

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

Top items this week

22 FEBRUARY 2019



Easier Fares For All



Reporting of Key Issues to  
MHCLG



Action Learning Facilitation



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## The Reporting of Key Issues to MHCLG

Alongside the recent announcement of funding, MHCLG have put in place arrangements to improve their engagement with local authorities through the establishment of 'regional hubs' for the sharing of emerging local and regional issues, predicted and actual impacts, and sector readiness.

These regional hubs or networks are intended to improve the flow of information, they are not co-responsible for preparations across each region, and they do not replace the reporting and co-ordinating activity of Local Resilience Forums. They are intended to provide a strategic view of the key issues facing councils, as well as new issues that are emerging or changing. This could include key priorities and emerging issues for the region, or if there are particular local authorities or areas experiencing cumulative pressures with a focus on:

- Priority concerns/barriers to preparedness which need immediate escalation in Whitehall
- Medium-longer term scenarios (e.g. concerns about supply chains)
- Feedback on Whitehall communications to councils

MHCLG has requested that this information is provided on a weekly basis. Informed by responses from Local Authority Chief Executives, EMC is co-ordinating this consultative function and will ensure that any information fed through to MHCLG is comprehensive and reflective of priorities of councils across the region.



## EMC News

**Low Cost CPD for Planners, 7 Feb 2019, Planning, Design and Place Making** - EMC had a great turnout of over 100 Planners at the recent event at its event held in conjunction with Opun and

The Design Network. The emphasis of the day was to explore both policies and processes aimed at promoting excellence in design quality and place making. Speakers included Andy Von Bradsky, MHCLG; Grant Butterworth, Leicester City Council; Dan Roberts, Homes England and Stefan Kruczkowski, Urban Design Doctor Limited. Delegates also had the opportunity to test their visualisation skills: from plan to place in an afternoon workshop. A copy of the presentations can be found [here](#).

## EMC Boards Activity

**HS2 Strategic Board** - 25 February 2019

**East Midlands Regional Employers' Board** - 6 March 2019

**East Midlands Strategic Migration Board** - 12 March 2019

**Transport for the East Midlands** - 18 March 2019

## EMC Support Activity

**Action Learning Facilitation** - Next week EMC colleagues will support an authority with a half day workshop on Action Learning. The workshop will explore the principles, skills and practicalities of action learning.

This practical workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to experience action learning, as well as an opportunity to work on a problem using the action learning principles or learning by doing. For more information on the support that EMC can provide on Action Learning, contact [kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Councillor Events

**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. For more information on this workshop visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Businesses and organisations throughout the Midlands are being invited to join a powerful new group, Team Midlands** - The Midlands Engine has launched the initiative to help build momentum and unity behind the region's growth ambitions and to help drive inward investment.

At this stage, the partnership is seeking expression of interest from companies and organisations who all share a passion for making the Midlands a thriving and vibrant economy. The simple online form provides interested parties the opportunity to shape the "deal".

Once the "ask" and the "offer" have been defined, the Midlands Engine Partnership will launch the full Team Midlands programme. This will allow organisations to join forces to bang the drum loudly to jointly promote projects and initiatives in the Midlands that showcase growth [details [here](#)].

### Easier Fares for All

Britain's rail companies have published radical proposals to overhaul the country's fares system, making it easier to use and bringing it up to date with how people travel today. The report 'Easier Fares for All' can be found [here](#). The proposals represent industry's first contribution to the Williams Review with a call for preparatory work to begin now including government, industry and passenger groups reviewing regulation as well as a series of real-world trials to support a rolling programme of reform across Britain over the next three to five years.

### Midlands Connect Strategic Board

The Midlands Connect Strategic Board met on the 20<sup>th</sup> February in Birmingham, with the East Midlands represented by Cllr Jon Collins, Cllr Kay Cutts MBE and Cllr Simon Spencer. The Board discussed feedback from the recent meeting with the Secretary of State Chris Grayling MP, the need to increase campaigning activity in support of HS2 and emerging investment priorities for the Major Road Network. The Board will next meet on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in Leicester.



## Local Government News

**Councillor workbook: engaging with young people** - This LGA workbook has been designed as a learning aid for councillors to assist them with the effective engagement of young people and the organisations representing them within their ward [details [here](#)].

**New guidance on taxi licensing to protect passengers** - Passengers in taxis and minicabs could be kept safer under strict new licensing guidelines planned by the Department for Transport.

The government has [launched a consultation](#) this week on robust new rules for licensing authorities outlining how they should use their powers to protect vulnerable passengers from harm [details [here](#)].

**LGA Leadership Essentials: Prevent and counter extremism - 26 & 27 March 2019, Darlington** - This LGA bespoke free two-day residential course has been developed to explore local government's role in Prevent and counter extremism. Building on the highly regarded LGA Prevent and counter-extremism leadership essentials programmes, this bespoke event will provide an opportunity for elected members to learn with colleagues in a confidential, non-party political environment. The programme will explore a range of themes including national and local approaches to Prevent delivery and counter extremism work; local threats; understanding radicalisation and effective safeguarding; emerging challenges from far-right extremism; and community engagement. The course is open to all elected members and is fully subsidised. For more information or to book a place on this event please contact: Grace Collins, [grace.collins@local.gov.uk](mailto:grace.collins@local.gov.uk)

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**EMC Events Writing for Results - how to write documents that get the results you want! 27 Mar 2019** - EMC is holding a one day workshop on writing and producing documents on 27 March 2019 [details [here](#)].



**Employment Law Update, 13 Mar 2019** - EMC's popular Employment Law event will take place on 13 March, covering all the topical issues and developments, tailored to local government [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 CBE  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Mayor Kate Allsop  
  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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