

EMC POLICY BRIEF

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

Top items this week

1 DECEMBER 2017



Industrial Strategy



Social Mobility Commission



EMC HR Bulletin - November 2017



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

The Social Mobility Commission and 'State of the Nation' Report

The effect of chronic underinvestment in the region was perhaps emphasised by the publication SMC's 5th 'State of the Nation' report (available [here](#)). It paints a grim picture for the region and highlights a striking geographical divide with London and its surrounding areas pulling away from the rest of the country, while many other parts of the country are being left behind economically and hollowed out socially.

The key findings of the State of the Nation report:

- London accounts for nearly two-thirds of all social mobility hotspots.
- The East Midlands is the region with the worst outcomes for those children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Half of the local authority areas in the East Midlands are social mobility coldspots ([summary here](#)).
- Newark & Sherwood is ranked 323 out of 324; and 10 areas in the East Midlands are within the bottom 20 ranked places (note - county level figures are not provided, the data is disaggregated to unitary and district level).
- There is no simple north-south divide; hotspots and coldspots are found in almost every part of the country.
- There is also no direct correlation between the affluence of an area and its ability to sustain high levels of social mobility.

Of particular interest to this region are the three big challenges that have not featured as priorities for successive Governments:

- The decline and subsequent adjustment from traditional industries that has left a legacy of low skills and low aspirations.
- Poor educational performance over decades.
- Under-investment in infrastructure which has resulted in poor connectivity and economic productivity.

Following on the Autumn Budget announcement, the publication of the Industrial Strategy and the region's infrastructure summit meeting on the 27 November, followed by the release of the SMC's report; there is now a credible and compelling body of evidence that confirms the lack of investment in the region, the overall effect of this and therefore the need to identify specific actions to address this.

East Midlands Declaration on Infrastructure Funding

At the East Midlands Infrastructure Summit on 27 November 2017, Cllr Kay Cutts, Leader Nottinghamshire County Council, Cllr Roger Blaney, Leader Newark & Sherwood District Council, Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor, Leicester City Council; Rt. Hon Nicky Morgan MP, Lilian Greenwood MP, Sir John Peace, Chairman, Midlands Engine; and Natalie Gasson, Chair, East Midlands Business Forum signed the East Midlands Declaration on Infrastructure Funding.

The Declaration is available [here](#).

The summit was held by EMC working jointly with East Midlands Chambers of Commerce. With the backing of CBI, the Institute of Directors and the Federation of Small Businesses, it was perhaps the first example of where all regional business organisations and local authorities have held a joint event – and goes some way to show the strength of commitment to improve upon the current investment levels.

Over 100 people attended the event with key note speakers including MPs, Local Authorities and leading business representatives from the road, rail and airport sectors.

The event gave a renewed emphasis on the importance of an effective and focused collective approach and progress will be reported in the coming weeks.

November. Members continue to work with the Home Office in emphasising the need for an increase in financial support for UASC given the significant pressures already placed on Children's Services. A further consideration is the cost of missing UASC on Police and Local Authorities and EMC is now working with the Police to fully understand these costs. The Government published the latest data on migration, asylum and UASC transfers – the data release is [here](#). EMC will provide a narrative to this data next week.

HS2 Strategic Board - The HS2 Strategic Board met on 1 December. The Board considered; the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy Press Launch and the media coverage from 3 October. The Board received updates on the Delivery Body Proposal and the East Midlands Priorities for Phase 2b Hybrid Bill.

Transport for the East Midlands - The Transport for the East Midlands met on 1 December. The Board considered; Defining a 'Major Road Network' for the Midlands and the emerging East Midlands Proposition, the East Midlands Rail Franchise and the emerging proposition for TfEM Franchise Management role. The next meeting will take place on 7 March 2018.

EMC Executive Board - The EMC Executive Board will meet on 8 December, the papers are available from [here](#).

EMC Support Activity

Coaching Support - In recent weeks EMC has supported a number of authorities with their coaching needs, through the East Midlands Coaching Network, our in house qualified coaches and our pool of independent Coach from outside of local government. For more information contact Kirsty Lowe kirsty.lowe@emouncils.gov.uk

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



HS2: Getting the best out of Britain - This week HS2 Ltd. has published a new report, **HS2: Getting the best out of Britain** [available [here](#)]. This report considers how the improved connectivity HS2 provides will be a catalyst for economic growth outside London and the South East, rebalancing the economy and supporting industrial growth. The findings are based on a number of workshops held with business, local authorities and universities across the country. Alongside the main report, we

have published a series of summary documents, focusing on different regions in Britain that will be served by HS2. These summary documents are available [here](#), the Getting the Best out of the Midlands report is available [here](#).

Secretary of State Meeting - Following a joint letter sent at the end of July 2017 and the intervention of Sir John Peace, a meeting was secured with the Secretary of State on the 30th November 2017 which was attended by Sir Peter Soulsby as Chair of TfEM and Cllr Kay Cutts MBE, with Andrew Pritchard in attendance.

HS2 East - The UK's Golden Thread - An independent technical report published today by HS2 East has concluded that over 60% of the wider economic benefits of Phase 2 will be delivered on the eastern leg of HS2.

The high speed connection will unlock potential, creating additional jobs and opportunities to benefit millions of residents in the surrounding regions.

The greater connectivity between city regions will also boost productivity. The greater connectivity between Leeds, Sheffield, East Midlands and Birmingham will provide a powerful super-economy of eight million people and four million jobs.

HS2 will be the new backbone of the national rail network, linking London, Birmingham, the East Midlands, Leeds and Manchester. The eastern leg will drive local economic growth by bringing the towns and cities of the Midlands and North closer together, consequently improving connectivity to Scotland and providing a total economic uplift of £717m annually.

Freeing up capacity on other lines will improve regional and local rail services, and release capacity for freight, reducing numbers of lorries on motorways. To access the press release visit [here](#).

The Industrial Strategy White Paper - On 27 November 2017 the Government published its Industrial Strategy White Paper (available [here](#)). Of particular note is the proposal for the development and agreement of Local Industrial Strategies that build on local strengths and deliver on economic opportunities:

- It is LEPs, not Local Government, which will be responsible for the development of the Local Economic Strategies.
- The Local Industrial Strategies will be developed locally and agreed with the government.
- The Strategies will help identify priorities to improve skills, increase innovation and enhance infrastructure, productivity and business growth. This will guide the use of local funding streams and any spending from national schemes.
- The first Local Industrial Strategies will be agreed by March 2019.

With little reference to the role of Local Authorities in shaping the economy of local place, there is concern as to how the capacity, local leadership and commitment of councils to deliver local economic growth has seemingly been overlooked.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing continued

Strategic vision for rail - Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has this week set out a new vision for our railways, including plans to end the operational divide between track and train and an evolution of the franchising system. Changes to the franchising system include: DfT will publish an invitation for tender in 2018 for the franchise on the Midland Mainline between London and Sheffield, which will also be operated by a joint team [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



EMC HR Bulletin, November Edition - The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is available from [here](#). This month the Bulletin provides an update on national pay developments, following announcements on increases to the National Living Wage and Living Wage Foundation rate. It also provides a link to slides from the recent HRMC webinar on IR35.

The learning and development section includes the results of this year's East Midlands Local Authority Challenge, along with other recent events and details of our forthcoming coaching workshop – a coaching tools “boot camp” taking place on 7 December. Employment Law Expert Darren Newman's article this month looks at employers' obligations to check an employee's right to work in the UK.

CEEP UK News Alert - 24 November 2017 - In this issue [available from [here](#)]; European Commission launches European Semester, proposes taking UK out of Excessive Deficit Procedure and CEEP Public Services Board: Interview Questionnaire on SME Definition Evaluation.

Local Government News and wider



Government to lead national effort to end rough sleeping - Communities Secretary Sajid Javid has set out details of a new Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel that will help develop a national strategy as part of the government's commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminate it altogether by 2027 [details [here](#)].

Interim cyber security science and technology strategy - An interim strategy for future-proofing cyber security [details [here](#)].

The LGAs National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP) - is a development programme for high-calibre graduates wishing to pursue a career in management in local government and offers councils a unique opportunity to grow their own local government leaders. A brochure on the programme with further information can be found [here](#). Registration for councils who are interested in taking part in the scheme is [now open](#), closing in March 2018. For further information on how you can apply as a council please contact: ngdp@local.gov.uk

Health & Social Care

Public Health England Chief Executive Duncan Selbie's Friday Message - available from [here](#).

EMC Councillor Events

Local Government Finance, 12 Dec 2017 - The seminar will cover the emerging impact of major changes to local government finance: including the journey towards the 100% localisation of Business Rates, the end of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and the expectation of councils generating local economic growth to help fund services [details [here](#)].

EMC Officer Events

Coaching Tools Boot Camp, 7 December 2017 - This workshop will focus on tools used within coaching sessions. Facilitated by experienced executive coach Cathy Lasher the workshop will help to develop coaches knowledge and skills when using coaching tools, enabling coaches to have access to a variety of different tools and understand when they are most effective. For more information 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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