

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

## Top items this week

7 DECEMBER 2018



Roundtable discussion on LA provision of housing



East Midlands Infrastructure Summit 2019



Strategies for Consulting and Negotiating Locally to Implement Change



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers



## East Midlands Infrastructure Summit 2019

East Midlands Infrastructure Summit 2019 - The Regional Infrastructure Summit will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019, hosted by Leicester City Council at City Hall, Charles Street, Leicester. Bringing together leading businesses and politicians, the East Midlands Infrastructure Summit will provide an opportunity to review progress in taking forward our joint priorities for strategic transport investment and to consider future challenges and opportunities.

Keynote Speakers will include:

- Sir Peter Soulsby, Chair of Transport for the East Midlands and Leicester City Mayor
- Sir John Peace, Chair of Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect

To book a place at this event visit [here](#).

## Strategies for Consulting and Negotiating Locally to Implement Change



EMC is holding a half day workshop on Strategies for Consulting and Negotiating Locally to Implement Change on Tuesday 18 December. This workshop will:

- Look at the legal framework around the range of changes to contracts and policies that support Council's transformation programmes
- Discuss some key strategies around consultation and negotiation; including with trade unions
- Provide an insight into current local government industrial relation themes
- Allow an opportunity to explore issues around barriers to successful change for your organisation

A free place is available for each council at this workshop. For more information and to book a place visit [here](#).

## EMC News



**East Midlands, HS2 Executive Board** - The East Midlands HS2 Executive Board will meet next week on 14 December. At this meeting the board will consider will discuss a Regional Response to Working Draft Environmental Statement (WDES) for the HS2 line, as well as an updates on delivery issues and resources. The WDES describes the environmental impacts of the scheme and proposals for how these impacts should be mitigated. The regional response will be available on our website next week.

The Government has announced that Allan Cook CBE has been appointed as the new Chair of HS2 Ltd, following the resignation Sir Terry Morgan [details [here](#)].

## EMC Councillor Events

**Planning, Design and Place Making on 7 Feb 2019** - This event open to Councillors is held in conjunction with Opun/The Design Network. It will explore both policies and processes aimed at promoting excellence in design quality and place making. The event will explore best practice in embedding good design in planning policy and decision making. Workshops will examine: approaches to ensuring that design is addressed throughout the planning process; the use of design tools and techniques; and the knowledge and skills needed to negotiate over elements of design. Authorities who sign up to the Low Cost CPD for Planners events will receive a programme in due course. For more information visit [here](#).

**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](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Roundtable discussion on LA provision of housing** - This is a follow up on the research project we carried out last year. The report was published at the end of the year [report available from [here](#)].

This second phase of the project is to look in further detail and the discussion will be held on 1 February 10.30 to 12.30 at City Hall, Leicester and will be led by Janice Morphet and Ben Clifford from UCL. The researchers are keen to learn about issues from practitioners as to what works in each authority. To book a place at this event please contact Suzanne Slack, [suzanne.slack@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:suzanne.slack@rtpi.org.uk)

**Security deposit cap reduced to save renters hundreds of pounds** - Private renters are set to benefit from new measures reducing the amount tenants have to pay up front to secure a home.

The move, announced as part of the [Tenant Fees Bill](#), is a further step by Communities Secretary James Brokenshire MP towards ending costly fees imposed on tenants when they first move into their property - creating a fairer housing market that works for everyone [details [here](#)].

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## Rail Infrastructure

**Rail: Sector Deal, Sector Deal between government and the rail industry** - The Rail Sector Deal has been published this week [available [here](#)]. The Rail Sector Deal will build on the strong partnership working between the rail sector and the government to exploit the opportunities of new technologies, improve the efficient use of our rail network capacity and enhance the experience of those who use our railways. The documents provides details of the **Developing a Rail Data Platform – Midlands Pilot**. An initial phase trial site identified in the East Midlands to begin mobilising the value of existing data. This phase one trial will seek to use existing open data sources from the rail industry to build a comprehensive picture of current and historic customer activity across the rail network and in time. This insight into the demographics and behaviour of rail users will allow the development of tools to connect with passengers, optimise capacity and improve customer experience.

**Rail Review moves forward as call for evidence launches** - The sweeping review of the rail industry, announced by the Transport Secretary in September, has moved significantly forward with the [launch of the call for evidence this week](#). Keith Williams, independent chair of the Rail Review and former British Airways chief executive, is inviting evidence from a wide range of stakeholders in all parts of the country, including passenger representatives, businesses, leading thinkers and investors, and local and devolved bodies and governments [details [here](#)].

**Rail factsheet: 2018, An overview of key statistics on the rail industry in Great Britain** - The rail factsheet for 2018 provides an overview of key statistics on National Rail in Great Britain. These statistics relate to the National Rail network, so do not include underground, light rail and tram systems [to access the factsheet visit [here](#)].

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## Health & Social Care

**Fit for and during pregnancy: A key role for local government** - This report provides examples of health visitors, family workers, midwives, social care and children's centres staff helping families through this vital period as well as areas experimenting with a new local government role of consultant public health midwife. The report includes case studies from the East Midlands;

**Leicestershire County Council** - Leicestershire has sought new ways to involve fathers and prepare them for parenthood to ensure they do not feel isolated.

**Lincolnshire County Council** - In Lincolnshire the NHS and local council worked together to organise an event for fathers last year to encourage them to engage with services. To access the report visit [here](#).

**A Better Start: supporting child development in the early years** - This LGA guide sets out concisely the reasons that the early years are so essential to future outcomes and wellbeing; the measures being taken by local authorities to bring together health, social care and early education services to create a more holistic approach to identifying and meeting the needs of young children and their families. The guide includes a case study from Derbyshire County Council: engaging parents and professionals in getting children school ready. To access the report visit [here](#).

**Self care: councils helping people look after themselves** - In this LGA report you will find examples of all of these approaches – and more. This LGA report includes a case from Lincolnshire County Council: getting people engaged [details [here](#)].

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## Employers' Information

**EU Settlement Scheme: employer toolkit** - The employer toolkit equips employers with the right tools and information to support EU citizens and their families to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme [ access the toolkit [here](#)].

**Coroners' Pay, JNC Agreement** - A joint agreement covering two years; 2019/2020 for the pay of coroners has been reached by the JNC for Coroners (30.11.18). Details [here](#).

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## Homelessness

**Supporting women experiencing homelessness conference** - Housing and Homelessness Minister Heather Wheeler MP's speech at the Homeless Link conference [details [here](#)].

**Rough Sleeping initiative case study** - The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published a case study on how funding from the Rough Sleeping Initiative has supported individuals [details [here](#)].

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## Local Government News



**Tributes paid for Terry King, former Councillor and Leader of Rutland County Council** - Tributes have been paid to Mr King, who passed away on Friday 23 November aged 71, following a prolonged illness. For the Rutland County Council press release visit [here](#).

**Government to recruit for new expert to tackle domestic abuse issues** - A Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner is to be appointed to help the government transform its response to domestic abuse - The Home Office has announced it is launching recruitment for the new Commissioner, who will be charged with standing up for victims and survivors, providing public leadership on domestic abuse concerns and driving the response to issues [details [here](#)].

### Update on Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire

The recently published report, 'Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire: Outline Case for Change' will be presented to a full meeting of Nottinghamshire County Council on Thursday 13 December. The report is available [here](#).

**Councils' funding announcement delayed** - The Government has postponed announcing the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement because of the Brexit debate currently going on in the Commons and the forthcoming vote on the Brexit deal.

**£1 million funding for communities to create their own pocket parks** - Green-fingered communities across England can bid for a share of £1 million fund from to help develop their own 'pocket parks' [details [here](#)].

Pocket parks are small plots of land, often about the size of a tennis court, and mostly seen in urban spaces. They provide a green oasis which can help improve the physical and mental health of the communities using them.

- Local communities encouraged to apply for pocket parks plus grants
- Up to £15,000 available to build new 'pocket parks' and up to £25,000 available for renovating existing parks

**Northamptonshire County Council's revenue budget published this week** - The draft budget, which proposes a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, lays the foundations for transforming a series of services and assets so they are fit for the future. The budget also includes the addition of up to £70m after the Government agreed to the Commissioners' request for a capital dispensation for the county. This allows the Council to use its own capital funds in new ways. It will not be used to balance the revenue budget but will specifically be used in the following way: £35m for the 17/18 deficit, £20m to replenish 2019/20 reserves. The full press release is available from [here](#). Cabinet will discuss the proposed 2019/20 budget on 11 December.

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## Migration, Asylum and Refugee Resettlement

**New pilot schemes to support migrants at risk of detention** - A new pilot scheme to manage vulnerable women in the community, when they would otherwise be liable for immigration detention, has been announced by the Immigration Minister this week. For more information visit [here](#).

**Handling of the Windrush situation** - This National Audit Office report seeks: to increase transparency about what happened; and to establish whether problems with the Department's information management and management of immigration casework may have contributed to the situation. We are not questioning the merits of the Department's policy objectives [access the report [here](#)].

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## EMC Events

**Negotiation Skills, 13 Feb 2019** - This full day 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 [details [here](#)].

**Commercial Awareness Programme - "Making it our Business", starting 23 Jan 2019** - This modular programme for operational managers in public services, has been designed to support delegates in becoming more commercially aware when looking for opportunities to trade their service both internally and outside the organisation [programme information available from [here](#)]. There are six modules, which take four days to complete and two half day Action Learning set meetings. They are: Trading and Marketing in Public Services, Negotiation Skills, Practical Project Management, How to Write a Commercial Business Case, Customer Relations and Presenting Your Business Case.

## 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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