

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

Top items this week

6 APRIL 2018



Midlands Engine Newsletter



Homelessness Reduction Act



Gender Pay Gap



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Homelessness Reduction Act

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 sets out new duties on English local authorities with the aim of preventing homelessness. From this week the Act will place new legal duties on English councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help, irrespective of their priority need status, as long as they are eligible for assistance.

**New government initiative to reduce rough sleeping** - Communities Secretary Sajid Javid sets out a cross-government plan of action to significantly reduce the number of people sleeping rough [details [here](#)].

The new package of measures, includes:

- a new Rough Sleeping Team made up of rough sleeping and homelessness experts, drawn from, and funded by government departments and agencies with specialist knowledge across a wide-range of areas from housing, mental health to addiction
- a £30 million fund for 2018 to 2019 with further funding agreed for 2019 to 2020 targeted at local authorities with high numbers of people sleeping rough; the Rough Sleeping Team will work with these areas to support them to develop tailored local interventions to reduce the number of people sleeping on the streets
- £100,000 funding to support frontline Rough Sleeping workers across the country to make sure they have the right skills and knowledge to work with vulnerable rough sleepers.

**Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities** - Guidance on how local authorities should exercise their homelessness functions in accordance with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 from 3 April 2018 [details [here](#)].

## Post-Brexit England Commission - East Midlands Roadshow, 11 May 2018

East Midlands Councils and the LGA are hosting an 'East Midlands Roadshow' as part of the LGA's Post-Brexit Commission [details [here](#)].

The programme is developed to support leading councillors and chief officers to discuss some of the key challenges and opportunities facing non-city areas in the East Midlands over the coming years. A draft programme is available from [here](#). With every council in the region guaranteed at least one place, online registration is available from [here](#).

## EMC News



**Performance Management Network** - Performance colleagues from across the East Midlands will meet next week on 11 April 2018 at Ashfield District Council. This meeting will include a presentation by Ashfield District Council on Project Management and Performance. For more information on this network contact [Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

**IT Security Network** - The East Midlands IT Security Network (known as the EMGWARP) will meet next on 26 April 2018 at Nottinghamshire County Council. This meeting brings together IT Security professionals from across 29 local authorities in the East Midlands. For more information on this network contact [Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Boards Activity

- **East Midlands Employers' Board** - 17 April 2018
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 30 May 2018
- **Regional Migration Board** - 22 May 2018
- **EMC Annual General Meeting** - 13 July 2018

## EMC Councillor Events

**GDPR for Councillors, 4 May 2018** - EMC is holding a half-day seminar on the General Data Protection Regulation. This seminar has been designed specifically for elected members. The EMC's GDPR for Councillors course takes an overview of GDPR requirements and looks specifically at the requirements of elected members [details [here](#)].

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## EMC Support Activity

**Coaching Support** - This week EMC colleagues have supported several authorities with their coaching needs, from support to identify and match coaches to specific coaching requests, to training on the East Midlands Coaching Network website. For more information on how EMC can support your coaching needs contact [Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Councillor Events

**Charing and Facilitation Skills for Councillors, 26 Jun 2018** - EMC is running a half day Charing and Facilitation Skills event for Councillors. The training is to be delivered by Nelson Training, an award winning drama based training company. For more details and to book a place visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Pothole fund boosted to repair roads after winter damage** - Local roads badly affected by recent winter weather will benefit from a further £100 million to help repair any potholes and other storm damage, Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced on 26 March 2018.

This money will help repair almost 2 million potholes as well as help protect the roads from any future severe weather [details [here](#)].

This is on top of the £75 million in government funding already given to councils from the Pothole Action Fund this year, as well as the additional £46 million boost for highways authorities announced just before Christmas. Around 7 million potholes will be filled due to this money, announced in the 2016 Budget.

The government is also investing more than £900,000 in innovations using connected vehicles to help councils more efficiently manage and plan maintenance works. These trials will ultimately help provide councils with data to enable them to repair potholes before they occur as well as maintain their other assets more effectively as part of their asset management plans.

In the East Midlands - Derby City Council will use connected vehicles to collect data on the condition of road signs

### Pothole/flood resilience funding

- Derby City Council, £230,810
- Derbyshire County Council, £2,035,992
- Leicester City Council, £260,236
- Leicestershire County Council, £1,560,176
- Nottingham City Council, £242,057
- Lincolnshire County, £3,457,324
- Rutland County Council, £213,766
- Nottinghamshire County Council, £1,635,629
- Northamptonshire County Council, £1,630,762

**Opun receives Planning Delivery Grant** - The first wave of the [Planning Delivery Fund](#), totalling £15.8 million, has been awarded to enable councils to process more applications, implement new reforms, encourage innovation, and train planners to tackle the housing and other place based challenges faced by their local areas.

As part of the [Design Network](#), Opun Architecture East Midlands Ltd has been awarded funding to focus efforts on increasing the skills and learning of councillors, planning officers and communities in improving design quality and delivery outcomes. The [Design Companion for Planning and Place Making](#) handbook will be distributed to all English local authorities and form the basis of this learning.

**Training sessions across the East Midlands** - Opun will be holding a series of at least four training sessions across the East Midlands during 2018/2019. Local Authorities wishing to get involved should register their interest by contacting [Opun](#) before the end of April. Details of training dates and locations will be given on Opun's [website](#).

**Government to review powers to deal with unauthorised caravan sites** - A government review of the law and powers to deal with unauthorised caravan sites and developments has been announced this week by Housing Minister Dominic Raab [details [here](#)].

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## Midlands Engine



**Midlands Engine March Newsletter includes** - Value of exports in the East Midlands shows the biggest rise of any UK area - Statistics released by HMRC show that the value of exports in the East Midlands rose by 23% from £17.7 billion in 2016 to £21.8 billion in 2017. While in the West Midlands it rose from £29.7 billion to £33.6 billion, which sees it ranked in the top six regions across the UK.

The East Midlands is home to more than 10,000 exporters with an average value per exporter of £2 million, while the national picture shows that exports of goods from England increased by 11.6% to £244.8 billion. The percentage increase in the East Midlands was higher than that reported in London, Scotland and of any other UK region [details [here](#)].

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## Employers' Information



**Gender Pay Gap Reporting** - The deadline for publishing gender pay gap information was this week. Comparing figures across councils is difficult, as so much depends on the make-up of services within the organisation. The information on policies and approaches being used to reduce any gender pay gap will be of value. EMC will be working on collating and reviewing this information with a view to sharing initiatives and good practice across the region. EMC is keen to hear from authorities interested in this, please contact Sam Maher.

**East Midlands Coaching Conference 2018, 3 July 2018** - EMC will hold its 6th annual Coaching Conference on 3rd July in Melton Mowbray. The conference will include a practical session on Team Coaching, which will enable coaches to understand the potential of Team Coaching, reflect on how Team Coaching could work in their organisation and raise awareness of models used in public sector Team Coaching programmes and a range of Team Coaching. For more information on the conference visit [here](#).

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## Local Government News



**New chief executive at Newark and Sherwood District Council** - Newark and Sherwood District Council has appointed a new chief executive John Robinson, subject to formal ratification by the Council at its meeting on 10 April. John Robinson, currently the Chief Executive of Gedling Borough Council and is expected to take up his new role in July [press release [here](#)].

**Northamptonshire County Council takes steps to achieve a balanced budget** - In the past week Northamptonshire County Council has confirmed that it will use general and earmarked reserves in order to achieve a balanced budget this financial year. In a press release [available from [here](#)], Northamptonshire County Council said;

*"Northamptonshire County Council is set to use its general and earmarked reserves in order to achieve a balanced budget this financial year.*

*This follows a decision by the authority to postpone the sale and lease back of its headquarters One Angel Square due to the likelihood of local government reform in Northamptonshire following the Best Value Inspection report and to seek further financial and legal advice about the use of capital receipts.*

*The county council would therefore face a forecast overspend of £16.7m for the end of the financial year without the use of its reserves to offset the overspend, which is primarily due to unprecedented demand pressures for adult social care services.*

*These reserves would need to be replenished in 2018/19 and so further savings will need to be identified within the new financial year.*

*The county council currently has £12m in its general reserves and £4.9m in its earmarked reserves, money which is set aside for capital projects".*

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## EMC Events

**Trading and Marketing Public Services, 16 May 2018** - EMC is holding a full day workshop on Trading and Marketing Public Services. This module introduces managers to the role of trading and entrepreneurship in a public service environment and some fundamental principles of marketing [details [here](#)].

**"Making it Our Business" - Commercial Awareness Programme for Operational Managers, 06 Jun 2018** - This modular programme is designed to support 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 [details [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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