



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

Top items this week

11 OCTOBER 2024



Employment Rights Bill unveiled



Treasury vision for future of Britain's infrastructure



3,000 jobs boost if Coventry, Leicester & Nottingham linked by rail



MPs call for funding for Chesterfield Staveley Regeneration Route

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS BILL UNVEILED

This week the government unveiled the Employment Rights Bill which will bring forward wide-ranging employment reforms. These include unfair dismissal protection from the first day of employment, along with other “day one” rights for paternity, parental and bereavement leave and extending statutory sick pay provision. A Fair Pay Agreement for the adult social care sector is proposed, along with establishing a separate negotiating body for support staff in schools. EMC will liaise with councils and work through the Regional Employers’ Board to ensure the views of councils are put forward within the consultation process on the reforms.

EMC is hosting an employment law seminar on 7th November (via MSTeams) for officers to learn more about the proposals.

Book to attend:

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CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY SETS VISION FOR FUTURE OF BRITAIN'S INFRASTRUCTURE

In his speech at Skanska's national HQ, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Darren Jones MP, has set out vision for the future of the country’s infrastructure, announcing a new National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA), which will look to fix the foundations of the country’s infrastructure system by bringing infrastructure strategy and delivery together. He also stressed the urgent need to speed up the delivery of major infrastructure with a powerful national strategy. This comes as East Midlands MPs raised questions about key projects in the region at Transport questions on Thursday, with Catherine Atkinson, MP for Derby North, enquiring over the progress on Midland Mainline electrification and Luke Evans, MP for Hinckley and Bosworth raising safety improvements to the A5.

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3,000 JOBS BOOST IF COVENTRY, LEICESTER & NOTTINGHAM LINKED BY RAIL

New analysis by Midlands Connect has shown that if the rail link is constructed between Coventry, Leicester & Nottingham 3,000 roles will be created during the lifetime of the construction and in the supply chain.

This peaks in 2031 at around 850 and averages at around 400 every year. The majority of the roles predicted are skilled occupations in engineering, operatives or project management, and it is believed that 70 apprentices can be recruited and trained over the course of the programme.

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MPS CALL FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR CHESTERFIELD STAVELEY

REGENERATION ROUTE

Cllr Tricia Gilby, Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council and Vice Chair of EMC is leading calls for government funding to help bring forward the Chesterfield Staveley Regeneration Route (CSRR), to ensure a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to revitalise several former north Derbyshire mining communities is not missed.

The proposed 6km road would unlock the development of the former Staveley Works site for new housing, commercial units and community spaces, and also the former Staveley Chemical Works site for employment uses. Investment in the new road would also align with many of the projects currently being delivered through the £25.2 million Staveley Town Deal.

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES FIRST-EVER MAYORAL COUNCIL

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner this week chaired the first-ever Mayoral Council - hosted in the North East - to discuss how best to shift power away from Westminster and into communities.

Regional mayors were invited to the roundtable to share their views on the development of the upcoming English Devolution White Paper.

The Deputy Prime Minister established the Mayoral Council to strengthen the relationships between central government and the mayors to ensure that they are involved in discussions concerning devolution and the White Paper has the fingerprints of local people on it.

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LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEMANDS DATA USED TO JUSTIFY HUNDREDS OF COUNTRYSIDE PYLONS

Cllr Martin Hill, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council and Chair of EMC, is leading calls for the National Grid to share the data used to justify its claim that 400 countryside pylons are cheaper than seabed cabling.

The council believes the costing for the Grid's proposal for pylons and substations across 80 miles of productive farmland between Grimsby and Walpole are fundamentally flawed. Officers have already requested official costings twice and have been ignored by the Grid, which has cited commercial sensitivities.

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EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell
Vice Chair: Cllr Tricia Gilby
Conservative Group: Cllr Phil King
Labour Group: Cllr Jewel Miah
Liberal Democrat Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Matthew Relf
Executive Director: Stuart Young



East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0PB

