

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

Top items this week

30 NOVEMBER 2018



Northamptonshire County Council - first progress report of commissioners



Performance against Apprenticeship Targets



Migration Statistics Quarterly Report, UK: November 2018



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

First progress report of commissioners at Northamptonshire County Council published

The [first progress report](#) from the Commissioners sent in to Northamptonshire County Council has been published this week. In the report the Commissioners Tony McArdle and Brian Roberts outline their priorities to stabilise the council. This focuses on financial recovery, the re-creation of a corporate centre, engagement with residents and local partners and sets out the next steps they will take.

The document re-affirms the seriousness of the financial situation at the council following an independent report by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), and the series of measures the Commissioners have implemented to restore balance to the budget, deliver savings and bring about cultural change.

Capitalisation Dispensation - The government has granted the council's request to use £70 million of capital receipts to help balance its books. This significant step – called capitalisation dispensation – will help the council to reduce its deficit and put it on a more sustainable financial footing. For more information visit [here](#).

Elections - District and parish council elections in Northamptonshire will also be postponed from May 2019 to May 2020, following a request from the local councils.

The proposed reorganisation of local government in Northamptonshire - This consultation seeks views on the proposal that government has received from Northamptonshire councils for local government reorganization. The [Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007](#) requires that before a proposal for local government reorganisation can be implemented, the Secretary of State must first consult any council affected that has not submitted the proposal, as well as any other persons that he considers appropriate.

To inform the Secretary of State's decision, representations are welcome from any persons interested, including local residents, businesses and those in the voluntary sector in Northamptonshire and neighbouring councils. To access the consultation visit [here](#).



Performance against Apprenticeship Targets

Information has now been published on how councils have performed against their target for new apprenticeship starts in 2017-18. The figures published this week show that 29% of district/borough councils that met or exceeded their target were from the East Midlands: Chesterfield, City of Lincoln, Gedling, Kettering and Northampton. Northampton and City of Lincoln were also included in the top 20 public sector employers, based on apprenticeships as a percentage of headcount, and Lincoln City topped the table on this basis. The link to the data published by government is [here](#).

EMC will be hosting an event on Apprenticeships in the New Year, this will enable councils to share their experiences and approaches, as well as explore ways to collaborate to tap into funding/support available from March.



EMC Workshop on Consulting & Negotiating Locally to Implement Change - EMC will be holding the 3rd workshop relating to the introduction of the new pay spine in the coming weeks. The final workshop in this series of events will focus on Consulting and Negotiating Locally to Implement Change. The date is being finalised, but will either be on 18 December or 8 January.

EMC Support Activity

East Midlands PA Conference - This week EMC has hosted the second annual PA conference in the East Midlands. The conference included a sessions on objective setting and LEAN thinking for PAs.



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](#).

Local Government News



Lincolnshire County Council announces departure of Chief Executive Keith Ireland - In a joint statement to staff, Keith Ireland and Leader of the Council Martin Hill OBE said:

"We are writing to let you know that Keith is leaving the council.

"Over the last few months, it has become clear that we do not share the same approach to a number of important issues that are facing the council, and, in these circumstances, we are agreed that a parting of the ways is the best way forward for both of us.

"Whilst unfortunately things have not worked out, we are united in wishing each other the very best for the future."

Councillor Hill added *"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Keith for his work and the energy he has brought to it. I wish him every success for the future."*

For the press release visit [here](#).

Winter weather survey 2018 - The LGA Winter Weather Survey 2018 was conducted in October 2018 to gather information about local authorities' plans and preparations in case of severe weather, to help the LGA's lobbying of central government and to highlight the scale of authorities' efforts. To access the report visit [here](#).

Local authorities' preparedness for civil emergencies - This LGA guide for chief executives, sets out the types of issues local authorities should consider in order to be fully prepared to respond to a civil emergency [details [here](#)].

A councillor's guide to civil emergencies is available from [here](#).

Employers' Information



EMC HR Bulletin, November 2018 Edition - The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is available from here. This month's bulletin covers:-

- A summary of the events in the region over the coming months that will be of particular interest to the HR community, such as our People Conference on 6th February and the Local Consultation & Negotiation to Implement Change event in December
- Darren Newman's article on vicarious liability

A round-up of national information, including developments nationally with apprenticeships. In particular, this week the government announced changes being made to the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers

Xperthr Regional Deal 2019-20 - This week EMC colleagues have shared details of the regional Xperthr deal, negotiated by EMC on behalf of our member councils. The regional deal provides a discounted rate to subscribe to the online HR information service provided by Xperthr. Costs have been frozen for the period April 2019 - March 2020. For more information on the Regional Xperthr deal visit here or contact lisa.butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Government bans combustible materials on high-rise homes - The government is banning combustible materials on new high-rise homes and giving support to local authorities to carry out emergency remediation work. The announcement details that;

- Local authorities to carry out emergency remediation work on private residential buildings above 18 metres which still contain ACM cladding

- Costs to be recovered from building owners

Regulations have been laid in Parliament which will give legal effect to the combustible materials ban announced in the summer. The ban means combustible materials will not be permitted on the external walls of new buildings over 18 metres containing flats, as well as new hospitals, residential care premises, dormitories in boarding schools and student accommodation over 18 metres.

Schools over 18 metres which are built as part of the government's centrally delivered build programmes will also not use combustible materials, in line with the terms of the ban, in the external wall [details [here](#)].

Midlands Engine

Being part of the Midlands Engine: Driving growth and investment - Over the next 12 months the Midlands Engine is seeking to engage with as many businesses, residents and stakeholders across the Midlands as possible. Engagement activity is currently well underway across the Midlands and there is an [online survey](#). This will provide an opportunity to help shape a communications campaign by providing feedback on the priorities and focus for activity.

Health & Social Care

Care and Health Improvement Programme: Integration support offer for health and care system leaders - To access the LGA report visit [here](#).

Migration, Asylum and Refugee Resettlement



Migration Statistics Quarterly Report, UK: November 2018 - The Office for National Statistics released the latest official [long-term international migration](#) statistics for the UK for the year ending June 2018 this week [details [here](#)].

This release includes an overview of migration trends based on a best assessment of available survey (International Passenger Survey) and administrative data (Home Office administrative data, Higher Education Statistics Agency data and National Insurance numbers to foreign nationals).

Key Findings

- Net migration continues to add to the population of the UK as an estimated 273,000 more people moved to the UK with an intention to stay 12 months or more than left in the year ending June 2018. Over the year 625,000 people moved to the UK (immigration) and 351,000 people left the UK (emigration).
- Non-EU net migration was the highest since 2004, with 248,000 more non-EU citizens arriving than leaving the UK and at a similar level to that seen in 2011. Increases in immigration for both work and study have been seen in the most recent year, particularly for Asian citizens.
- The overall number of EU citizens coming to the UK continues to add to the population as 74,000 more EU citizens came to the UK than left. This was the lowest estimate for EU net migration since 2012 and the lowest immigration level since 2014.
- The number of EU citizens coming to the UK for work has continued to decrease, in the most recent period this was driven by a decrease in EU15 citizens coming with a definite job. Non-EU citizens coming to work has seen a gradual increase over the last five years.

Asylum dispersal - Across the East Midlands region there has been a slight increase in numbers of asylum seekers settled, to a total of 2622 which is an increase of just over 100 since the last quarter after a period of stability for the last year. The increase is likely to be explained by seasonal variations.



EMC Events

Coaching (virtually) in a digital age, 06 Dec 2018 - The East Midlands Coaching Network is holding a very practical CPD session for Coaches on 6 December 2018, on telephone and Skype coaching. This session looks at both phone and online coaching in order to help coaches make the best possible decision on method for them and their coachee. The workshop will help participants explore the benefits of phone coaching, dispel some of the concerns and raise confidence by realising how much more is actually available in a client's voice than we first realise. Participants will be invited to use their smartphones to do some practical exercises that will help focus attention to the client's voice, to their choice of language and to their silences in a way which we normally don't have the capacity to notice when they are physically present. For more information visit [here](#).

Commercial Awareness Programme - "Making it our Business" 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. 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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