

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

## Top items this week



HS2 News



2019 Spending Round



EMC HR Bulletin, August 2019  
Edition



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

6 SEPTEMBER 2019

## Spending Round 2019

The 2019 Spending Round announced on 4 September 2019 outlines the Government's spending plans for 2020/21 by setting budgets for each central government department. The full details are available from [here](#), the LGA briefing on the Spending Review is available from [here](#). The announcements included;

### Business Rates and the Fair Funding Review

- Local Government's business rate baseline funding levels will increase in line with inflation.
- The Government has written to councils announcing that a decision has been taken to delay the implementation of 75 per cent business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review until April 2021.

### Council tax

- The Spending Round assumes a two per cent Core Referendum Principle and a 2 per cent Adult Social Care Precept for illustrative purposes. As is customary, the government will consult on Council Tax Referendum Principles later this year as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement
- The government will consult on a 2 per cent Adult Social Care precept that will enable councils to access a further £0.5 billion.

### Social care

- An additional £1 billion will be made available for adult and children's social care next year.
- This is in addition to maintaining £2.5 billion of existing social care grants.
- The Government will consult on a 2 per cent adult social care precept that will enable councils to access a further £500 million funding.
- The NHS contribution to adult social care through the Better Care Fund will increase by 3.4 per cent in real terms

### Housing and homelessness

- The MHCLG settlement will include £422 million resource funding to help reduce homelessness and rough sleeping, including an additional £54 million in 2020/21. This represents a real terms increase of 13 per cent compared to 2019/20.
- MHCLG will consult on mandatory accessible housing standards in building regulations, ensuring new properties are built with good accessibility standards to reflect the needs of older and disabled people.

**Discretionary Housing Payments** - £40 million additional funding for Discretionary Housing Payments to tackle affordability pressures in the private rented sector in England and Wales

**Home ownership and the Help to Buy Equity Loan** - There will be continued support to increase home ownership through the Help to Buy equity loan and other housing programmes, including providing Homes England additional funding to deliver more homes where people need them

**Universal Credit** - £23 million to fund a range of other measures, including support for vulnerable claimants and people with complex needs migrating to Universal Credit, additional outreach activities to support those who are homeless, and increasing the number of Armed Forces champions to support veterans when entering the labour market.

**English as a second language** - £10 million additional funding for English as a second language provision. This will enable the second wave of the Integration Areas Programme.

**Fire and Rescue Service** - A 6.3 per cent increase in real terms to the Home Office's resource budget from 2019/20 to 2020/21. This is the largest planned annual growth rate in at least 15 years. (Buses - Over £200 million of increased funding to transform bus services, making best use of technology and promoting decarbonisation, to help people make the everyday journeys that matter most to them.

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## HS2 News



Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has published an assessment by Allan Cook, the Chair of HS2 Ltd, of the project's status. The assessment concludes that the budget for HS2 will need to increase and the delivery timescales extended if HS2 is to be delivered in full. Further details available [here](#). Allan Cook's advice will feed into a wider review of HS2 led by Douglas Oakervee, which will make recommendations to inform a Government decision on the future of HS2 by the end of 2019. The review's terms of reference are available [here](#). The East Midlands HS2 Strategic Board chaired by Cllr Kay Cutts MBE has made a submission to the review summarising the evidence base underpinning the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy, to complement a wider Midland Connect submission.

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## EMC News

**Attracting and Developing Talent** - EMC provides support to local authorities on HR and organisational development issues. In October our focus will be on supporting local authorities to explore 'how are you planning your future workforce' and considering the

question of 'How do you motivate and retain the talent you have?' Our 'attracting and developing talent event on 9 October invites HR and organisational development professionals to hear from leading thinkers in the field of talent development. For more information on this event visit [here](#). EMC is offering an early bird booking rate available until 13 September.

## EMC Councillor Events

**Chairing and Facilitation Skills Councillors, 18 Sep 2019 13:30**- EMC working in partnership with Blaby District Council to offer 2 Chairing skills workshops on 18 September 2019.

- 13:30 start - details [here](#),
- 17:30 start - details [here](#)

**Being an effective councillor: Making a difference – doing it your way, 24 Sep 2019** - This workshop looks at the different 'roles' that you, as a councillor, might focus on for you and your community [details [here](#)].

## EMC Boards Activity

Up coming Board meeting dates;

**Transport for the East Midlands** - 9 September 2019

**Executive Board** - 20 September 2019

**East Midlands Migration Board** - 10 September 2019

**HS2 Executive Board** - 14 October 2019

**East Midlands Employers Board** - 12 September 2019

## EMC Support Activity

**Mediation** - This week EMC colleagues have supported an authority, by through mediation for staff members.

**Mediation** is one of the services offered by EMC to local councils and the wider public and third sector. EMC can offer qualified and independent mediators who will facilitate the process with the aim of helping the individuals to reach a mutually acceptable agreement to resolve their problems. For further information on Mediation contact [Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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## Brexit Update

**Brexit Lead Officers** - 'Brexit Lead Officers' have been confirmed by all councils in the East Midlands. MHCLG have already been in direct contact with nominated leads, clarifying roles & responsibilities and points of contact nationally and within each region.

**Dept. for Health and Social Care (DHSC) - update and sharing ASC national steering group data** - Please see a link to refreshed DHSC communications that more clearly set out the actions that the adult social care sector needs to take to prepare for Brexit. [Adult social care - Actions to take to prepare for Brexit](#)

DHSC would also like to highlight to Local Authorities the advice (included in the above link) on what to do after exit day if councils experience disruption to supplies or if there is potential for disruption to social care services and no immediate resolution is available.

**Remote Communities** - As part of Government's work with local authorities on Brexit preparation, they are keen to understand whether remoteness is a particularly relevant variable in the event of disruption of supplies of food, medicines and fuel.

Government's initial analysis suggests that the areas with the highest levels of remoteness include Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire in the East Midlands. They will make contact, through the Brexit Lead Officers, with councils with the highest levels of remoteness to understand how this issue impacts on Brexit preparations.

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## Brexit Update continued

**Communication** - Continued emphasis on the importance of communication and the link to the renewed government hub where all formal national advice was provided. It is hoped that all councils could direct residents through their own websites. Also, see link to LGA Brexit information for councils.

- <https://www.gov.uk/brexit>
- <https://www.local.gov.uk/brexit-advice-hub-local-government>

The guarantee that EU funded projects would be supported after a No Deal was restated. However, the sector has again raised concerns about the lack of progress on UKSPF and discussed the opportunity to localise and join-up the UK successor scheme with other funds at the local level.

### Disposal Routes for Consignments of Household Waste No Longer Able to Reach EU Countries in a No-Deal Scenario

- There have been media reports (quoting waste industry sources) suggesting that a no-deal scenario will cause household waste previously destined for the EU to be re-directed to land-fill in the UK. This could arise if exports are delayed at ports, and compounded if exporters have not gained the authorisations detailed in central government guidance on "Importing and exporting waste if there's no Brexit deal".

A longer-term risk arises if waste exports to the EU become uneconomic, putting these businesses at risk of collapse. MHCLG has been asked to advise if specific Councils should anticipate a possible call to receive additional household waste for land-fill?

**The EU Settlement Scheme** - The Home Office has published EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics (June 2019) on applications made to the EUSS from 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, and applications concluded during the same time period – available [here](#).

**Analysis for the East Midlands** - 62,800 applications were made in the first quarter in the East Midlands [details [here](#)]. The top ten local authorities for registrations in the East Midlands are;

Local Authority	Number	Local Authority	Number
1 Leicester	15,030	6 Corby	2,710
2 Northampton	8,180	7 South Holland	1,890
3 Nottingham	6,930	8 Lincoln	1,670
4 Derby	4,360	9 Wellingborough	1,660
5 Boston	2,710	10 Kettering	1,540

As of June 2018, the annual population survey estimated that there were approximately 270,000 EU citizens by county of birth living in the East Midlands. Whilst the majority of these citizens will be able to make this transition without concern there remain a several categories of people likely to be in need of additional assistance. Of particular concern are vulnerable adults and looked after children/care leavers as well as street homeless, Roma communities, those who are digitally illiterate or unable to speak English.

We continue to raise concerns about lack of clarity on free movement of labour post-Brexit.

**£9 million announced to get ports and local areas ready for Brexit** - An extra £9 million will be made available to ensure local areas and major ports are ready for Brexit. A total of £5 million will be given to local councils which either have or are near to a major air, land or sea port to ensure they will continue to operate efficiently when the UK leaves the EU on 31 October.

The remaining £4 million will be shared out to local resilience forums (LRFs), partnerships made up of representatives from local public services, across England to support them in their preparations.

The local council to receive the funding in the East Midlands is North West Leicestershire District Council £150,000 each (East Midlands Airport). The local resilience forums (LRFs) to receive additional funding are: Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

The £4 million funding for local resilience forums (LRF) will be used to support LRFs in the development of robust Brexit plans for their areas and supporting their additional staffing costs. For more information visit [here](#).

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## Employers' Information



**EMC HR Bulletin August 2019** - The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from attached or you can access via [here](#). The August Bulletin covers; Employment Law expert Darren Newman's article this month focuses on Calculating Holiday Pay Entitlement for Casual Workers.

**Local News includes;** Sickness Absence Benchmarking results for the East Midlands.

**National Developments include;** Pay & Diversity Survey Results – Chief Executives & Chief Officers, Pay Roadshow Event - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and information and updates on Apprenticeships.

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

**Communities to see how housing developers cash benefits them thanks to new planning rules** - New rules will mean councils will be legally required to publish deals done with housing developers so residents can see how money will be spent investing in the future of their community [[here](#)].

**Access for All funding, designed to improve accessibility at local train stations** - the Government announced a further round of Access for All funding, designed to improve accessibility at local train stations to remove barriers which prevent people with disabilities from using the railway network. The invitation letter and guidance can be viewed [here](#). In summary:

- The Mid-Tier funding is capped to £1m per station
- Schemes must be developed to a creditable level of development
- Ideally with an element of 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding

Closing date for draft bids need to be with East Midlands Railway (EMR) no later than 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**100 places to benefit from new Towns Fund (14 in the East Midlands)** - The 100 places invited to develop proposals for a new generation of multi-million-pound Town Deals have been announced this week [details [here](#)]. The locations in the East Midlands are;

- Boston, Boston BC
- Clay Cross, North East Derbyshire DC
- Corby, Corby BC
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Ashfield DC
- Lincoln, City of Lincoln
- Long Eaton, Erewash BC
- Loughborough, Charnwood BC
- Mansfield, Mansfield DC
- Newark-on-Trent, Newark and Sherwood DC
- Northampton, Northampton BC
- Skegness, East Lindsey DC
- Stapleford, Broxtowe BC
- Staveley, Chesterfield BC
- Sutton in Ashfield, Ashfield DC

**£1 billion Future High Streets Fund expanded to 50 more areas** - An additional 50 towns will benefit from the £1 billion Future High Streets Fund, successfully shortlisted places will receive further guidance in due course. The full list of the places going on to the next phase of the Future High Streets Fund can be found [here](#), these include the below in the East Midlands; Ashfield, Sutton; South Kesteven, Grantham and South Holland, Holbeach.

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## Local Government News

**Councils invited to apply for digital funding to boost services** - Councils looking to improve public services through innovative uses of digital technology can apply for funding. The deadline is 16 September 2019 [details [here](#)].

**£30m to spark rollout of next generation 5G in rural** - Up to ten rural locations will be chosen to run innovative trials of 5G applications and stimulate commercial investment in 5G technology which offers mobile speeds 10 to 20 times faster than previous generations. The deadline for RCC applications is 25 October 2019 with the winning projects expected to be announced before the end of the year. For more information visit [here](#).



### EMC Events

**East Midlands Transformation Academy, starting on 26 Sep 2019** - Announcing the [East Midlands Transformation Academy](#), hosted by East Midlands Councils in Melton Mowbray starting October and delivered by the Public Service Transformation Academy. For five days over four months participants benefit from expert speakers, workshops, coaching and facilitators to drive their transformational initiatives. To learn more see [East Midlands Councils](#) website or e-mail [paul.conneely@publicservicetransformation.org](mailto:paul.conneely@publicservicetransformation.org).

**Attracting and Developing Talent, 9 Oct 2019** - East Midlands Councils is providing an opportunity for our people professionals to hear from key speakers on designing and developing approaches to attracting, engaging and retaining talent. For more information visit [here](#).

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## EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE  
Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen  
Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan  
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney  
Labour Group: Cllr Alan Rhodes  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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