

# EMC 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

15 DECEMBER 2017



Strategic Road Network Initial Report



Communities and Local Government Select Committee - on Scrutiny



EMC Employment Law Update



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## A Summary of Growth and Infrastructure Work

Supporting the region and raising the profile of Growth and Infrastructure in the East Midlands is a priority area for EMC and will be a key area of work in 2018. A number of members have requested further information on the proposed next steps since the infrastructure summit on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, where Council Leaders, business representatives and MPs in the region signed the East Midlands Declaration on Infrastructure Funding, committing to work closely together to increase investment into our region from 60% of the English average in 2015-16 to 100% of the English average by 2010. For additional background material, items 4 and 5 of the [Executive Board](#) papers are the best source.

Early in 2018, EMC will provide further information on:

- The portfolio of the region's infrastructure investment priorities.
- The economic case for increasing investment into the region.
- The re-established All-Party Parliamentary Group of East Midlands MPs.
- The shape of the longer term management role on the East Midlands rail franchise.
- Our written submission to the [Transport Select Committee](#) on regional rail investment.

## How well do you understand the health and wellbeing needs of your local community? 10am – 3pm, 13 February 2018

- In conjunction with Public Health England; East Midlands Councils is offering a free seminar for councillors in support of their understanding and response to the health and wellbeing needs of your local communities.

The seminar, which will be hosted by Councillor Sue Woolley, Chair of the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Executive Mayor Kate Allsop, Mansfield District Council, is aimed at elected members from all types of councils, and in any role. It is anticipated that the seminar will be of specific interest to members who do not traditionally have a role within health or social care, but who wish to understand more about the health needs of their local communities, and through developing this understanding, the positive impact that they can have on health and wellbeing of the local population. Further details available [here](#). Please contact Lois Dale ([lois.dale@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:lois.dale@emcouncils.gov.uk), 01664 502649) to book your place.



**Local Government Finance Session** - Braving the winter conditions this week, Councillors from across the region attended EMC's Local Government Finance Seminar. This highly engaging and informative workshop was valued by the Councillors present, providing an opportunity to develop their understanding of local government finance. *"As a cabinet member, it gives me a much greater understanding and this a greater feel for my role in budget and Medium Term Financial Planning."*

**Anti Human Trafficking Partnership** - East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership held an Anti Human Trafficking meeting for partners from across the region, the focus of the meeting was the development of a work programme that will be published in the New Year. In addition, colleagues from the Strategic Migration Partnership brought together Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children's Leads from across the East Midlands this week, to discuss the National Transfer Scheme and wider support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

## EMC Councillor Events

**Negotiation Skills for Councillors, 07 Feb 2018** - EMC is offering a subsidised half day workshop for Councillors on Negotiation Skills on 7 February 2018 [details [here](#)]. This half-day module will help delegates to understand what negotiation is, and is not, in the business world. It will give Councillors practical skills to enable them to prepare for a negotiation scenario, weighing up variables and anticipating challenges along the way.

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Highways England's Strategic Road Network Initial Report published** - Highways England has published their first Strategic Road Network Initial Report. The Initial Report sets out advice to government about where DfT believe priorities should be focused for the second road period, which runs between 2020 and 2025.

It is based on extensive engagement DfT have undertaken and evidence they have gathered on the Strategic Road Network. This has enabled DfT to develop a better understanding of how people use and are affected by the Strategic Road network. This includes consideration of trends that will affect future road use, to enable the development of an emerging long-term vision for the future.

Although the report does not recommend specific schemes, it shows how DfT are developing their thinking on the future investment priorities across the country. DfT would like to receive views on whether these are the right areas to focus on for the second road investment period. The full report is published on the DfT website, available [here](#).

**Transport for the East Midlands** - The next Transport for the East Midlands Board meeting will take place on 26 January. The board will consider the region's response and local proposals at this meeting.

**Midlands Connect responds to Highways England Strategic Road Network Initial Report** - Responding to its publication the Midlands Connect press release is available from [here](#).

**£200 million funding boost for England's roads** - This funding will go towards repairing almost 1 million potholes, and will also be used for highways maintenance, developing new technologies to improve highways resilience, and high quality cycle parks. For more information visit [here](#). The £200 million announced includes:

- £46 million to help repair potholes
- £151 million for the local highways maintenance incentive fund
- a [£500,000 competition for connected technologies](#)
- £4 million for the [Cycle Rail scheme](#)
- an extension to 3 cycle and walk to work pilot projects

**Funding for Innovation: Connected Vehicle Data - Connected vehicle data funding competition** - The competition will provide £500,000 for local authority projects costing between £30,000 and £100,000 which will:

- demonstrate the capability of connected vehicle data;
- improve the quality of road condition and asset management data;
- provide the business case for more widespread deployment across a number of highway authorities;
- enable the development of smart asset strategies based on harvested intelligence; and
- help support innovation within the private sector supply chain.

For further information visit [here](#).

**Government awards councils new funding to transform local communities** - The government has announced this week that 90% of councils are now part of a programme that will create 44,000 new jobs and release land for 25,000 new homes. As part of the funding announcement, 56 council-led partnerships will receive £8.7 million funding to improve public services, stimulate economic growth and free up land for thousands of new homes [details [here](#)]. In the East Midlands;

- Greater Lincolnshire One Public Estate, total funding awarded - £100,000
- Leicestershire Partnership, total funding awarded - £115,000
- North Midlands, total funding awarded - £175,000
- Rutland One Public Estate (ROPE), total funding awarded - £175,000

**Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets (Historic England Event), Nottingham** - the course is aimed at Asset Managers, Estate Surveyors, Facilities Managers, Planners and anyone engaged with the maintenance and management of Listed Buildings in Local Authority Ownership. It is aimed at staff with limited existing knowledge of heritage, so is not suitable for conservation officers or other heritage professionals. Please note, these training events are provided free of charge by Historic England, and places are at a premium, booking and further information [here](#).

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## Employers' Information



**Employment Law Update, 08 Mar 2018** - EMC is holding its annual Employment Law event on 8 March, with Employment Law expert Darren Newman. This event is aimed at senior HR and Legal professionals in the public sector and Elected Members with Portfolio responsibility for HR.

EMC are delighted to be able to offer authorities the opportunity to take advantage of an early bird offer, if you book a place before the end of January the cost per delegate is just £99 + VAT for EMC members (saving £76 per place). More information is available from [here](#).

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## Local Government News



**Communities and Local Government Select Committee says local authority culture change needed to ensure effective scrutiny** - The Government must encourage a culture change at local authorities to ensure overview and scrutiny is truly independent of the executive and can properly contribute to improving services for taxpayers, the Communities and Local Government Committee concludes.

The Committee's report on overview and scrutiny in local government, warns that scrutiny is often not held in high enough esteem, leading to a lack of constructive challenge to improve services for residents. It recommends measures to strengthen the independence of overview and scrutiny committees and for increased scrutiny of combined authorities, Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) and arm's length bodies. For more visit [here](#).

**Council invests in hotel to sustain services** - West Lindsey District Council has acquired a hotel as part of its investment strategy to support services for local people. It is the first property purchased by the council as part of its Investment Strategy, which was approved by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in April 2017 [details [here](#)].

**Guide to GDPR** - The Information Commissioners Office has published a [guide to the GDPR](#) that explains the provisions of the GDPR to help organisations comply with its requirements. It is for those who have day-to-day responsibility for data protection [the guide is available from [here](#)].

**LGA Report, Making Safeguarding Personal: supporting increased involvement of services users** - This resource underlines the way in which effective user involvement can support delivery of the six core safeguarding principles in practice as outlined in the Department of Health Care and Support Statutory Guidance [details [here](#)].

**Universal Credit local authority bulletins 2017** - The Universal Credit bulletins provide local authority staff with updates on developments with Universal Credit and Universal Support [details [here](#)].

**Housing Benefit for local authorities: bulletins** - Housing Benefit (HB) bulletins provide advice, guidance and information on HB to local authority staff [details [here](#)].

**Statutory homelessness and homelessness prevention and relief, England: July to September 2017** - This release provides information on the decisions taken by local authorities on homelessness applications and households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by local authorities. It also contains information on homelessness prevention and relief in England that took place outside the homelessness statutory framework [details [here](#)].

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## Health & Social Care



**LGA report, 'Working with schools to improve the health of school-aged children'** - While the health of older people gets lots of attention in the debate about the future of the NHS and the ageing population, there has been a host of warnings about the state of children's health too. This report showcases the work being done by schools and local authorities across the country to improve the health of children [report available from [here](#)].

**LGA Publication, 'Making obesity everybody's business: A whole system approach to obesity'** - Obesity is considered to be one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century. Without action, the health of individuals will continue to suffer, health inequalities associated with obesity will remain and the economic and social costs will increase to unsustainable levels [details [here](#)].

**Public Health England Chief Executive Duncan Selbie's Friday message** - 15 December available [here](#) and 8 December 2017 [here](#).

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## 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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