

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

Top items this week

5 OCTOBER 2018



NHS Digital funding for digital projects to support social care



Housing the Nation - the Role of Councils



EMC HR Bulletin - September Edition



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Housing the Nation - the Role of Councils

The East Midlands Housing and Planning Summit took place on 5 October, attended by Councillor and Officers from across the East Midlands. The key message from the event was that *“Councils must be freed and empowered to play their role in ensuring the provision of housing that supports health, jobs and community”*.

- Infrastructure schools, health provision, utilities
- Fire safety and involvement of fire authorities in the early part of the planning process
- Role of apprenticeships

The Summit included presentations from Councillor James Jamieson, Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council and Leader LGA Conservative Group. All presentations will be available [here](#) by close of play 5 October. The Summit also included a session chaired by Rt Hon Nick Raynsford, President of the Town & Country Planning Association on the ‘Future of Planning in England – the Raynsford Review’

The event took place at the end of the week where the Government announced that it would remove borrowing restrictions, enabling councils to play a key role in delivering the homes their communities need. According to the Government announcement to lift the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap for council house building, “the cap will be lifted as soon as possible, with further details confirmed in the Budget”. To access the press release visit [here](#).

Games of Remembrance

The Games of Remembrance are coming to the East Midlands and will be in Nottingham on Thursday 8 November. The Games of Remembrance is a project for anyone interested in football to find out about and remember football's important role in World War 1, including an education and tribute programme, an exciting British Army vs German Armed Forces football match and a legacy for armed forces charities [details [here](#)]. Games will be played on 8 November 2018, details below;

- Notts County FC Women’s match, kick off at 12 noon (fan zone opens 10am)
- Nottingham Forest FC Men’s match, kick off at 7pm (fan zone opens 5.30pm)



EMC News

On Wednesday 3rd October, Nottinghamshire County Council kindly hosted EMC’s summit meeting between council leaders, chief officers and Suella Braverman MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union.

Chaired by Cllr Tom Beattie, Leader of Corby Borough Council and President of CEEP UK, council representatives from across the region took the opportunity to discuss with the DExEU Minister a number of specific implications of Brexit for local growth in the region. Leaving aside some of the wider national issues that have played out recently; the meeting was able to focus on a number of issues particular to this region including the availability of labour per se (not just skilled labour), the size and scope of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (successor to EU structural funding) and potential disruption and costs relating to the flow of cargo (especially fresh produce) at East Midlands Airport.

EMC Support Activity

Projects with Local Authorities - During August EMC colleagues have provided support to councils on the following projects; Restructuring advice and support, Grievance investigation and in-house training on investigations. To find out how EMC could support an area of work for you, then please contact sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Events

Taking Minutes not Hours, 08 Nov 2018 - This workshop will give participants practical tips and techniques to help them write: effective agendas before meetings, notes during meetings and minutes after meetings [details [here](#)].

GDPR for HR 6 months on, 13 Nov 2018 - EMC are holding a follow up workshop, providing a space to explore GDPR for HR colleagues 6 months on from the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (in May 2018) [[here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Government announces new housing measures - The government has announced:

- a New Homes Ombudsman to support homebuyers facing problems with their newly built home
- plans to help provide the homes the country needs through planning reform
- plans to create a lasting legacy from the 2022 Commonwealth Games

measures to improve the safety of high-rise buildings

Championing ambitious councils keen to make new garden communities a central part of their plans for housing and economic growth and have local support there will be clearer rules to give more certainty for communities when land is needed to make this a reality. Local authorities will also receive additional freedom to make the most of existing brownfield land and dispose of surplus land that could instead accommodate new homes [details [here](#)].

Planning reform - This includes:

- introducing a new permitted development right to allow property owners to extend certain buildings upwards, while maintaining the character of residential and conservation areas and safeguarding people's privacy.
- clearer guidance to give more certainty for communities when land is needed to make a New Town a reality.
- giving local authorities more flexibility to dispose of surplus land that could instead accommodate new homes.

The government will consult on these new measures in due course.

One Public Estate - £15 million funding boost to enable the public sector to work together to support building new homes. One Public Estate (OPE) launched a new funding window. This new funding round will see the programme place particular emphasis on one of the most pressing domestic policy priorities: increasing housing supply [[here](#)].

New Government Investment in the East Midlands Welcomed - This week, the government has announced £18 million of funding for Nottinghamshire County Council to improve the A614, and earmarked funding to set up a locally-led development body for the East Midlands Hub station at Toton, to bring forward investment in the surrounding area [details [here](#)]. The Midlands Engine press release is available from [here](#).

James Brokenshire leads Midlands Engine trade visit to India - The Secretary of State leads a delegation of business and public representatives on a trade visit to promote ties between the Midlands and India [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care



Eighteen local partnerships design adult social care services of the future with £1.4m funding -

NHS Digital has awarded eighteen councils a share of £1.4m to develop digital projects that support social care [details [here](#)]. The successful local authorities in the East Midlands are:

- **Improving the flow of health information into social care;** Rutland County Council and Lincolnshire County Council
- **Improving the flow of social care information into health;** Nottinghamshire County Council
- **Using predictive analytics for early intervention and prevention;** Nottinghamshire County Council [[here](#)].

Adult social care funding and integration survey research report July 2018 - The adult social care funding and integration survey was conducted by the LGA's Research and Information Team. The survey aimed to capture and represent the views of council leaders and portfolio holders for adult social care on the future of funding for adult social care, the future of the national initiatives for integration and the progress made on integration [details [here](#)].

Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

Transparency in the supply chain - The research identifies 65 councils (1 in 5) have voluntarily submitted statements and the LGA are actively encouraging other Local Authorities to submit statements. Councils are uniquely placed to be at the forefront of the fight against modern slavery. One in five councils have demonstrated awareness and ethical leadership by voluntarily submitting their annual modern slavery transparency statements. Councils currently are under no legal obligation to publish statements on compliance under Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act but they are uniquely placed to be at the forefront of the fight against modern slavery. The LGA is encouraging others to follow suit with a range of **guidance and support** for those wishing to submit a statement [details [here](#)].

Campaign on Child Refugees - Council leaders may have been contacted by Lord Dubs in relation to a [campaign](#) led by Safe Passage to request councils pledge to resettle 10,000 refugee children over 10 years. The LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group are seeking a meeting to explore the ambitions of the campaign in the current context of councils' responsibilities.

The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership and national partners are also in ongoing discussions with government on sustainable funding for asylum seeking children and those leaving care. Information on councils' support for refugees and asylum seekers will continue to be placed on the LGA website [here](#).

Local Government News

Views on the future of local government in Nottinghamshire - Nottinghamshire County Council is inviting residents, businesses, councils and other stakeholders to share their views on the future of local government in Nottinghamshire. Councillors will consider responses to this first phase of public engagement alongside a raft of other evidence at the Full Council meeting on 13 December, when they will decide whether or not to pursue a preferred option for change, which the Council would then formally consult the public on next year [detail [here](#)].

Plan to stabilise Northamptonshire County Council's budget - This week Northamptonshire County Council has published its Stabilisation Plan, how it intends to move towards stabilising its budget to make sure public services are more financially sustainable in the longer term. The Stabilisation Plan is twofold: outlining the approach for addressing the £35m unfunded deficit from the last financial year (2017/18) and a detailed plan on how to balance this year's budget (2018/19) [details [here](#)].

Local government re-organisation: preparatory work underway while decision awaited from Secretary of State - Chief executives and leaders of the eight councils in Northamptonshire are now meeting weekly in order to prepare for the creation of two new authorities in the county so that we can hit the ground running if the Secretary of State decides to go ahead with the restructure.

The immediate focus is the Structural Change Orders, which are largely technical documents but which will need to include details like the number of councillors proposed for each new authority.

Decisions on the design and structure of services will be made by the shadow authorities, which we expect to be established in spring 2019. In the meantime, all decision making will continue to go through each council's democratic system to ensure options are openly debated and robust decisions reached. In order to help inform future decisions, preparatory work will include talking to exemplary unitary councils to learn best practice and to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible. Key stakeholders and partners will also be involved in that process in the coming months to make sure challenges are understood and solutions are built into the design of the new services [[here](#)].

Employers' Information



Package of measures unveiled to boost apprenticeships - The government has announced a package of reforms to ensure the Apprenticeship Levy provides people with the skills they need to succeed.

The changes are aimed at providing flexibility for businesses so they can take full advantage of the benefits of employing apprentices, and to help as many people as possible find the right training to equip them for the new economy. A further £5 million was announced for the Institute for Apprenticeships to introduce new standards and updating existing ones so that more courses can be offered – meaning more choice for those considering their training options [details [here](#)].

EMC HR Bulletin September 2018 - This month's bulletin [available from [here](#)] covers:-

- EMC Pay & Rewards and Pay Modelling.
- A summary of the events in the region over the coming months that will be of particular interest to the HR.
- Darren Newman's article on disability discrimination Section 15 of the Equality Act 2010.
- A round-up of national information, including NJC Working Group on Term Time Review and Apprenticeships.

EMC Events

Understanding derailment: How coaches can help coachees get back on track, 8 Nov 2018 - The East Midlands Coaching Network is holding a CPD session for Coaches on 8 November 2018, on derailment. Derailment is an involuntary process where people stall, plateau or fail to live up to their potential in their role. The aim of this session is to help you to understand some of the common causes of derailment and to explore what you can do, as a coach, to help your coachee learn from their experience, rebuild their confidence and move on [details [here](#)].

Report Writing, 21 Nov 2018 - EMC is holding a one day seminar on Report Writing for Officers. By the end of the course, participants will be able to plan and produce reports that: follow a logical structure, are easy to read and achieve a desired result and look professional. For more information visit [here](#).

EMC Leadership

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