

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

Top items this week

19 OCTOBER 2018



HS2 Eastern Leg Essential to Project's Success

UK2070
COMMISSION

UK2070 Commission



Mental Health First Aid Course in the East Midlands



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

HS2 Eastern Leg Essential to Project's Success, says new Chair

- Senior politicians and businesses commit to Phase 2b of HS2
- New HS2 Chair makes first appearance at HS2 East event in Newcastle
- Sir Terry Morgan calls for HS2 apprenticeships to reach 5,000
- Lord Kerslake states HS2 will help some of the poorest areas in England
- Morgan says Crossrail economic benefits over double forecasts before first train runs

Sir Terry Morgan has used his first engagement as chair of HS2 to reinforce support for Phase 2b of the project, outlining its importance in the success of the UK's biggest ever infrastructure scheme.

Speaking at an event in Newcastle hosted by Turner Townsend on behalf of HS2 East, a partnership which represents areas along the eastern leg of the Phase 2b route in the East Midlands and north of England, Sir Terry also signalled his intent to ramp up the organisation's commitment to the skills agenda, outlining an ambition to create 5,000 apprenticeships, well over double the current target of 2,000.

Drawing comparisons with his experience as chair of Crossrail, Sir Terry suggested economic opportunities and job creation arising from HS2 Phase 2b would be far greater than currently anticipated. He was joined at the HS2 East event by former head of the Civil Service Lord Kerslake and major political and business leaders from across England.

The eastern leg of Phase 2b is a high speed connection between Birmingham, Toton in the East Midlands, Sheffield and Leeds. It will unlock economic potential, creating tens of thousands of additional jobs and opportunities to benefit millions of residents. Greater connectivity between these key city regions will also boost productivity, nurturing a powerful super-economy of eight million people and four million jobs.

To read the full press release visit [here](#).

Meanwhile Nottinghamshire County Council have agreed to enter into an MoU with London & Continental Railways to help develop of the land around the East Midlands Hub Station at Toton for a mixed used Innovation Campus that could create 1,000s of new jobs [details [here](#)].



Mental Health First Aid

East Midlands Councils is holding a two day Mental Health First Aid course this December (5 & 6 Dec).

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training teaches people to spot the symptoms of mental health issues, offer initial help and guide a person towards support. MHFA does not teach people to be therapists, but it does teach people to listen, reassure and respond, even in a crisis - and even potentially stop a crisis from happening. The two day course provides the following:

- An in depth understanding of mental health and the factors that can affect wellbeing
- Practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Confidence to step in, reassure and support a person in distress
- Enhanced interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening
- Knowledge to help someone recover their health by guiding them to further support

What is Mental Health First Aid?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an internationally recognised training course, designed to teach people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health and provide help on a first aid basis.

Everyone on an Adult MHFA course is taught a set of skills which enables them to support someone experiencing mental health issues. For more information visit [here](#).

EMC News

Report of Social Partners Meeting with President Tusk in Brussels, 11 October - Councillor Tom Beattie, Leader of Corby Borough Council and Chair of East Midlands Regional Employers Board met with President Donald Tusk and other Social Partners in Brussels on Thursday October 11th. The meeting took place in advance of the EU Summit meeting due to take place this week where it is hoped that progress can be made on concluding a Brexit deal between the UK and the EU.

Councillor Beattie is President of CEEP UK and one of three Vice Presidents of CEEP EU (the body that represents the interests of public sector employers and the providers of public services in the EU). The meeting was an informal one over lunch with representatives of Business Europe and the ETUC. The issue of Brexit was, of course, high on the agenda, particularly the apparent impasse around the Irish border issue. The impact of Brexit on future trading relations between the UK and the EU was discussed and what that might mean for business and jobs. The impact of EU migration was also discussed as was the political situation more generally among EU member states.

Councillor Beattie stated, "Meeting President Tusk in such an informal setting and under Chatham House rules was a great opportunity to hear about the pressing issues facing both the UK and the EU as we approach the Brexit end game".

EMC Events

Taking Minutes not Hours, 08 Nov 2018 - This workshop will give participants practical tips and techniques to help them write: effective agendas before meetings, notes during meetings and minutes after meetings [[details here](#)].

GDPR for HR 6 months on, 13 Nov 2018 - EMC are holding a follow up workshop, providing a space to explore GDPR for HR colleagues 6 months on from the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (in May 2018) [[here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

UK2070 Commission - The UK2070 Commission is an independent inquiry into city and regional inequalities in the UK. Chaired by Lord Kerslake, it has been set up to conduct a review of the policy and spatial issues related to the UK's long-term city and regional development. The Commission will run in four phases, from July 2018 to November 2019. The Commission's activities will be in four phases: initial technical work and evidence gathering; a deliberative phase; consultation on the draft report and lastly finalising the report, along with both wider consultation and dissemination. The Commissioner's Call for Evidence is now open until Friday 16 November, for more information visit [here](#).

Removing the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap: letter from the Communities Secretary - Letter to local authorities with a Housing Revenue Account on the next steps on lifting the borrowing cap [[details here](#)].

Innovation in council housebuilding - LGA research findings into council housebuilding – case studies and learning points from action on the ground [[details here](#)].

Communities Secretary signals end to unfair leasehold practices - Majority of new-build houses to be sold as freehold and new leases to be capped at just £10. For more information visit [here](#).

Housing experts join forces to boost property agent standards - Housing Minister Heather Wheeler announces plans to raise standards across the property agent sector. The group will report their findings to government by summer 2019, for more visit [here](#).

Funding released to make social sector homes safe - £248 million has been released to social sector landlords to fund the removal and replacement of unsafe aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding from high-rise (defined as 18 metres or higher) social sector homes. Applications were received for 159 buildings, and 135 – from 12 councils and 31 housing associations – have been approved [[details here](#)].

Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People in the D2N2 LEP area - Call to run a project to support unemployed and inactive participants into employment. Applications to this call should cover the entire D2N2 area, although smaller applications covering only part of the area will be considered [[details here](#)].

Health & Social Care



£240m social care allocations - Local authorities in England will receive a share of a £240 million fund to help local areas ease winter pressures on the NHS. Councils have been allocated the funding based on the adult social care relative needs formula.

The East Midlands region allocation was ranked 8th across the 9 English regions, with London, North West, South East and West Midlands the top 4. For more information visit [here](#).

Local authority	Final allocation
Derby	£1,148,569
Derbyshire	£3,627,306
Leicester	£1,573,738
Leicestershire	£2,414,247
Lincolnshire	£3,367,950

Local authority	Final allocation
Northamptonshire	£2,717,108
Nottingham	£1,550,028
Nottinghamshire	£3,527,070
Rutland	£135,720

Local Government News and wider



Views to be sought on unitary options - A paper setting out drivers and options for different unitary structures was discussed by Leicestershire County Council's cabinet this week. Over the autumn and winter, Leicestershire County Council will speak to and seek the views of MPs, district councils, parish and town councils, the NHS, criminal justice agencies, businesses, universities, the voluntary sector and other stakeholders. It will also look at any other options put forward and use the feedback to shape proposals for future widespread public consultation [details [here](#)].

LGA, Cyber resilience funded programme 2018/19 - Invitation to apply for funding to improve your council's cyber resilience. The purpose of this programme is to support councils, either individually or in partnership, to strengthen their cyber resilience where gaps or weaknesses have been highlighted in the recent Cyber Security Stocktake. With councils making more local services available digitally, getting more elected members and staff online and working in a more collaborative and integrated way with partner organisations – which requires the sharing of resident and business data – reviewing and reinforcing current cyber security arrangements to ensure these are fit for purpose is a key priority. For more information visit [here](#).

Hate crime plan refreshed to protect victims and promote shared values - New measures put in place to tackle hate crimes include a review of legislation, extra funding to support communities and improving the response to incidents. For more information visit [here](#).

Preventing hate crime: funding for community projects - The Home Office is seeking to fund projects up to £75,000. Project are expected to finish delivery by March 2020, with all invoices submitted by 31 March 2020 [details [here](#)].

New disqualification rules to prevent people found guilty of serious crimes from serving as councillors and mayors - Rules to prevent people found guilty of serious crimes from serving on local councils will be strengthened, Local Government Minister Rishi Sunak MP announced this week [details [here](#)].

Homelessness

Rough Sleeping Strategy event, 23rd October from 10.00-16.00 - MHCLG are running a workshop on next steps following the publication of their Rough Sleeping Strategy, aimed at Housing Directors, Housing Options Managers and team leaders. To attend this event, email Olivia Edwards, Olivia.Edwards@communities.gov.uk, by 5pm on 19 October.

Event details: - Following the publication of the Rough Sleeping Strategy on 13th August, MHCLG would like to start a conversation with local authority Housing Directors, Housing Options Managers and their team leads about how best to take some of these commitments forward. The workshop will cover the following topics;

1. Reviewing the Homelessness Reduction Act
2. Workforce capabilities
3. Accountability - which will touch on local homelessness strategies, accountability structures and data pilots.

Venue - The Local Government Association, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ:

Employers' Information

CEEP UK News Alert - 12 October 2018 - The latest edition of the CEEP UK News Alert is available [here](#).

EMC Events



Report Writing, 21 Nov 2018 - EMC is holding a one day seminar on Report Writing for Officers. For more information visit [here](#).

East Midlands PA Conference 2019, 29 Nov 2018 - The East Midlands PA Conference returns for 2018, following the successful first conference held in 2017. For more information visit [here](#).

Coaching (virtually) in a digital age, 06 Dec 2018 - The East Midlands Coaching Network is holding a very practical CPD session for Coaches on 6 December 2018, on telephone and Skye coaching. For more information 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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