



Commercial Awareness Programme, 23 Jan 2019 - This modular programme is offered by EMC in partnership with NEREO to operational managers in public services to support them in becoming more commercially aware when looking for opportunities to trade their service both internally and outside the organisation. There are six modules, which take four days to complete and two half day Action

Learning set meetings. For more information visit [here](#).

Negotiation Skills, 13 Feb 2019 - EMC is holding a full day workshop on Negotiation skills. The workshop will help managers 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. For more information or to book a place 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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