

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

Top items this week

25 JANUARY 2019



Invitation to EMC General Meeting 1 February 2019



HS2 News



Midlands Connect Open Day



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

#HS2alltheway

On Thursday 24th January Transport Secretary Chris Grayling MP gave the opening address at a packed Midlands Connect/Transport for the North Parliamentary event to build political support for HS2 Phase 2b - which will extend HS2 from Birmingham through to Leeds via the East Midlands Hub at Toton and Chesterfield. The event was hosted by Nottingham MP and Chair of the Transport Select Committee, Lillian Greenwood. Attendance included Sir John Peace (Chair Midlands Connect/Engine), Cllr Jon Collins (Leader, Nottingham City), Cllr Chris Porter (Leader, Derby City), Trish Gilby (Leader, Chesterfield) and Elizabeth Fagan (D2N2 Chair).

Securing HS2 for the Midlands and north - The Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP's speech on 'the progress HS2 is making and how it will benefit the whole country' is available [here](#).

Open letter calling on party leaders to publicly commit to completing HS2 Phase Two

The Midlands and the North come together in landmark open letter urging party leaders to publicly commit to completion of HS2 Phase Two. More than 40 prominent figures from the Midlands and the North of England have signed an open letter calling on party leaders to publicly commit to completing HS2 Phase Two in its entirety.

Midlands Connect, Midlands Engine, Northern Powerhouse Partnership and Core Cities UK are urging Theresa May, Jeremy Corbyn, Vince Cable and Nicola Sturgeon to offer their unwavering support to the project, explaining it is the only way to ensure the country benefits fully from a once-in-a-generation opportunity to drive regional economic growth and rebalance the economy.

The letter has been signed by more than 40 business and civic leaders, including in the East Midlands;

Cllr Jon Collins, Leader, Nottingham City Council; Cllr Chris Poulter, Leader, Derby City Council; Cllr Nick Rushton, Leader, Leicestershire County Council; Cllr Kay Cutts, Leader, Nottinghamshire County Council; Mike Ashworth, Strategic Director of Economy, Transport & Environment, Derbyshire County Council; Ian Morgan, Director, Wellglade Group & Chair of East Midlands HS2 Business Advisory Group; Elizabeth Fagan, MD, Boots UK and Chair, D2N2 LEP; Mandip Rai, Chief Executive, Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership; Scott Knowles, Chief Executive, East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire). For more visit [here](#).

People Conference 2019: Managing and Developing People in a Changing World, 6 February - For the inaugural regional People Conference, the focus is on **Managing and Developing People in a Changing World**.

The Conference is an opportunity for HR, L&D and OD professionals to hear from Chief Executives, leading experts and practitioners on issues such as transformational culture change, improving performance and productivity and leadership for the 21st Century [details [here](#)].

Chaired by Chief Executive of North West Leicestershire, Bev Smith, the programme offers a blend of thought-provoking keynote speakers and workshops, so that delegates gain insights and access practical models that help build capacity and performance within the context of change.

EMC's 'Planning, Design and Place Making, How do we achieve policy by getting design right first time?', 7 February

This EMC event, held in conjunction with Opun/The Design Network, will explore both policies and processes aimed at promoting excellence in design quality and place making. The NPPF now places greater emphasis on delivering design quality through the planning system. Specifically, the event will explore best practice in embedding good design in planning policy and decision making. Afternoon 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. For more information contact Lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk

East Midlands Infrastructure Summit 2019, 8 February - The Regional Infrastructure Summit will take place on 8 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. Details [here](#).

East Midlands Scrutiny Network meeting - The next meeting of the East Midlands Scrutiny network will take place on 1 February at **King Centre, Main Rd. Barleythorpe, Oakham, Rutland, LE157WD**. John Cade, from the Institute of Local Government Studies at the

University of Birmingham will be speaking at the network meeting. For more information contact

kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Boards Activity

EMC General Meeting - the EMC General meeting will take place on 1 February 2019 at Nottinghamshire County Council [papers are available from [here](#)]. All councillors are invited to attend, the meeting will include;

- Implications of Brexit on Councils in the East Midlands
- Regional Infrastructure and Growth
- Asylum and Refugee Resettlement in the East Midlands
- Regional Employers' Board Report

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Building safety learning forums in February, hosted jointly by the Local Government Association and National Housing Federation, are aimed at chief executives, housing directors, and housing portfolio holders. They are also useful for those who hold responsibility for building safety within their local authorities. It will provide a space to reflect on the cultural and practical changes organisations can make right now to the way we keep tall and complex buildings safe. Attendees

will hear from:

- the MHCLG team leading the implementation of the Hackitt Review
- early adopter organisations that are piloting and testing new ways of working
- forward-thinking teams from housing associations and local authorities that are adapting in light of the Hackitt review, and innovating to keep their residents safe.

These forums will also include time for roundtable discussions to help navigate the most pressing challenges that have arisen since the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower. Delegates will also have the chance to feed directly into the Government's policy thinking. To book a place please visit here for [25 February, Birmingham](#) and here for [28 February, Manchester](#).

More funding to help town centres and high streets thrive - Communities across the country can bid for up to £50,000 to help make local areas more attractive for business. The latest round of the £500,000 British Improvement Districts (BIDs) Loan Fund will support business owners and local leaders to set-up a BID, which allow communities to come together to deliver additional local services and upgrade commercial areas for the benefit of business. There is up to £95,000 available for this latest round of funding, the estimate is that this will be able to provide funding for up to 4 prospective BIDs. Successful applicants to the fund can receive up to £50,000. The average received by successful applicants has been £33,000.

For more information, please visit our [BIDs Loan Fund page](#) and the [British BIDs website](#), details [here](#).

James Brokenshire announces overhaul of broken housing complaints system - A new Housing Complaints Resolution Service is announced for the entire housing market. Dissatisfied homeowners and tenants will have simple and quick access to help when things go wrong, thanks to new plans announced this week by Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP [details [here](#)].

Midlands Connect

Midlands Connect Open Day, 28 February 2019 - Midlands Connect, the sub-national transport body for the region, is hosting its first open day on Thursday 28 February from 10:00am-1.00pm [details [here](#)]. Open to all, the event is a great opportunity to: drop in and talk to the team's technical experts, ask questions relating to a Midlands Connect Project, be guided through project studies and maps.

Health & Social Care

Making progress on the prevention agenda in mental health, Prevention concordat for better mental health - The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health is underpinned by an understanding that taking a prevention-focused approach to improving the public's mental health is shown to make a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society. The concordat promotes evidence-based planning and commissioning to increase the impact on reducing health inequalities. The sustainability and cost-effectiveness of this approach will be enhanced by the inclusion of action that impacts on the wider determinants of mental health and wellbeing.

The concordat is intended to provide a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across: local authorities, the NHS, public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations, educational settings and employers. For more information visit [here](#).

Local Government News



Government publishes landmark domestic abuse bill - The government has published a Bill to tackle domestic abuse [details [here](#)]. The Home Office has published a [report into the economic and social cost of domestic abuse](#), which reveals the crime cost England and Wales £66 billion in 2016 to 2017.

According to the research, the vast majority of this cost (£47 billion) was a result of the physical and emotional harm of domestic abuse, however it also includes other factors such as cost to health services (£2.3 billion), police (£1.3 billion) and victim services (£724 million).

LGA's Innovation Zone - The LGA are looking for entries for their Innovation Zone which will feature creative ideas to tackle local issues. This year's [Innovation Zone](#), a vibrant, creative space and programme within the [LGA's Annual Conference and Exhibition](#), taking place from 2 to 4 July 2019 in Bournemouth.

Culture and library peer challenges - the 31 January is the deadline for the LGAs [three culture peer challenges and six library peer challenges](#). These are being jointly delivered by the LGA and the Arts Council England and will undertake a fully-funded peer challenge of cultural or library services. The peer challenges will help test future plans as well as current delivery.

Coastal heritage sites around the Great British Coast will be saved as 23 projects are to receive a share of almost £1 million from the Coastal Revival Fund - The Coastal Revival Fund provides grants to coastal heritage sites to fund repairs, restoration and bring economic growth to coastal communities. It also supports large scale projects which are important to local communities but have not yet reached their full economic potential or are facing neglect [details [here](#)]. In the East Midlands;

- East Lindsey District Council - Restoration of the Skegness Rockery Garden, a listed heritage asset. , £50,000 awarded

Nottingham aims to be first carbon neutral city in the UK - Nottingham could become the first carbon neutral city in the UK after the City Council set itself an ambitious target to achieve this by 2028.

The city has already met its Energy Strategy target early – a 26% reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 – and reduced emissions by 39% since 2005. Nottingham is also on track to meet its 2020 target of 20% of energy generation from low carbon sources, due to a combination of a reduction in the City's energy demand and its renewable energy projects programme [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

Settled and pre-settled status for EU citizens and their families - The EU Settlement Scheme will open fully by 30 March 2019. Individuals may be able to apply now if they meet the criteria. The deadline for applying will be 30 June 2021. On 21 January [the Prime Minister announced that there will be no fee](#) when the scheme opens fully on 30 March 2019. Anyone who has applied already, or who applies and pays a fee during the test phases, will have their fee refunded. Details of the refunds process will be published shortly. Further information [here](#).

EMC Events



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. For more information on this workshop visit [here](#).

Negotiation Skills, 13 Feb 2019 - EMC is holding a full day workshop on Negotiation skills. The 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. For more information or to book a place visit [here](#).

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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