

POLICY BRIEFING FOR EMC MEMBERS: 10 FEBRUARY 2012

Planning & Transport (Officer Contact: andrew.pritchard@emcouncils.gov.uk)

Following the Secretary of State for Transport's announcement of the Government's decision to proceed with HS2, EMC has written out to Chief Executives of Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships in the East Midlands inviting them to attend a **briefing session being run by DfT** on 13 February in Melton Mowbray to discuss how the project is taken forward. The session will gauge ideas on how engagement might work at a strategic level to ensure the region gets the most out of opportunities that HS2 will bring. If your authority has not already done so please confirm who from your organisation will attend the event by emailing bridget.redwood@emcouncils.gov.uk. If you have any questions regarding HS2 ahead of the event, please contact Satish.luhar@dft.gsi.gov.uk.

A reminder that the Planning Advisory Service still has places remaining on its free event **Strategic Planning: Making the New Arrangements Work for You** on 9 March 2012 (am only) at LG House in London. The event is aimed at councillors to help them use strategic planning powers to secure investment. For booking details please [click here](#).

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Norman Baker, has announced a **£15million growth package for cycling and walking measures** to support economic growth, help cut carbon and promote healthier lifestyles, which will support the objectives of the £560million Local Sustainable Transport Fund. The projects will be implemented through Sustrans and the Cycle Rail Working Group. Further details are available [from DfT](#).

A reminder that the next **Planning Low Cost CPD event**, 'Specialisms in Planning' will take place on the 23 February in Melton Mowbray. Issues covered will include ground stability, archaeology, sport, art and public realm, ecology and the habitats regulations. A full programme of events is being planned for 2012/13, the first of which, 'Brave New World?' on 26 April, will be chaired by Mike Braithwaite of the Central Lincolnshire JPU and will take an in-depth look at the Government's planning reforms. For more information contact moria.hunt@emcouncils.gov.uk.

Housing (Officer Contact: cathy.jones@emcouncils.gov.uk)

Managing Empty Properties in the Private Sector – on 25th April EMC is hosting a one-day course which will provide attendees with the skills, knowledge and techniques to deploy the various options for managing empty properties, which can then be progressed through from advice and support to enforcement and outcomes. The course will be delivered by the Chartered Institute of Housing. Click [here](#) for further details or to book a place.

The National Housing Federation East Midlands are holding a Conference on 9 March **Investing in East Midlands Communities** at Leicester Tigers Stadium. The Conference will look at the different opportunities for harnessing investment in the region to build the homes needed and develop communities. Speakers from the HCA, Tenant Services Authority, LEPs and the Shadow Minister for Care and Older People, Liz Kendall, will give their perspectives. A limited number of free places are being offered to local authority leaders or lead members for housing, planning or regeneration as well as lead housing officers. Contact michelle.monks@housing.org.uk for further details and a booking form or click [here](#).

Public Health (Officer Contact: cathy.jones@emcouncils.gov.uk)

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has published the first estimates of **funding in the new health structure** which will see doctors, nurses and other health professionals controlling almost £65 billion of NHS funding. In addition, around £5.2 billion will be spent on public health services. Of this, at least £2.2 billion will go direct to upper tier Local Authorities to help local communities stay as healthy as possible and to reduce health inequalities. Baseline estimates [have been published](#) which provide local authorities and emerging clinical commissioning groups (CCG) with the information they need to support planning for the commissioning responsibilities they will take on.

Climate Change & Sustainable Development (Officer Contact: mike.peverill@emcouncils.gov.uk)

The LGA are holding three consultation events for councils around the country to discuss ways forward on the issue of **climate resilience** following the launch of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment last month. One of these is in Leicester at the Orange Rooms on Friday 24th February where Cllr Rory Palmer, Leicester's Deputy Mayor and Peter Williams, Head of Environmental Management, Leicestershire County Council will be speaking. Portfolio Holders, members, senior officers and managers are invited to participate and help maintain the East

Midlands' profile and progress on this increasingly important issue. Contact jessica.david@local.gov.uk to book.

Local Government Policy: (Officer Contact: stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk)

Mary Portas and Local Government Minister Grant Shapps have launched a competition to choose 12 towns to become 'Portas Pilots', with the winners benefiting from a share of **£1 million to help turn around their high streets**. Further details, including a link to the application form are available on [DCLG's website](#).

Following last year's announcement by Communities secretary Eric Pickles on the **Weekly Collection Support Scheme** - a challenge fund which makes up to £250million available to support local authorities in delivering weekly collections of household waste and recycling - Councils are now being asked to submit an expression of interest by mid March, with initial bids sent in May and full bids by August. The fund is open to local authorities that wish to introduce, reinstate or retain weekly collections of household waste. This prospectus containing the information that authorities will need to complete an outline bid is available [from DCLG](#).

As reported in last week's brief, East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership is following up the recent **performance management benchmarking seminar** and will work with councils over the coming months to develop, alongside LG Inform, some common performance measurements to aid benchmarking. A letter was sent to Chief Executives earlier this week and can be found [here](#).

The **East Midlands Heritage Forum**, chaired by English Heritage, which gives a united voice for the historic environment in the region, is seeking a senior representative on behalf of local government. The role would suit anyone with an interest in the historic environment and experience of its role in place making, planning, culture and local strategy. For further information on what the role involves please contact paul.bodenham@english-heritage.org.uk. Expressions of interest in the role should be sent to lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk.

A **full meeting of East Midlands Councils** was held on 2 February. Members received presentations from Cllr David Sprason, Leicestershire County Council on the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission on Funding of Care and Support, followed by Cllr Andrew Lewer, LGA Deputy Chair and Leader of Derbyshire County Council outlining the services the LGA can offer to local authorities. Shona Johnstone, Vice Chair of the LGA Economy and Transport Board and Ron Lynch from the Institute of Directors then gave their perspectives on Economic Growth. Also a reminder that Cllr Parsons asked member councils to highlight the issues they would like to see EMC focus on over the next 12 months as it develops its Business Plan. Please send your authorities' views to stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk. The papers and presentations from the EMC meeting are available [here](#).

Other EMC Events

Staying Brilliant - 28 February 2012: This workshop aims to build on the excellent habits from 'The Art of Being Brilliant', reviewing progress to date and taking the messages one step further. The aim is to stop the slide back into bad habits and instill permanent change.

Report Writing - 28 March 2012: East Midlands Councils is holding a one day report writing skills seminar taking place on 28 March 2012 at our offices in Melton Mowbray.

For further information on these events or to book your place please use this link to [EMC's website](#) or contact lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk.

EMC Management Group

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