POLICY BRIEF

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

East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

8 NOVEMBER 2024

National Recruitment

Campaign for Local

Government

Some thoughts on the

return of strategic

planning…

Housing News

Midlands Connect launch

search for new Chair

NATIONAL RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

East Midlands Councils is proud to have supported the Local Government Association and our

member authorities in preparing for the launch of the national recruitment campaign for jobs in

local government, which began on Monday 4 November 2024.

To support the campaign we are pleased to have re-launched our regional jobs platform East

Midlands Jobs, where authorities can advertise their roles, and residents can see opportunities

available throughout the region. For more information about the campaign, or East Midlands

Jobs, please contact Lisa Bushell.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE RETURN OF STRATEGIC PLANNING…

In our latest blog post, East Midlands Councils’ Director of Policy and Infrastructure, Andrew

Pritchard, shares this thoughts on the return of strategic planning. As the new Deputy Prime

Minister Angela Raynor has signalled the Government’s intention to deliver universal coverage of

strategic planning arrangements within the current Parliament, Andrew shares five ‘top-tips’ for

those contemplating a new generation of strategic plans.

OPEN CALL FOR EVIDENCE: NEW TOWNS TASKFORCE

The New Towns Taskforce is launching a call for evidence to explore opportunities for large

developments. The Taskforce, which is led by Sir Michael Lyons and Dame Kate Barker in place

as deputy chair, is welcoming proposals for new towns containing a minimum of 10,000 homes,

which, according to the MHCLG, “are regionally significant for both housing numbers and

economic growth”. The call for evidence will close on 13 December and will form a key part of

the government’s evidence-gathering process for the New Towns

Taskforce,

MIDLANDS ENGINE – GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON CESSATION OF FUNDING

As part of the last week’s Budget announcement, the Government stated its intention to consult on

ending the funding for pan-regional partnerships, as of March 2025. This relates to the Midlands

Engine. While details remain a little sketchy, the formal consultation will likely be published within the

next week or so, and will be open for a period of four weeks.

HOUSING NEWS

The Government made the following funding announcements:

Rough sleeping winter pressures 2024-25

An emergency £10 million fund to support rough sleepers this winter. As the coldest months of

the year approach, this funding will go direct to councils with the highest need and support

thousands of the most vulnerable people in society. In the East Midlands, the following councils

were awarded funding: Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Boston, Charnwood, Derby City, East Lindsey,

Leicester City, Lincoln City, Mansfield, North Northamptonshire, Nottingham City, South Holland,

West Northamptonshire. The full list of allocations is available here:

Brownfield Sites

£68m funding package for 54 councils to unlock disused brownfield sites. With the funding,

delivered through the Brownfield Land Release Fund, councils will be able to cover the cost of

decontamination, clearing disused buildings or improving infrastructure such as internet, water

and power. As part of this funding, £2.6m is awarded to West Northamptonshire Council, and

includes £1.4m to transform a former bus depot and deliver 72 new homes.

MIDLANDS CONNECT LAUNCH SEARCH FOR NEW CHAIR

As it celebrates its 10th anniversary, Sub-national Transport Body Midlands Connect has begun

its search for a new Chair. The organisation is looking for someone who can provide leadership in

the delivery of the vision, strategic objectives, targets, and outputs of Midlands Connect, as well

as building connections and advocating for the region.

2024 PAY AWARD AGREED FOR CRAFTWORKERS

Local government craftworkers are employed in a variety of roles, including housing

maintenance, street cleansing, waste management, and recycling. Agreement has been reached

on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2024 (covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025).

EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE WITH DARREN NEWMAN

On Thursday, EMC hosted an Employment Law Update facilitated by Darren Newman. The

session was attended by over 70 colleagues from across the region, where Darren provided

advice and interpretation of the main developments in employment law and implications for

councils. Many thanks to all those who attended the session.

EMC Leadership

East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell

Nottingham Road

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

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

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