

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

## Top items this week

12 APRIL 2019



Housing News



East Midlands Rail Franchise News



Exit Payment Cap



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Transport for the East Midlands **A new era for train travel in the East Midlands!**

Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) has strongly welcomed transformational improvements to rolling stock and rail services that will be unlocked following the award of the next East Midlands Rail Franchise.

The new franchise has been awarded to Abellio, starting on 18th August 2019 and lasting for up to 10 years. Abellio will operate train services under a new permanent 'East Midlands Railway' brand.

Based on the previously published invitation to tender (ITT), the new franchise will deliver:

- A major investment in rolling stock, including a fleet of new intercity bi-mode trains – which will also create business opportunities for the East Midlands' world class rail sector;
- A significant increase in the number of seats on peak London services and improved journey times, as well as improvements to capacity and comfort on local and regional services;
- More Sunday services and early and late running trains – including to the Lincolnshire Coast;
- Significant investment in and around stations;
- Better planning for services to visitor attractions and to major events, and more support for Community Rail Partnerships which work to promote under-used rail lines; and
- Much needed improved ticketing, compensation arrangements and free wifi on trains and at stations for passengers.

TfEM has been working alongside the Department for Transport over the last three years to secure the best outcome for communities and businesses across the East Midlands, and through a separate process liaising with all three bidders for the rail franchise. For the full press release visit [here](#). For more information on TfEM visit [here](#).

## East Midlands Councils (EMC) Nomination Process

In the coming weeks EMC will be inviting nominations for membership. All local authority member authorities are allocated one place on EMC, which is usually the Leader of the Council unless otherwise specified. In addition to this there are another 46 added places which are allocated based on the political balance of the region. For more information on EMC Representation and Nomination visit [here](#).

**EMC Boards** - Regional Employers' Board and Regional Migration Board

### EMC Support Activity

**Mediation Support** - This week EMC colleagues have provided mediation support for a local authority. **Mediation** is one of the services offered by EMC, it is a confidential and voluntary process aimed at helping people to resolve disputes and improve working relationships. 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 details visit [here](#).

### EMC Councillor Events

**Hitting the Ground Running: Development session for newly elected councillors, 12 July 2019, 13:00** - EMC and the LGA are working jointly to offer this workshop to newly elected councillors. This session is open to all councillors who have been newly elected (for the first time) in May 2019 from across the East Midlands.

The aim of the event is to give newly elected councillors a wider perspective on their role, enable them to meet other newly elected councillors from other local authorities, and learn about the support available from East Midlands Councils (EMC) and the Local Government Association (LGA), so as to help them hit the ground running in their role.

The programme will enable councillors to do this through exploring what the role means, learning about the evolving national policy context and challenges facing councils, as well as hearing from experienced councillors on their top tips and unrivalled insights to help equip councillors in their role for the months ahead. **Venue** - Rufford Suite, Nottingham County Council, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

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## Local Government News



**Britain opens its doors to communities in need** - Towns across the country will benefit from a new scheme which will see landlords turn their empty shops into vibrant community hubs open to the public, Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP has announced. The confirmed locations includes **Kettering** in the East Midlands [[here](#)].

**Home Office awards additional £346,000 to fight hate crime** - The Home Office has announced that five groups will receive part of a £346,000 pot through the Hate Crime Community Projects Fund (HCCPF).

The community fund, which is in its third year, has been awarded to groups across the country, which will work with local communities to tackle hate crime in their areas [[details here](#)].

In the latest round of funding, includes Nottingham in the East Midlands:

- Nottingham BID - will work at tackling hate crime in the night time economy, particularly in LGBT venues

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

**Housing Minister unveils new guidance for local authorities to crack down on rogue landlords** - Local authorities across the country are set to receive a new package of online support as part of the government's commitment to give greater protection to tenants, and reform the private rented sector for the better [[details here](#)].

The publication of 2 new guidance documents, one for local authority enforcement practitioners and another for tenants and landlords.

- [Landlord and tenant rights and responsibilities in the private rented sector](#)
- [Rogue landlord enforcement: guidance for local authorities](#)

**Delivering schools to support housing growth** - Non-statutory guidance for local authorities planning for education to support housing growth and seeking associated developer contributions [[details here](#)].

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## Employers' Information



**Treasury announces details of £95k exit payment cap** - HM Treasury have published their further consultation on the implementation of an exit payments cap. The consultation can be found [here](#). The consultation document sets out the proposed draft regulations, schedule to the regulations, accompanying guidance and directions. The consultation closes on **3 July 2019**. EMC will circulate a briefing on the consultation shortly and would welcome views to inform a regional and national response to the consultation. We will circulate further information about this in due course.

**Settlement Scheme** - The Home Office has published toolkits to equip employers; community groups and local authorities with the right tools and information to support EU citizens and their families to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Links to the respective toolkits can be found [here](#)

- EU Settlement Scheme: community leader toolkit - [here](#).
- EU Settlement Scheme: employer toolkit - [here](#).

**Schools' Workforce Policy and Employment Law Conference 2019** - The LGA is holding the above conference on 13 June in York ([here](#)) and on 18 June in London ([here](#)). The conference is suitable for anyone whose work involves advising schools on workforce issues, whether within local authority schools' HR services, multi-academy trusts, co-operatives and mutuals or commercial organisations. It will be of interest to HR education managers and specialists, HR managers and ER advisors, School leaders and Governors with an interest in schools' pay and workforce hot topics.

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## EMC Events

**Charting your course: How to define success and achieve it! 12 Jun 2019** - This workshop help delegates to explore what it meant to them to be successful; the psychology behind goal setting; how to set goals they could achieve and how to quieten negative thoughts [[details here](#)].

**East Midlands Coaching Conference 2019, 26 Jun 2019** - East Midlands Councils, the home of the East Midlands Coaching Network is delighted to announce details of our 7th annual coaching conference that will take place on 26 June in Melton Mowbray [[details 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 CBE

Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE

Independent Group: Mayor Kate Allsop

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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## East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB

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