

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

Top items this week

2 MARCH 2018



Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery Summit



East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group



EMC HR Bulletin - February Edition



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group

The region's All-Party Parliamentary Group of MPs met this week to consider the infrastructure priorities for the East Midlands. Chaired by Alex Norris, MP, the discussion focused on how we present a compelling case to Government in securing greater investment levels. The importance of HS2, East Midlands Airport and the A46 road and rail growth corridor was particularly emphasised, with wider endorsement of the other proposed priorities. MPs will invite a Treasury Minister to the next meeting to support the development of the region's investment case in advance of Autumn Budget considerations. The next meeting on 21 March is scheduled to consider the growth objectives of HS2 in the region.

Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery Summit, 20 Mar 2018

EMC is holding a summit on Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery on 20 March 2018. This Summit will give delegates the opportunity to:

- Enable us to learn from innovative and effective practice.
- Consider local priorities and responses in the future management of these programmes.
- Explore the economic and social impact of migration for communities within the region and what does the future hold?
- Understand local capacity and impact on local government in respect of refugee programmes, economic and social impact and modern slavery.
- Put into sharp focus the scourge of modern slavery and how local government, statutory and voluntary agencies should respond - according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), globally there are 21 million people victims of modern slavery. Estimates suggest there are 13,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK and the number of people identified as slaves continues to increase each year.

To register to attend this fully subsidised event visit [here](#).



EMC News

The weather this week has been challenging and a number of our events have suffered. We are pleased to say that the GDPR for HR event has been re-scheduled for **18 April 2018**.

EMC Boards Activity

Regional Migration Partnership - The Regional Migration Board met this week. Responsible for overseeing the implementation of national asylum and resettlement programmes in the East Midlands, the Board considered recent developments on the resettlement of vulnerable refugees from Syria and the wider dispersal of asylum seekers. Alongside these matters, the on-going review of UASC funding was of particular interest with Members clear that the Home Office need to increase funding to support councils in meeting their UASC responsibilities and for the ongoing operation of the National Transfer Scheme. The board meeting included an informative presentation from Bolsover District Council on their Building Resilience Programme funded by the Controlling Migration Fund.

EMC Support Activity

Conflict at Work - In the last week EMC staff have supported an authority with mediation, where conflict at work has impacted on a productive working relationship. EMC has three qualified Mediators, if you would like further information please contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk. Mediation has been an increasingly popular service provided by EMC in recent years and organisations and the individuals involved in the process have valued our independence and experience in helping them to resolve conflict at work.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



New money to build homes stalled by planning - The first wave of the [Planning Delivery Fund](#), totalling £15.8 million, has been awarded to enable councils to process more applications, implement new reforms and also train planners to tackle the housing challenges faced by their local area [details [here](#)].

Planning positively through partnership - A positive, proactive and responsive planning system focused on shaping places is vital for the future growth of our society. Where it works well, it is one of the best tools that we have to deliver the homes and jobs where they are needed, in our villages, towns and cities [details [here](#)]. See a full list of successful projects [here](#).

- **City of Lincoln** - increased capacity for joint planning (2017/18; £5,000) (2018/19; £95,000)
- **Derby City Council** - increased capacity for joint planning (2017/18; £20,000) (2018/19; £60,000)
- **Derbyshire County Council** - Additional design resources (2017/18; £100,000) (2018/19; £100,000)
- **Kettering Borough Council** - increased capacity for joint planning (2017/18; £110,000) (2018/19; £100,000)
- **Lincolnshire County Council** - Additional design resources (2017/18; £50,000) (2018/19; £50,000)
- **North Kesteven District Council** - Additional design resources (2017/18; £13,000) (2018/19; £133,000)
- **Nottingham City Council** - increased capacity for joint planning and design resource (2017/18; £40,000) (2018/19; £153,000)
- **South Kesteven District Council** - Additional design resources (2017/18; £90,000) (2018/19; £95,000)

Transport Minister recognises Midlands as 'heart of HS2' - HS2 Minister visits Birmingham and Derby to discuss the economic benefits and next generation of skilled apprentices created by Britain's new railway [details [here](#)].

Midlands Connect tells Transport Committee: "This is the time to invest in the future prosperity of the Midlands" - The Director of Midlands Connect, the pan-regional transport partnership, has told the Commons Transport Committee that it's time investment in the region's railways matched the growth ambitions of its towns, cities and businesses. Maria Machancoses told the committee's inquiry in to rail infrastructure investment on Monday 26 February that all available statistics show that the Government isn't investing enough in the railways outside London. The Committee was taking evidence from a number of regional transport bodies about regional disparities in railway investment [full press release [here](#)]. Information from the Transport Committee can be found [here](#).

Building Safety Programme: government support for identification of private sector buildings - Letter from Tamara Finkelstein, Director General - Building Safety Programme, to the Local Government Association on government support for identification of private sector buildings over 18 metres with potentially unsafe Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding [details [here](#)].

Town and County Planning Association (TCPA) report: Planning healthy developments - The TCPA has published a new report 'Securing constructive collaboration and consensus for planning healthy developments', the final output of our 'developers and wellbeing' project [details [here](#)].

Homelessness

Hospitals, prisons and Jobcentres to refer people at risk of homelessness - For the first time, prisons, probation services, Jobcentres and NHS Trusts will be among the organisations that have a duty to help those at risk of becoming homeless and refer them to a housing authority, Minister for Homelessness Heather Wheeler confirmed. In [new guidance](#) published this week, the government has outlined how councils and public bodies must support the homeless or those at risk of losing their home under their new duties introduced by the [Homelessness Reduction Act](#). Councils will now be required to ensure the advice and information they provide is designed to meet the needs of particular at risk groups including care leavers, people leaving prison, people who have left the armed forces, survivors of domestic abuse and those suffering from a mental illness [details [here](#)].

Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities: consultation - The government consulted on proposed revisions to the homelessness code of guidance following the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. This is a summary of the responses received and sets out the government's response [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care



Health Matters: Community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing - The latest edition of PHE's [Health Matters](#), a resource for local authorities and health professionals, which for [this edition](#) focuses on community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing [details [here](#)].

LGA Publication 'A matter of justice: Local government's role in tackling health inequalities' - [here](#).

LGA Publication 'Public health transformation five years on' - The eight case studies (including one from Leicestershire County Council) in this report show the wide range of ways in which public health is transforming how it operates [details [here](#)].

LGA Publication 'Adding extra years to life and extra life to those years: local government guide to healthy ageing' - details [here](#).

Public Health England Chief Executive Duncan Selbie's Friday message - 2 March 2018 message is available [here](#).

Local Government News



Northamptonshire County Council agree 2018/19 Budget - A revised budget was agreed at a Full Council meeting after the authority's Cabinet had previously approved recommendations.

An extra £9.9million savings were voted for – making the savings for 2018-2019 total £39.2million.

The revision was needed after the council's auditors KPMG issued an advisory notice outlining their concerns about the county council's reliance on the use of capital receipts.

The changes mean that the use of capital receipts during 2018-2019 has been reduced from £40.9million to £31million.

The county council is also increasing council tax by 5.98% which is the highest increase that can be made without the need for a referendum. The spending controls currently in place under the Section 114 notice are also recommended to be continued into the new financial year. In the press release it states that there is also the possibility that further in-year savings will be required during 2018/19 if the current proposals are not sufficient to deliver financial sustainability. To read the Northamptonshire County Council press release visit [here](#).

Councils and business meets at first Derby-Nottingham Metro Growth meeting - The Derby-Nottingham Metro Growth Board comprises Boots, Rolls-Royce, Toyota, East Midlands Airport, Trent Barton and the Federation of Small Businesses, along with the universities of Derby, Nottingham and Nottingham Trent. Its members also include the place marketing organisations Marketing Derby and Marketing NG, along with the leaders of Derby and Nottingham City Councils. The Derby-Nottingham Metro initiative has been launched by the two city councils with the aim of achieving an £11bn boost to the regional economy by 2030 through joint working by local authorities and businesses across the two cities. The Growth Board has now met for the first time. It is being led by David Williams, the chairman of the law firm Geldards, which has offices in both Derby and Nottingham [details [here](#)].

£40 million fund to transform UK's coastal communities opens for applications - Funding to transform the UK's coastal communities through investment in jobs, skills and local businesses opens for bids [details [here](#)].

Government launches Trusted Relationships Fund - The Home Office has launched a £13 million fund to help youth workers, police, nurses and other professionals form close, protective relationships with children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation, county lines gang crime or relationship abuse. The Trusted Relationships Fund will invite local authorities to apply for funding to run projects aimed at fostering relationships between frontline staff and at-risk children. Through the fund, local authorities are encouraged to work with local partners to improve the way professionals, including social workers, youth workers, police and voluntary sector practitioners, work together to support vulnerable young people [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



EMC HR Bulletin - February 2018 - The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#). This month's editions covers; Gender Pay Gap Reporting, National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP), Pay Negotiations Update - Joint Negotiating Committee has submitted a claim on behalf of Chief Officers, Apprenticeships Newsletter. Employment Law expert Darren Newman's article focuses gender pay gap reporting giving his views on results so far.

EMC Events

Trading and Marketing Public Services, 16 May 2018 - EMC is holding a full day workshop on Trading and Marketing Public Services. This module introduces managers to the role of trading and entrepreneurship in a public service environment and some fundamental principles of marketing [details [here](#)].

"Making it Our Business" - Commercial Awareness Programme for Operational Managers, starting on 6 Jun 2018 - This modular programme is designed to support 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 [details [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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