

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

## Top items this week

20 JULY 2018



### Department for Exiting the European Union

The Implications of Brexit for Local Growth



East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group



LGA Cyber Security Stocktake



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Meeting with DExEU Minister - The Implications of Brexit for Local Growth

Summit Meeting with Suella Braverman MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union

Council Leaders, Portfolio Holders/Committee Chairs for Place & Economic Growth, and Chief Executives are invited to attend a meeting with Suella Braverman MP, Minister at DExEU at 2.00pm to 3.30pm on Tuesday 24 July 2018 at Nottinghamshire County Council.

The agenda for the meeting is available from [here](#), if you would like to book one of the remaining places please contact [Lisa.Hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk).

## Rail and the East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

The East Midlands APPG met this week to focus on electrification of the Midland Main Line (MML), the East Midlands Rail Franchise and the specification for the procurement of a new fleet of bi-mode trains. Co-chaired by Alex Norris MP and Nigel Mills MP, the APPG met with senior representatives from Bombardier – the largest UK rail manufacturing facility based in Derby - to discuss their proposals for high-speed, high-quality bi-mode trains based on their successful UK designed AVENTRA platform. While there remains firm support in the region for the full electrification of the Midlands Mainline, the discussion with Bombardier was certainly a positive one and encouraging in terms of the potential performance of their proposed bi-mode train solution.

## Westminster Hall Debate on Rail Investment in the East Midlands

Remaining at Westminster (at least until the summer recess), EMC is supporting Alex Norris MP who is leading a Westminster Hall Debate on 'Rail Investment in the East Midlands' on Tuesday 24 July. There is a strong case for increasing investment in rail services and infrastructure in the East Midlands – and making our voice heard in Westminster is an important part of influencing the decision of DfT ministers and officials. The Westminster Hall debate is a good opportunity to present the case as it obliges a response from a government minister.

## Regional Investment - Treasury Releases Latest Figures

And on the subject of rail and wider public investment in the East Midlands....HM Treasury has released (19 July) the latest [Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis](#) (PESA). Look out for a full analysis in next week's Policy Brief – but in summary the current investment situation is very disappointing. While the region did not expect any significant change since last year – and the region has submitted ambitious and deliverable investment proposals to HMT and DfT – the levels of public investment, particularly in transport and rail investment have further worsened. Here's a snapshot (latest HMT stats, 2016-17, region vs national average):

- **Economic Affairs** (£ per head) £468, Eng. £653
- **Transport** (£ per head) EM £220, Eng. £425
- **Rail** (£ per head); EM £70, Eng. £249

For all 3 of these key measures of public investment in the economy of the East Midlands – the region has the lowest per head funding in the country.

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## Employers' News



**Chief Officers' Pay Agreement 2018-20** - Agreement has now been reached on pay awards applicable from **1 April 2018** and **1 April 2019**. The individual basic salaries of all officers within scope of the JNC for Chief Officers of Local Authorities should be increased by 2.0% with effect from 1 April 2018 and 2.0% with effect from 1 April 2019. The JNC has also agreed to cooperate on a joint survey on the levels of stress, workload pressures and unpaid overtime being experienced by Chief Officers. This pay agreement covers the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020. To access the circular visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Council House Building Borrowing Programme** - MHCLG have launched a £1 billion fund for additional [Housing Revenue Account borrowing headroom](#) to finance council house building. MHCLG officials are keen to speak with councils that are eligible and interested in accessing this headroom so to encourage bids, for further information please contact [HRABorrowing@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:HRABorrowing@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

The prospectus details those councils that are eligible to apply – the deadline for submissions is 7 September.

**James Brokenshire provides stronger powers for councils to tackle empty homes** - Councils across England will have powers to charge even greater Council Tax premiums on homes left empty for many years following an amendment to a government bill. For more information visit [here](#).

**Ministers seek views on shale planning reforms** - A consultation on proposed planning reforms for exploratory shale gas development in England has been launched. The 14-week consultation closes on 25 October 2018 [details [here](#)].

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## Migration

**International Migration Statistics** - The Office for National Statistics releases the latest official long-term international migration statistics for the UK for the year ending December 2017. This release includes an overview of migration trends based on the ONS best assessment of available survey (International Passenger Survey) and administrative data (Home Office administrative data, Higher Education Statistics Agency data and National Insurance numbers to foreign nationals). For more information visit [here](#). This release includes corrections to data for year ending September 2017 and smaller corrections to year ending June 2017. Key Findings:

- The ONS best assessment shows around 280,000 more people coming to the UK than leaving in 2017, so net migration has continued to add to the UK population.
- Net Migration has fallen following record levels in 2015 and early 2016, and has been broadly stable since. This is similar to the level recorded in year ending September 2014.
- Underlying this, immigration has remained broadly stable at around 630,000 and emigration has shown a gradual increase since 2015 and is currently around 350,000.
- EU net migration continues to add to the UK population with around 100,000 more EU citizens coming to the UK than leaving.

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## Community



**Working Together to Beat Modern Slavery** - The East Midlands Special Operations Unit and Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), are jointly working to encourage all businesses, to take a positive stance against Modern Slavery. A quarterly newsletter offering advice and guidance on how businesses can take positive steps towards beating slavery is being produced. This will include regular articles and advice on topics such as:

- Identifying and recognising the signs of slavery
- What to do and how to help those enslaved
- Preparing Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statements
- Creating a positive Modern Slavery Policy
- How to access training materials and guidance

There is a wealth of guidance and help already available to businesses, including:

- GLAA Website: <http://www.glaa.gov.uk/>
- Stronger2gether: <https://www.stronger2gether.org/>
- Eventbrite which offers many free events: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--london/slavery/>
- Home Office / Government Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>
- Modern Slavery Helpline: <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org>

Chris Haward, Deputy Chief Constable, the East Midlands Special Operations Unit will speak at the next East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Board meeting on **19 September**. The Partnership also coordinates the **East Midlands Anti-Human Trafficking Partnership**, which will meet next on **20 September in Melton Mowbray**. For more contact [Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk).

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## Community continued



**Expert panel appointed to advise on the future of the high street** - A panel of experts appointed to diagnose issues that currently affect the health of our high streets and advise on the best practical measures to help them thrive now and in the future [[details here](#)].

**More funding for youth groups to help youngsters unlock their full potential** - Communities Minister Lord Bourne has announced £250,000 to give more young people from diverse backgrounds across the country the opportunity to join national youth groups like the Scouts, Police Cadets and Guiding. For more information visit [here](#).

**Building Connections Fund** - Following the Prime Minister's and Minister for Sport and Civil Society's announcement to unlock £20m funding to tackle loneliness, a new £11.5 million Building Connections Fund has been set up to support projects that are able to prevent or reduce loneliness. More details, including how to apply [here](#).

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## Local Government News and wider



**Nottinghamshire County and Districts** - This week's Local Government Chronicle features an article on the Nottinghamshire County Council unitary motion and the response from Districts. To access these articles visit [here](#).

**Northamptonshire County Council announce the appointment of Steve Freer as chair of the newly created Improvement Board** - Steve Freer was previously the Chief Executive of CIPFA. The board will work alongside the council and the [commissioners](#) to support and challenge the council's plans for improvement, with a particular focus on its financial arrangements. The press release is available from [here](#).

**Northamptonshire Unitary proposals Consultation** - The consultation ends on 22 July 2018, the dedicated website is available [here](#).

**LGA Cyber Security Stocktake** - Working with the not-for-profit research organisation RAND Europe, the LGA has now sent a confidential online questionnaire to all councils in England to complete concerning their cyber security arrangements.

This aims to:

- capture the current state of play in terms of cyber security across councils
- identify good practice – and those councils delivering it
- identify risks – and those councils at risk

Findings from this work will inform where and how the LGA targets support including funding to individual councils. From the Autumn, councils will be able to bid for grant funding to undertake an agreed activity or piece of work which will improve their cyber security, based on the findings from the stocktake. Details on how to bid for this will follow later on this year. Councils have until 31st August to complete this. [Find out more about the stocktake here](#)

**D2N2 Announces New Chair** - Elizabeth Fagan, Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Boots, has been appointed Chair of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership. For more information visit [here](#).

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## EMC Events



**LEAN Practitioner Training, 19 & 20 September** - This two-day module training has been designed to develop delegates' understanding of how using a variety of LEAN thinking and improvement tools can achieve improved services and outcomes, details [here](#).

**Negotiation Skills, 11 October** - This one-day workshop is aimed at operational managers in public services to support them in becoming more commercially aware when looking for opportunities to trade their service both internally and outside the organisation. This 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 visit [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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