

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

## Top items this week



EMC Job Vacancies, Regional Migration Manager



Merry Christmas from EMC



EMC HR Bulletin, December 2018



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

21 DECEMBER 2018



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from East Midlands Councils

EMC would like to thank councillors and officers from all local councils across the region for their support over the past year. We continue to make progress in a number of areas; whether it be through securing greater influence on strategic initiatives including HS2, Midlands Engine & Midlands Connect, the region's rail franchise or supporting councils respond to asylum and refugee resettlement challenges, or providing advice on HR and organisational change. EMC will also continue its efforts to provide members and officers with access to briefing events, skills development and wider CPD. In 2018 over 130 councillors have participated in our member events, and 1,400 officer places taken up in EMC development programmes.

### Achievements in 2018

#### Infrastructure priorities for the East Midlands

- Transport for the East Midlands and Midlands Connect jointly published the 'A shared vision for the East Midlands', a common set of 6 key strategic transport priorities for the East Midlands.
- East Midlands Councils and D2N2 secured an additional **£1.8 million** to help take forward local plans to make the most of HS2 in the East Midlands in Toton.
- **East Midlands Rail Franchise** Transport for the East Midlands/EMC have been working in partnership with the Department for Transport to influence the franchise specification. During 2018 EMC met with all three franchise bidders led by Cllr Roger Blaney.

#### Refugee Resettlement

- Resettled 145 refugees as part of the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (Official ONS data from 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2018). 592 refugees have been resettled in the East Midlands since 2015.
- Resettled some 20 vulnerable children in 2018 as part of the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, and more than 80 since the inception of the Scheme in 2016.

#### Providing HR and Learning and Development Support

- GDPR came into force in May 2018, over 100 people attended the EMC GDPR workshops that were held throughout 2018, exploring the implications of GDPR and what authorities and Councillors need to consider.
- Councillors and officers received over 220 hours of development, across our summit events, network meetings, continuing professional development events and workshops.
- The **East Midlands Coaching Network** has welcomed two additional network members in 2018. There are now 12 member authorities of the East Midlands Coaching Network, who share reciprocal access to coaching.
- Developed the popular Agile Working Workshop, supporting with a number of local authorities EMC colleagues have delivered workshops exploring new ways of working and flexible modern working practices to aid individual and organisational work performance in a changing world.
- Supporting our local authorities in implementing the new National Pay Spine has been a key area of our work throughout 2018. We have delivered 4 workshops, that have explored; pay modelling, equality impact assessments and consulting and negotiating locally to implement change.
- EMC has supported authorities with the design, delivery and facilitation of recruitment assessment centres, including for a large Graduate Recruitment Programme, as well as psychometric testing for a range of role.

### Things to look out for early in 2019

- Chair of Transport for the East Midlands Sir Peter Soulsby will meet with the Secretary of State Chris Grayling on 6 February with Sir John Peace, Chairman of Midlands Connect.
- EMC People Conference, 6 February 2019.
- East Midlands Infrastructure Summit, 8 February 2019.
- HS2 Phase 2b Parliamentary Event on 24 January 2019 & HS2 East Parliamentary Event on 6 March 2019.
- East Midlands Rail Franchise decision, spring 2019.

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## EMC News

**East Midlands Councils Job Vacancies, Regional Migration Manager** - The East Midlands has a leading role in working with Government to put in place equitable and effective arrangements for asylum and refugee resettlement.

East Midlands Councils is now offering an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills and attributes to strategically lead the management and delivery of migration programmes.

As the region's principal adviser on matters relating to asylum and refugee resettlement, the Regional Migration Manager will be responsible for building and maintaining strong partnerships with Home Office, East Midlands local authorities and partner organisations. For more information visit [here](#). Apply by *25 January 2019*

**This month we are saying a sad farewell to Sarah Short** - Sarah has been an HR & Development Manager at EMC for more than 10 years and in that time has provided a range of support for networks and organisations across the region. She has also led on the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, which has been held up as a best practice example. We will be sorry to see Sarah leave us, but wish her well in her new role.

## EMC Councillor Events

**East Midlands Infrastructure Summit 2019** - The Regional Infrastructure Summit will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019, hosted by Leicester City Council at City Hall, Charles Street, Leicester. Bringing together leading businesses and politicians, the East Midlands Infrastructure Summit will provide an opportunity to review progress in taking forward our joint priorities for strategic transport investment and to consider future challenges and opportunities. Details [here](#).

**Writing Press Releases, 26 Feb 2019** - EMC is holding a full day workshop for Councillors and Officers on Writing Press Releases. Whether you're an officer or a councillor, a well written news release can get you in the editorial media for free. But how you actually write that news release can make the difference between success and failure. So this workshop has been designed (and updated for the social media world) to help hone the perfect news release. It's aimed at anyone who'd like a bit of publicity for their authority or department but can't afford advertising or the services of an expensive PR company. For more information on this workshop visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Major Road Network Guidance** - The Department for Transport has published the Major Road Network Guidance. They have also published a response to the consultation that was released in December 2017, details available via the links below.

- [Guidance: Major Road Network and Large Local Majors programmes investment planning](#)
- [Consultation outcome: Proposals for the creation of a Major Road Network](#)

The Midlands Connect response is available from [here](#).

**Rapid Rehousing Pathway: Somewhere Safe to Stay early adopters** - MHCLG is launching the Rapid Rehousing Pathway, announced as part of the [Rough Sleeping Strategy](#). MGCLG has announced the 11 areas who will be early adopters of the Somewhere Safe to Stay rapid assessment hub model. The areas will also be providing funding for Navigators, Supported Lettings, and Local Lettings Agencies, where a need for these additional elements has been identified. The 11 early adopters of the Somewhere Safe to Stay model are: **Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council**

**Brokenshire introduces tougher regulatory system for building safety** - A stronger and more effective regulatory framework is being introduced to improve building safety [details [here](#)].

**Aviation 2050, the future of UK aviation** - The Department for Transport is seeking feedback on its green paper which outlines proposals for a new aviation strategy. The strategy will set out the challenges and opportunities for aviation to 2050 and beyond and will emphasise the significance of aviation to the UK economy and regional growth. A final white paper version of the aviation strategy will be published by the middle of 2019.

**Transport for the East Midlands** will discuss a regional response at its March 2019 meeting.

**New partnership programme will 'help cities to plan for the future'** - The National Infrastructure Commission has launched a partnership programme for cities and city regions across the country, to help local leaders develop long-term strategies that link transport, housing and job opportunities [\[here\]](#).

Five cities and city regions have been selected to work with the Commission, to benefit from expert advice as they develop strategies to improve local transport connections, unlock job opportunities and deliver much-needed new homes. In the East Midlands;

**Derby** – who want to develop a new growth plan to improve transport, employment and housing in the area, all while also improving air quality and the city's environmental impact [details [here](#)].

**The High Street Report** - This report contains the recommendations of the High Streets Expert [details [here](#)].

**Government welcomes landmark law which will improve the safety of tenants** - A new law that will help to boost standards in rented homes and give tenants more powers to hold their landlord to account [details [here](#)].

**Houses in multiple occupation and residential property licensing reform: guidance for local housing authorities** - This document has been prepared as a guide for local housing authorities to help them understand how to implement the reforms to houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licensing [details [here](#)].

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## Employers' Information

**EMC HR Bulletin, December 2018 Edition** - The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin [details [here](#)] covers:-

- Apprenticeship, including Apprenticeship Standard in Health & Care Intelligence
- A summary of the events in the region over the coming months that will be of particular interest to the HR community, such as the East Midlands LA Challenge, Employment Law Update and our People Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> February
- Darren Newman's article on suspension following allegations of misconduct
- A round-up of national information, including EU Settlement Scheme pilot and Eversheds 1-page summary of the possible implications of deal or no-deal scenarios from an employment and immigration law perspective.

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## Local Government News

**New conversations: a two-year refresh of the LGA's engagement guide, 12 February 2019** - This event sees the launch of a newly refreshed version of New Conversations, with guidance updated and new tools added. This is an opportunity for relevant officers and politicians to get a first look at the new toolkit. For more information visit [here](#).

**Resources and waste strategy for England** - This strategy sets out how we will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England [details [here](#)].

**Letter from the Secretary of State to local authorities** - This announcement contains details of an increase to high needs funding for the financial years 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020, as well as an increase in SEN capital funding [details [here](#)].

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## Migration, Asylum and Refugee Resettlement

**Government failing asylum seekers housed in "degrading" accommodation** - In its report on Asylum accommodation the Home Affairs Committee say the Home Office needs to show greater urgency about the degrading conditions in which vulnerable people are being housed, including torture survivors, individuals suffering from PTSD, pregnant women and mothers with small children. The Committee recommends the transfer of inspection duties currently carried out by the Home Office to local authorities, including the ability to impose sanctions [details [here](#)].

**The UK's future skills-based immigration system** - The future skills-based immigration system white paper sets out the government's plans to introduce a new single immigration system, ending free movement [details [here](#)].

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## Health & Social Care

**Children's Services Commissioning and Procurement Group** - The next event for local authority commissioners and procurement professionals will take place on 10 January 2019. Please contact [grace.abel@local.gov.uk](mailto:grace.abel@local.gov.uk) if you are able to attend and if you have any special requirements.

**Health Matters: Reducing health inequalities in mental illness** - The latest edition of [Health Matters](#), PHE's professional resource. This edition focuses on some of the actions that local areas can take to reduce health inequalities experienced by people living with mental illness, so that they achieve the same health outcomes and life expectancy as the rest of the population [details [here](#)].

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## EMC Events

**Commercial Awareness Programme, 23 Jan 2019** - This modular programme is offered by EMC in partnership with NEREO to operational managers in public services to support them in becoming more commercially aware when looking for opportunities to trade their service both internally and outside the organisation. There are six modules, which take four days to complete and two half day Action Learning set meetings. For more information visit [here](#).

**Negotiation Skills, 13 Feb 2019** - EMC is holding a full day workshop on Negotiation skills. This full day workshop will help managers to understand what negotiation is, and is not, in the business world. It will give them practical skills to enable them to prepare for a negotiation scenario, weighing up variables and anticipating challenges along the way. For more information or to book a place visit [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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