

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

Top items this week

21 DECEMBER 2017



Local Government Finance Settlement



2017 Round up and look forward to 2018



EMC HR Bulletin



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from East Midlands Councils

EMC would like to thank councillors and officers from all local councils across the region for their support over the past year. We continue to make progress in a number of areas; whether it be through securing greater influence on strategic initiatives like HS2 and Midlands Connect, or supporting councils respond to asylum and refugee resettlement challenges, or providing advice on HR and organisational change. EMC will also continue its efforts to provide members and officers with access to briefing events, skills development and wider CPD. In 2017 over 236 councillors have participated in our member events, and 1,650 officers have participated in EMC development programmes.

Achievements in 2017

- **Launched HS2 Growth Strategy** - working in partnership with the region's local authorities, businesses and Local Enterprise Partnerships, the *East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy* was published in September 2017, revealing how the planned high speed rail network could add thousands of jobs and billions of pounds to the region's economy.
- **Launched Transport for the East Midlands**, which brings together senior leaders from the region's local transport authorities under the auspices of East Midlands Councils to provide regional leadership on strategic transport issues for the East Midlands.
- **East Midlands Rail Franchise** - EMC is working as a core partner to DfT on the re-franchising, with the objective of ensuring that future rail services better meet the needs of businesses and communities across the region. Initial work including our response to DfT consultation is available [here](#).
- Resettled 112 refugees from Syria as part of the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (Official ONS data from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017). 414 refugees have been resettled from Syria in the East Midlands since 2015.
- Resettled over 60 vulnerable children as part of the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.
- Lobbied the Home Office on the need for full-cost recovery in supporting UASC - including the publication of the national exemplar report on identifying the actual costs incurred by local authorities in supporting UASC.
- Held the second **East Midlands Local Authority Challenge** in the East Midlands, with over 100 people taking part; South Kesteven District Council were crowned Challenge winner for the second year running.
- Launched the regional **Housing Officer CPD programme**.
- Held the first **East Midlands PA Conference**.
- East Midlands Infrastructure summit on the 27 November, where Council Leaders, business representatives and MPs in the region signed the **East Midlands Declaration on Infrastructure Funding**, committing to work closely together to increase investment into our region.
- Launched a new look **East Midlands Jobs** website.
- Provided over **220 hours of development** to councillors and officers, across our summit events, network meetings, continuing professional development events and workshops.

Things to look out for early in 2018

- Infrastructure and Public Investment Priorities.
- Regional Summit 'Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery' in March 2018.
- **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** - this comes into effect in May 2018, to support members EMC is organising an event for HR on GDPR, this will be a practical workshop on the implications of GDPR for HR, taking place in February 2018.

Local Government Finance Settlement 2018/19 Announcement

The provisional local government finance settlement has set out local authorities' core funding allocations for the forthcoming financial year. In effect, it's the Government's plan for how it will fund local services both now and in the future. Following a period of consultation, the final settlement will be announced – likely February 2018.

The money local government has to operate its key services is running out fast and it is estimated that councils face an overall £5.8 billion funding gap in just two years.

The statement made to Parliament by available [here](#).

Summary of announcements

100% retention pilots

- Interest in the scheme was such that DLG will now be taking forward twice as many as planned a total of 10 additional pilot areas, with two in the East Midlands; Derbyshire and Lincolnshire
- The first batch of pilots are taking place largely in urban authorities; the second wave will mainly cover counties.

New Homes Bonus

- New Homes Bonus baseline will be maintained at 0.4%.
- Councils that fail to achieve housing growth above this baseline will not receive any bonus payments.

Dealing with Negative Revenue Support Grant

- Having considered responses to the technical consultation in the summer around the issue of 'negative RSG' in 2018 to 2019, following the delay in implementing full business rates retention after the election, Mr Javid confirmed that the government will be looking at fair and affordable options for dealing with this ahead of consulting on proposals before next year's settlement.

Rural Services Delivery Grant

- Confirmed an increase to the Rural Services Delivery Grant by £15 million in 2018 to 2019. This means the overall additional funding for rural authorities will remain at £65 million for the remainder of the 4-year settlement.

Review of relative needs and resources

- The Communities Secretary has also published a [consultation on the fair funding review](#), that aims to implement a new system based on its findings in 2020 to 2021.

Capital receipts

- The Communities Secretary confirmed that the flexibility to use capital receipts to help meet the revenue costs of transformation will be extended for a further 3 years to April 2022.

Council Tax

- Councils able to increase their core Council Tax requirement by an additional 1% without a local referendum (to now stand as 3% in line with inflation).

Police Funding

- Police Funding for 2018/19; Government funds £50m for counter terrorism and £130m for national priorities
- Police and Crime Commissioners to be given the power to raise the precept by up to £12 per household p.a.



EMC News

East Midlands LA Challenge, Feedback Reports - Last week teams that took part in the East Midlands Local Authority Challenge were sent their 'Challenge Feedback reports', where assessment scores and feedback from partners involved in the delivery were collated to provide teams with a picture of how they performed on the day.

Part of the day included an information gathering piece with Challenge sponsors Arvato. Teams were tasked with meeting with Arvato to find out more about Robotic Process Automation, big data and "chatbots" and how these technologies could help them meet their challenges. Strategic planning, identifying cost savings and freeing up employees to focus on more value-added work were a large part of what teams were required to think about and some teams built these new technologies into their future efficiency plans. For more information on our sponsor Arvato's Robotic Process Automation visit [here](#).

EMC Councillor Events

Negotiation Skills for Councillors, 07 Feb 2018 - EMC is offering a half day workshop for Councillors on Negotiation Skills on 7 February 2018 [details [here](#)]. 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.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Interim report into the Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety - The Chair of an independent review into building regulations and fire safety has found that a "universal shift in culture" is required to rebuild trust amongst residents of high-rise buildings and significantly improve the way that fire safety is assured [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



EMC HR Bulletin, December Edition - This month's bulletin shares information from a study of mediation and early conciliation that EMC was involved in. The learning and development section provides information on events taking place in the New Year, including a workshop on the implications of HR for GDPR – which will be practical in its focus. We are aiming to hold this in late February and will let you know when a date is finalised.

All of the developments in national pay negotiations are set out in our national news round-up, which also includes new guidance on gender pay gap reporting for teachers and term-time only staff. Employment Law expert Darren Newman's article looks at the recent ruling on paid holiday entitlement, and its implications for the calculation of holiday pay as well as entitlement to untaken leave. The HR Bulletin is available from [here](#).

Personal Resilience - The Bulletin provides details of an EMC developed workshop exploring personal resilience. The Building Resilience Workshop uses the context of Myers Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI) to explore Personal Resilience. The workshop has already been provided in-house for a number of authorities, with positive feedback.

It is delivered as a two part programme, the first part helps delegates to understand themselves better, using MBTI as a framework. The second session uses these insights to explore and understand the impact of preferences in relation to managing pressure, linked to the challenges of their role, not least in relation to workloads and resources. For more information visit [here](#).

Gender Pay Gap Reporting Guidance: Teacher & Term-Time Only Calculations - At the request of the LGA, Acas and the Government Equalities Office have revised their guidance on gender pay gap reporting so that it now includes examples on how to calculate weekly hours for teacher and term time only workers (see pages 30-31). The Acas guide on Managing Gender Pay Reporting is available from [here](#).

CEEP UK News Alert - 18 December 2017 - The latest version of the CEEP UK News Alert is available from [here](#).

Local Government News

Council features in primetime TV's 'Employable Me' - Rushcliffe Borough Council focus as an employer comes into the spotlight in a primetime television documentary aired this week on BBC2 (on Monday 18 December), the Rushcliffe Borough Council press release is available [here](#).

Asylum and Refugee Resettlement

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing, December 2017 - The latest edition of the Briefing is available [here](#). This edition includes the latest immigration statistics released along with information on the National Transfer Scheme Data, that the Home Office has recently published on local authority participation in the National Transfer Scheme since its introduction in July 2016.

EMC Events



Negotiation Skills for Officers, 07 Feb 2018 - EMC is offering a half day workshop for Officers on Negotiation Skills on 7 February 2018 [details [here](#)]. 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.

Employment Law Update, 08 Mar 2018 - EMC is holding its annual Employment Law event on 8 March, with Employment Law expert Darren Newman. This event is aimed at senior HR and Legal professionals in the public sector and Elected Members with Portfolio responsibility for HR.

EMC are delighted to be able to offer authorities the opportunity to take advantage of an early bird offer, if you book a place before the end of January the cost per delegate is just £99 + VAT for EMC members (saving £76 per place). More information is available from [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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