

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

Top items this week

29 JUNE 2018



Housing Updates



Rushcliffe Borough  
Council - Commercial Council



EMC HR Bulletin, June Edition



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## Rushcliffe Borough Council named Best Commercial Council at the MJ Awards 2018

The MJ Awards 2018 took place this week. EMC would like to congratulate Rushcliffe Borough Council in the East Midlands for their Best Commercial Council Award. It followed the Council collecting the Entrepreneurial Council of the Year award at the Local Government Chronicle Awards in March.

The Rushcliffe Borough Council Best Commercial Council submission is available from [here](#).

**Leader of the Council Cllr Simon Robinson** said: *"We are exceptionally proud to have collected another award and be recognised at a national level. Local Government leaders continue to agree with us when we state being entrepreneurs and commercially minded is in our DNA as councillors and staff. Like the LGC accolade, this award will inspire us further to deliver value for money services with the help of careful commercial projects for the benefit of our residents."*

To see all award winners across all categories visit [here](#).

## EMC Boards Activity



**EMC Annual General Meeting (AGM)** - East Midlands Councils AGM will take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July at Nottinghamshire County Council. All councillors and Chief Executives are invited to [attend](#). Included within the agenda is a presentation by Glen Garrod, President of the Association of the Directors of Adult Social Services on the increasing pressures facing adult

social care and the delay of the social care green paper. Members will also be updated on levels of public investment into the region and how we are seeking to influence HM Treasury and DfT in advance of the Autumn Budget. The agenda can be found [here](#).

## EMC News

**East Midlands Scrutiny Network** - The East Midlands Scrutiny Network meet on 22 June 2018. At this meeting Cllr Karl Reid, Bolsover District Council was appointed chair, along with Cllr Lucy Stephenson, Rutland County Council who was appointed as Vice Chair. The next network meeting will take place on 28 September at Blaby District Council. For more information on the network contact [kirsty.love@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.love@emcouncils.gov.uk)

**East Midlands Councillor Development Network** - This week EMC has confirmed the date of the next East Midlands Councillor Development Network meeting, which will take place on 26 September, 10am at Newark and Sherwood District Council. The focus of this network meeting will be on planning for Induction post 2019 local government elections. For more information on the network contact [kirsty.love@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.love@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Support

**Low Cost CPD for Environmental Health Officers, Health and Safety Event , 21 June 2018** - Over 100 Environmental Health Officers attended a Health and Safety event last week. The event was part of the Low Cost CPD Programme for Environmental Health Officers that EMC has delivered for the last 9 years. Delegates received presentations on infection risks associated with invasive salon treatments, reflection on the smoke free legislation and Musculoskeletal Injuries. Delegates described the event as "an excellent day and thought the Manual Handling and Fork Lift Truck training was excellent." The next event will take place on 27 September and will focus on Food Safety.

## EMC Councillor Events

**Charing and Leading Scrutiny, 11 Jul 2018** - Rutland County Council and East Midlands Councils are working in partnership to offer Chairs and aspiring Chairs of Scrutiny the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in scrutiny. For more information on the programme for the event visit [here](#).

**An Introduction to Commissioning for Elected Members, 20 Sep 2018** - EMC is offering Councillors in the East Midlands the opportunity to take part in an introduction to commissioning workshop for elected members [details [here](#)]. The objectives of the workshop include to develop councillors' understanding of; commissioning in the context of public sector reform, how a commissioning council works, contract management and performance monitoring and ways in which a robust and effective procurement strategy can benefit from transparency and democratic oversight.

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Rail Investment**—The Transport Select Committee published its **4<sup>th</sup> report into rail investment** on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. The report calls on Government to address regional disparities in transport investment and questions the rationale for cancelling the electrification of the Midland Main Line – recommending that the scheme is reclassified as ‘pending’. The Chair of the Select Committee Lilian Greenwood MP said: *“The Treasury’s own data shows that spending per head in London in 2016/17 was more than ten times that of the East Midlands. Regional economies will never be able to catch up with London while such inequalities exist”*

**East Coast Main Line APPG** - The East Coast Main Line APPG met in Westminster on Tuesday 26<sup>st</sup> June for the second time since last year’s General Election, Chaired by Catherine Mckinnell MP and with Cllr Chris Brewis from Lincolnshire County Council and Andrew Pritchard from EMC in attendance. Rail Minister Jo Johnson MP gave an update on the emerging proposals for new public/private East Coast Partnership, the introduction of new rolling stock and the completion of current infrastructure improvements.

**Brokenshire confirms social housing investment boost** - A multi-billion pound boost to social housing across England has been confirmed by Secretary of State for Communities this week. Around 23,000 new affordable homes will be delivered through a £1.67 billion government investment deal. This will include at least 12,500 social rent homes in high cost areas in a move to support families struggling to pay their rent.

The Communities Secretary also heralded a new generation of council housing by inviting local authorities to bid for a share of £1 billion extra borrowing to build much-needed homes. This £1 billion borrowing cap rise will be split equally between London and the rest of England. For more information visit [here](#).

**Analysis from independent review into building homes published** - A review of house building has called for changes to the current system to ensure new homes are built faster and for thousands more British bricklayers to be trained to help meet government targets. Sir Oliver Letwin was commissioned by the government to examine what could be done to speed up the slow rate of house building on major sites. His [study](#), published this week, warns developers are slowing the system down by limiting the number of new built homes that are released for sale at any one time. For more information visit [here](#).

**Housing 'how to' guides** - This collection brings together the government's 'how to' guides for the private rented sector in England [available [here](#)]. The guides are aimed at tenants, landlords and leaseholders.

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## Employers’ Information



**EMC HR Bulletin** - The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin can be found [here](#). Employment Law expert Darren Newman’s article focuses on Employment Status. This month’s editions covers;

- Chief Executive’s Pay Agreement
- Chief Officers’ Pay Negotiations
- Social Work Regulatory Body

**National Pay Spine Update** - EMC recently held a workshop for HR Officers from councils across the region to discuss the implications of implementing the new national pay spine for local government from April 2019. The workshop was well-attended and well-received by those who participated. The questions and issues raised at the event were used to inform the development of national technical advice which is available from [here](#).

**Social Work Regulatory Body** - This month the Government published information on the new professional regulatory body being established for social workers. **Social Work England** will have public protection as its primary purpose. It will set professional, education and training standards for social workers, hold the register and provide assurance that those registered meet the standards, are qualified and remain fit to practise. It is expected that Social Work England will start its regulation role from Spring 2019. The current regulator is the Health & Care Professions Council and will cover registration renewals running from 1 September to 30 November 2018. Further information is available from [here](#).

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## Local Government News

**Councils sharing services save taxpayers £840 million** - More than £800 million of taxpayers’ money has been saved by councils sharing services, according to new analysis by the Local Government Association. The latest **shared services map** from the LGA, shows that there are now 555 individual shared service arrangements across the country, resulting in £840 million of cumulative efficiency savings. To view the shared service map visit [here](#).

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## Local Government News



**County Councils Network, 'Counties issue budget warning and call for pre-Spending Review cash injection'** - A new budget analysis of England's county authorities reveals that those 37 councils, which cover some 26million people in England, face funding pressures amounting to £3.2bn over the next two years alone, £1.8bn of which is due to projected demand and future inflationary pressures. Leaders of those councils have warned they cannot wait until the Spending Review for badly-needed

extra resource.

The warning comes as a separate questionnaire of council leaders, being carried out by the County Councils Network (CCN), shows that unless Government provides additional funding there are rising concerns they will not be able to deliver balanced budgets in the coming years. Unlike the NHS, councils are legally bound to deliver balanced budgets. For more information visit [here](#).

**Severe Weather hub: how to respond during extreme conditions** - The LGA's Severe Weather hub has information for councils on how to respond during extreme conditions. To access visit [here](#).

**Which? Report on food hygiene** - Erewash in Derbyshire was rated top for food hygiene, consumer watchdog Which? has said. For more visit [here](#). The report looked at areas including the number of high and medium-risk food businesses which kept to hygiene standards and the number of interventions carried out. Data from 390 local authorities for 2016-17 was used, including information from the Local Authority Monitoring System collected by the Food Standards Agency.

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## Health & Social Care



**MPs Call for Social Care Premium to fund personal care for all** - The Housing, Communities and Local Government and Health and Social Care Committees' joint report calls for a sustainable funding solution for adult social care. The report calls for the introduction of a 'Social Care Premium', either as an additional element of National Insurance or with the premium paid into a dedicated not-for-profit social insurance fund that people would be confident could only be used for social care.

The report by the cross-party Committees describes the social care system as "under very great and unsustainable strain". Ahead of the Government's Green Paper, which is now expected in the autumn, it highlights the urgent need to plug a funding gap estimated at up to £2.5 billion in the next financial year, before introducing wider funding reforms at both a local and national level to raise extra revenue with a long-term aspiration of providing social care free at the point of delivery. For more information visit [here](#).

**Healthy weight, healthy futures: local government action to tackle childhood obesity** - This document updates the LGA's previous 'Healthy weight, healthy futures: Local government action to tackle childhood obesity' publication (February 2016). It showcases the wide variety of ways, and different partners, that the sector is working with their colleagues in planning to not only restrict takeaways, but also working proactively to ensure new developments take into account health and wellbeing. Some are focussing on getting children physically active and the latest figures suggest less than one in four children are achieving the required levels. To access the LGA document visit [here](#).

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## EMC Events



**LEAN Practitioner Training, 19 & 20 September** - This two-day module training has been designed to develop delegates' understanding of how using a variety of LEAN thinking and improvement tools can achieve improved services and outcomes, details [here](#).

**Negotiation Skills, 11 October** - This one-day workshop is aimed at 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. This 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 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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