

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

Top items this week

17 AUGUST 2018



Housing News

Northamptonshire Local Government

Reform Proposal

31 August 2018

Northamptonshire



East Midlands Scrutiny Network



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Proposals for the future of governance in Northamptonshire

Following a county-wide consultation exercise, a proposed submission has been drafted by all eight authorities in Northamptonshire. This will be discussed by councillors at meetings across the county, week commencing 27 August.

The Reform Proposal states;

*“We believe that the option that best meets the criteria set out in the then Secretary of State’s invitation on 27 March 2018 is for two councils across Northamptonshire: one in the north to cover the area of four district/borough councils (population: 343.6k) and one in the west to cover the area of the three borough/district councils (population: 402.0k)”.*

- North Unitary area - East Northamptonshire, Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough
- West Unitary area - Daventry, Northampton, South Northamptonshire

### Consultation Summary

“The consultation commissioned by the councils has demonstrated widespread public support for the restructuring of local government in Northamptonshire, although the specific proposal for two unitaries received varying degrees of support. The quantitative consultation showed overwhelming support for reducing the number of councils and for unitary authorities in principle. The representative residents’ survey found majority support for two unitary councils, both across the county and in the proposed West and North Northants areas. The open questionnaire supported the principle of unitary councils and showed widespread support for two unitary councils in North Northants (except in Corby); but there was majority opposition to two unitary councils by respondents in West Northants (who preferred three unitaries). Six of seven focus groups and two business forums supported the proposal for two unitary councils. The two parish and town council forums supported unitary authorities in principle, with one supporting two unitary councils while the other strongly supported three. The submissions supported unitary councils, but they were divided on the appropriate number”.

To access all the papers please visit [here](#).

**Northamptonshire County Council has agreed its core spending priorities at a Full Council meeting last Thursday’s (9 August 2018) as part of its budget recovery programme** - To read the full press release visit [here](#).

**Update on review of Northamptonshire library service** - The decision to close 21 council-run libraries in Northamptonshire was made unlawfully, a court has ruled this week. The decision had been to close 21 out of its 31 libraries as part of an effort to find £70m in savings. The press release is available from [here](#).



**EMC News**  
**MHCLG Secretary of State visits Toton HS2 Site** - East Midlands Councils welcomed the MHCLG Secretary of State, James Brokenshire, Sir John Peace, Chairman Midlands Engine and Elizabeth Fagan, Chair D2N2 LEP in a tour of the proposed HS2 Hub Station site at Toton. Cllrs Kay Cutts, Jon Collins and Richard Jackson were able to update the Secretary of State on the region’s plans and ambitions for HS2 growth and connectivity - emphasising how this region’s HS2 station will be the most connected outside of London and how this will be supported by plans for the development of an innovation campus and network of garden villages.

**Government guidance on overview and scrutiny to be published in December** - The Centre for Public Scrutiny is working with MHCLG to produce guidance on the operation of local authority overview and scrutiny, which is expected to be published during December. As part of this work, the CfPS will be attending the next **East Midlands Scrutiny Network meeting on Friday 28 September at Blaby District Council**. For more information contact [Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk). For more information from the Centre for Public Scrutiny visit [here](#).

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## EMC Councillor Events

**Chairing and Effective Meetings** - The workshop is for new and continuing chairs of committee, it will be interactive, drawing on people's experience and insights from the tutor to lead into group work [details [here](#)].

- **Wednesday 19 September 2018. 5.30 pm – 8 pm.** Venue: Rutland County Council, Oakham
- **Friday 21 September 2018. 9.30 am – 12 noon.** Venue: East Midlands Councils, Melton Mowbray

**An Introduction to Commissioning for Elected Members, 20 September 2018** - EMC is offering Councillors in the East Midlands the opportunity to take part in an introduction to commissioning workshop for elected members [[here](#)].

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

**Social housing green paper: a 'new deal' for social housing** - The social housing green paper – published this week aims to rebalance the relationship between residents and landlords, tackle stigma and ensure that social housing can be both a stable base that supports people when they need it and support social mobility. The consultation launched this week will run until 6 November 2018.

The green paper sets out 5 core themes: Tackling stigma and celebrating thriving communities, Expanding supply and supporting home ownership, Effective resolution of complaints, Empowering residents and strengthening the regulator and Ensuring homes are safe and decent. For more visit [here](#).

**James Brokenshire plans increase in garden towns** - Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP calls for an increase in garden towns in England, as he announces the new garden communities programme. The launch this week signals the start of a 3 month application process, with successful garden community proposals being announced later in the New Year [details [here](#)].

**LGA Publication 'Speeding up delivery: Learning from councils enabling timely build-out of high quality housing'** - This report highlights some distinctive projects and innovative practices that are being used in a number of different development contexts [details [here](#)].

**James Brokenshire launches £200 million pilot to boost social home ownership** - The Midlands Voluntary Right to Buy Pilot has been launched this week [details [here](#)].

**Rough sleeping strategy: prevention, intervention, recovery** - Up to 6,000 vulnerable people will receive rapid specialist assessments and support under new measures in the government's [rough sleeping strategy](#). For more visit [here](#).

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## Local Government News

**Lincolnshire County Council** - Richard Wills, Lincolnshire CC's executive director of environment and economy, has announced he will retire from the authority at the end of 30 September 2018.

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## Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

**Home Office launches review into modern slavery and labour exploitation** - The Home Affairs Committee has agreed to undertake an inquiry looking at what progress has been made in the three years since the Modern Slavery Act came into force and what more remains to be done. The deadline for responses is 7 September and the EM Anti-human trafficking Partnership is considering its response. For more visit [here](#).

**Controlling Migration Fund: prospectus** - This prospectus explains how local authorities can access the Controlling Migration Fund [details [here](#)]. The Controlling Migration Fund is designed to support local areas facing pressures linked to recent immigration.

**Resettlement: policy statement** - Overview of the Home Office's resettlement policies and the main resettlement schemes. For more information visit [here](#).

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## Health and Social Care

**Addressing health inequalities in the East Midlands** - PHE's [evidence report](#) on health inequalities in the East Midlands provides a regional view of this challenge, and the ways in which local public health teams can work more systematically towards improving health and wellbeing for the population of their region. To access visit [here](#).

**Health Economics** - the latest edition of PHE's [Health Matters](#), a resource for local authorities, commissioners and healthcare professionals. To access this visit [here](#).

**Making it easier to get employee wellbeing right** - a Public Health England publication available [here](#).

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## 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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