

POLICY BRIEFING FOR EMC MEMBERS: 9 DECEMBER 2011

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

Transport Secretary Justine Greening has confirmed that the formal announcement on whether to proceed with the proposed **HS2 rail link**, which was due to be made in December 2011, will now be made in January 2012. Part of the proposed 'Y' shaped network will link the East Midlands with South Yorkshire, Birmingham and London. For information please contact andrew.pritchard@emcouncils.gov.uk.

Section 110 of the Localism Act sets out a new '**duty to co-operate**' which applies to all local planning authorities, national park authorities and county councils in England. EMC's Director of Policy & Infrastructure has been working with colleagues at the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) to develop a programme of work to help councils implement the new duty. A Q&A has been published on the PAS website [here](#). A series of dissemination and learning events are planned for the early part of 2012 including an event in Leicester on 28 February. For more information visit the PAS [events page](#).

East Midlands Councils will be holding the next **Planning Low Cost CPD** event 'Specialisms in Planning' on the 23 February 2012 in Melton Mowbray. For more information, please contact moira.hunt@emcouncils.gov.uk.

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

EMC hosted a topical seminar on the **Government's housing strategy, 'Laying the Foundations'** on 8th December. Nick Stripe, Policy Advisor, Housing Strategy and Cross-Cutting Policy (DCLG) and Henry Cleary, Adviser to the Growth Best Practice Network, addressed the seminar which was attended by housing and planning colleagues from local authorities across the region. The slides from the seminar are available [here](#).

Economic Development, Skills & Education (Officer Contact: peter.williams@emcouncils.gov.uk)

The Communities of Practice: Local Economic Growth Network is holding its December online debate on the **Growth Review** following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement 2011 on Thursday 15 December between 9.00-10.00am. The debate is to be chaired by Professor Glyn Owen – former director of the Policy Research Centre at Sheffield Business School. For full details of the debate and how to join the Network please click [here](#).

EMC held a seminar to discuss the **Work Programme** on 7 December which was sponsored by the two principal Work Programme providers – A4e and Ingeus. Delegates from around 20 local authorities across the region had the opportunity to meet representatives from Jobcentre Plus and the providers on a one to one basis. It is hoped the seminar will provide a first step in helping local authorities to fully play their part in the delivery of the Work Programme. Presentations from the event are available [here](#).

The Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has announced an extra **£1 billion boost to the Regional Growth Fund**, taking it to £2.4 billion in total and enabling it to support around half a million jobs. At least two further rounds of bidding will follow, the first taking place in February 2012. Further details are available [here](#). EMC will be discussing the opportunities this presents for the region at its next meeting of LEP co-ordinators on 17 January.

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

An Audit Commission briefing has found significant differences in the types of care received by people aged 65 and over across the country. It shows that despite the strong focus on improving joint working across the NHS and social care, progress remains patchy. The briefing offers guidance to local partnerships, setting out a list of questions to consider, and suggestions for interventions that might help. '**Joining Up Health and Social Care**' is available on the Audit Commission's [website](#).

The Department of Health have published **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and joint health and wellbeing strategies explained** to support emerging health and wellbeing boards as they engage with the refresh of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and develop their preparatory joint health and wellbeing strategy. The document is available [here](#).

The Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has set out a series of measures aimed at improving patient results and giving patients more control over their healthcare. These include the publication of the **NHS Outcomes Framework 2012/13**; a new **map of local health services**; and a new **map of GP practices**. The NHS will now be measured against a number of areas including whether a patient's treatment was successful, whether they were well looked after and how quickly they recovered after treatment. Further details are available from the [Department of Health](#).

Employers' Issues (Officer Contact: sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk)

EMC are pleased to welcome marketing expert Marie Fitzgerald who will be working with the team leading on **East Midlands Jobs**, the one stop website for public sector jobs in the East Midlands. Over the next few months, Marie, whose work is funded through EM IEP's income generation programme, will be seeking new subscribers to the portal in order to keep costs down for our local authority members. Marie may well be in touch with your authority both to discuss your own membership, but also to identify potential non-local government subscribers in your area. For more information on East Midlands Jobs, please contact emjobs@emcouncils.gov.uk or visit www.eastmidlandsjobs.org.uk.

The Audit Commission and LGA have jointly launched **Work in progress: Meeting local needs with lower workforce costs**. Aimed at councils as employers, the joint report shows how local authorities across England are reducing their workforce costs, with some finding creative solutions. The Report is available [here](#). EMC have been asked by DCLG to host a meeting of finance directors/treasurers on the future of local audit and will be taking this forward early in the new year. For further information contact alison.neal@emcouncils.gov.uk.

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

A series of **Local Climate Impact Profiles** for the cities and counties of the East Midlands have just been published, revealing some of the impacts and consequences of extreme weather on local authorities, their partners and the people they serve. They were developed by the councils as a first step towards getting ready for the future climate and can be accessed from the Climate East Midlands website www.climate-em.org.uk. Printed copies can also be requested from mike.peverill@emcouncils.gov.uk.

Local Government Policy: (Officer Contact: jan.sensier@emcouncils.gov.uk)

The Government has published the **draft Local Government Finance Settlement 2012-13**. Please follow this [link](#) to a letter to Chief Executives, consultation paper, ministerial statement, tables of grants, special and specific grant allocations and other supporting material including a plain English guide to formula grant distribution.

The Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has launched '**City Deals**' which will give England's eight core cities, including Nottingham, and their surrounding eight Local Enterprise Partnership areas, greater control over the money they receive from central Government in return for "strong and accountable leadership, improved efficiency and outcomes and an innovative approach". Details of the additional powers and benefits are available [here](#).

The LGA have published its **Winter Readiness Survey 2011-12** which shows councils continuing to improve their resilience for this year's winter gritting season. The majority of councils (51%) had ordered more stocks of salt with 85% having now received the amount required. The full survey is available [from the LGA](#).

Other EMC Events

Time Management - 12 January 2012: East Midlands Councils is holding a one day Time Management workshop taking place on 12 January at our offices in Melton Mowbray. The emphasis is on people developing an action plan, with practical tasks and habit changes, to which they feel committed.

Presentation Skills - 14 February 2012: This is a very practical workshop and participants will develop a work-related presentation throughout the day - there are opportunities to practice the ideas, with feedback. There is input on planning, structure, visual aids, being memorable, personal presentation and handling an audience – a great combination of theory, practice and creativity.

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.

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