

# 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

20 OCTOBER 2017



Housing Updates



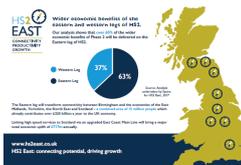
HS2 East



Vacancy for Programme Manager - Strategic Infrastructure



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers



## HS2 East

Councils Leaders, LEPs and businesses from the Midlands, Yorkshire, the North East and Scotland met for an HS2 East event at the House of Commons on Tuesday 17 October to press the case for the rapid delivery of the Eastern leg of HS2 and improved high speed rail links to Scotland. The event was hosted by Lilian Greenwood, MP for Nottingham South and Chair of the Transport Select Committee, and highlighted new research which showed that over **60% of the wider economic benefits of HS2 Phase 2 will be delivered on the Eastern Leg**. The event was covered by BBC East Midlands and included an interview with Lilian Greenwood MP.

## Council Leaders Write to East Midlands MPs regarding Public Expenditure in the East Midlands

In a letter to all 46 MPs in the East Midlands, Council Leaders in the region have highlighted concern regarding the low level of public expenditure that the East Midlands region receives. The letter invites the active support of MPs in working jointly with councils and the business sector in order to address this. We hope to progress this at the Summit meeting on the 27th November.

The letter details that total expenditure on services has fallen in the East Midlands. It remains consistently below the national average and that of the competitors, with the Northern Powerhouse area £980 per head better funded than the East Midlands. The West Midlands, at a little over £500 per head better off, fares comparably well too. The recent trend has worsened rather than improved. A copy of the letter and analysis of expenditure can be viewed [here](#).



## East Midlands Councils EMC News

**Job Alert: Vacancy for Programme Manager - Strategic Infrastructure** - EMC is offering a fixed term or secondment opportunity as Programme Manager to support its responsibilities for strategic infrastructure and policy, particularly relating to strategic transport priorities. For more information visit [here](#), the deadline for applications is 27 October 2017.

**East Midlands Infrastructure Summit: Driving Growth - Investing in our Infrastructure, 27 Nov 2017** - Following a series of significant announcements on infrastructure investment in the East Midlands, not least the recently announced cancellation of the Midland Mainline Electrification, East Midlands Councils and East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire) will host a special Summit to discuss the future of the region's transport projects and how local business growth can be maximised through their delivery. **Sir John Peace, Chair of Midlands Engine** will be one of the keynote speakers. For more information on the event and speakers visit [here](#).

## EMC Support Activity

**Rail Forum East Midlands Annual Conference** - This week Andrew Pritchard, Director of Policy & Infrastructure at EMC spoke at the Rail Forum East Midlands Annual Conference 'Industrial Strategy in Brexit Britain: Midlands Rail Powering the Economy'. Andrew's presentation focused on East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy and East Midlands Rail Franchise Competition.

## EMC Councillor Events - Development opportunities for members of EMC

**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 visit [here](#)].

**Policy Update Event for Councillors, 3 November** - EMC is holding its annual Policy Update Event for Councillors in the East Midlands on Friday 3 November 2017 [details [here](#)]. The event will include;

- **Homelessness Reduction Act 2017** and what this means for Local Authorities
- Overview of the latest developments in **planning** and the key future considerations, an overview of the law relating to **Neighbourhood Planning** and a case study on the Radcliffe on Trent **neighbourhood plan**.

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## Infrastructure

**Government invests £350 million improving local roads** - 76 projects from across the country have been awarded funding totaling £244 million to bring key benefits to local road users - such as improving access to public transport sites, opening up more roads for cyclists, addressing key local traffic 'pinch points' and supporting the development of new housing [details available from [here](#)]. In the East Midlands schemes to benefit from National Productivity Investment Fund are;

- **Derby City Council** - Derby Bus Station extension, awarded £3.60m
- **Leicestershire County Council** - Hinckley Hub Sub-Package (Part of Hinckley Area Project Zone 4), awarded £3.48
- **Leicester City Council** - Leicester Urban Congestion Bus Pinch Point Improvement Project, awarded £2.00
- **Leicester City Council** - Leicester Putney Road West (new Transport Link) Project, awarded £3.43m
- **Nottingham City Council** - Delivering Contactless Bankers Card and Mobile Phone Payment across Nottingham's Public Transport Network and the Wider City Region, awarded £2.40m
- **Lincolnshire County Council** - A46 Lincoln Road, Welton, Lincoln, awarded £2.00m
- **Derbyshire County Council** - Highways hub advanced real time information, awarded £2.45m
- **Northamptonshire County Council** - Cliftonville Corridor, awarded £1.81m

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## Housing & Homelessness



**Nottingham City Council set to go ahead with £8.4m high rise safety programme** - Nottingham City Council is set to press ahead with an £8.4 million programme of sprinkler installations and other safety measures in 13 high rise blocks. The press release from Nottingham City Council details that none of the Council's residential high rise blocks have the same cladding suspected of being a major factor in the Grenfell fire. However following the tragedy, Nottingham City Homes, which manages the Council's social housing, carried out a comprehensive review of fire safety in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), and also consulted extensively with tenants [more information [here](#)].

As a result, a number of safety measures have been recommended in a report due to be discussed by the Council's Executive Board on 24 October, including: Fitting sprinklers in all high rise communal areas and homes, Replacing intercom systems, Installing a Public Address system linking to new intercoms and alter the operation of existing fire alarm systems and update and improve processes and procedures.

**Plans announced for new measures to help create a fairer property management system that works for everyone** - Plans for new measures to help create a fairer property management system that works for everyone have been announced this week. For more visit [here](#).

**Government actions a further step in homeless prevention** - New guidance to make sure local authorities intervene earlier to help prevent families and individuals becoming homeless in the first place has been published this week. The guidance, which is subject to an [8-week consultation](#), sets out how local councils should implement the [Homelessness Reduction Act](#), due to come into effect in April 2018. For more visit [here](#).

**Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities** - Consultation on the draft homelessness code of guidance document from government to local authorities. As part of the Act's implementation the government is revising the existing statutory code of guidance. This will provide updated guidance to local authorities on how they should exercise their homelessness functions and apply the legislation in practice. For more information visit [here](#).

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## Local Government News



**Watch video of CLG Scrutiny inquiry evidence session** - The first formal evidence gathering session of the Communities and Local Government Committee investigation into local government scrutiny was held on 16 October 2017. The full video can be watch via this link [here](#).

**Watch video of Transport Select Committee** - chaired by Lilian Greenwood MP, with Secretary of State for Transport, Rt, Hon. Chris Grayling MP. The full video can be watch via this link [here](#).

**House of Lords debate on the future availability of resources for the provision of district council services in two-tier areas** - On Thursday 19 October 2017 the House of Lords held a debate on the future availability of resources for the provision of district council services in two-tier areas. For more visit [here](#).

**Councils need more funding to protect against big rise in cyber attacks** - The LGA is leading on a bid to the Cabinet Office for funding for councils to build the sector's incident management capabilities to respond to cyber attacks [more [here](#)]. EMC coordinates the **East Midlands Government Warning, Advice, Reporting Point (EMGWARP)**, which is a network of local authorities that meet quarterly and discuss IT and cyber security issues affecting local authorities. At a National Cyber Security Centre / WARP meeting this week Government WARPS were asked for their input into how funding could be used to assist with incident management. The EMGWARP has asked network members for feedback on; how funding could be used to assist us with incident management and help local authorities with other cyber security issues? This will then be shared with the LGA, for information contact [Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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## Welfare Reform



**DWP customer phone lines to become Freephone** - The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has announced this week that the DWP customer telephone lines will be changed to Freephone numbers. For more visit [here](#).

**Universal Credit transition to full service** - Local authorities and jobcentre areas that will transition to the full Universal Credit service. This schedule sets out the latest planning assumptions for sites that will transition to the full Universal Credit service [available [here](#)]. In the East Midlands;

- **October 2017** - Rutland County Council, South Kesteven District Council
- **November 2017** - Chesterfield Borough Council
- **December 2017** - Bassetlaw District Council
- **February 2018** - East Northamptonshire Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, North West Leicestershire District Council
- **March 2018** - Blaby District Council, City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, Leicester City Council, Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
- **April 2018** - Charnwood Borough Council, Derby City Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, South Holland District Council
- **May 2018** - Boston Borough Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, East Lindsey District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, West Lindsey District Council
- **June 2018** - Nottingham City Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council
- **July 2018** - Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Northamptonshire Council
- **August 2018** - Ashfield District Council, Bolsover District Council, South Derbyshire District Council

**Improving lives: Helping Workless Families, evidence base** - This research is the evidence base that supports the 'Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families' publication. The analysis and research pack sets out the comprehensive evidence base that supports [Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families](#) [available [here](#)]. The [local data report](#) that presents data on the factors of disadvantage and children's outcomes at a local level, through a local government data tool LG Inform [available [here](#)].

## Health & Social Care

**Chief Social Worker for Adults at the Department of Health - Major adult social work survey launches in England** - A [survey has just launched](#) to find out which research areas ought to be prioritised to further improve social work in England. The survey will be open until January 2018 and the results of the Priority Setting Partnership will be released later in 2018 [details [here](#)].

**Public Health England's Chief Executive Duncan Selbie's Friday Message** - The latest message published today is available [here](#). This week's edition includes details of a new local authority public health [dashboard](#), aimed at supporting local politicians and senior council officers in their decision making on a range of public health responsibilities. The areas covered include the best start in life, child obesity, drug and alcohol treatment, NHS Health Checks, sexual health services and tobacco control. This is an initial version and we are looking for feedback on how to improve this for a final design to be published next summer.

## EMC Events

**East Midlands PA Conference, 29 Nov 2017** - EMC is hosting a one day conference designed to support Office Managers, Secretaries, PAs, Team Administrators. The event will include a choice of workshops on; Perfect Minutes, Understanding yourself and Influencing [details [here](#)].

**CPD Programme for Environmental Health Officers, 09 Nov 2017** - The fourth event in the 2017/18 programme will focus on Public Health. Presentations will include; Updates to Gastro-intestinal Operational Guidelines and Investigation and Management of Hepatitis A Outbreaks in workplaces [details [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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