

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

Top items this week

16 FEBRUARY 2018



Housing Updates



Summit on Asylum,
Refugee Resettlement and
Modern Slavery



HR Support



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers



Invitation: Summit on Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery, 20 March 2018

Refugees displaced from Syria, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, Dispersal and Support Arrangements for Asylum Seekers and the Eradication of Modern Slavery

These are just some of the responsibilities that local authorities have in supporting migrants, asylum and refugee resettlement. To date, approximately 450 vulnerable refugees have arrived in the region with councils pledging a further 500 places by 2020; 2850 asylum seekers are supported, and 65 UASC have arrived as part of the National Transfer Scheme out of a total of 300.

Managing an effective and proportionate asylum and refugee resettlement programme remains a national priority – but one that can only be delivered in partnership with local authorities and community organisations. In the East Midlands, local authorities continue to be at the forefront in the management and delivery of these programmes. There have been challenges but the progress achieved to date has been testament to a collective approach in this region.

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.

Speakers include

- Cllr Heather Smith, Leader, Northamptonshire County Council
- Cllr Sarah Russell, Leicester City Council
- Steve Kelly, Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme, Joint Unit; DCLG, DfID and Home Office
- Kevin Hyland OBE Independent Modern Slavery Commissioner
- Rob Mitchell, Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council
- Cllr Alan Rhodes, Nottinghamshire County Council and LGA Lead for Abuse Exploitation and Modern Slavery
- Rick Alton, Detective Chief Inspector, Derbyshire Constabulary

The programme will also provide an opportunity to hear directly from refugees resettled in the East Midlands.

The Summit will take place on 20 March, 10am - 3.30pm at Pera Business Park, Melton Mowbray. To register to attend this fully subsidised event visit [here](#).

EMC News

GDPR for Councillors, 18 April 2018 - In response to interest for local authorities in the East Midlands, EMC has arranged for a half day event for Councillors on GDPR. This event will take place on 18 April 2018, 10am in Melton Mowbray. Further details will be available in due course.

EMC Councillor Events

Chairing and Facilitation Skills for Councillors, 26 Jun 2018 - EMC is running a half day Chairing and Facilitation Skills event for Councillors. The training is to be delivered by Nelson Training, an award winning drama based training company. For more information and to book a place visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



£45 million funding boost to support councils unlock land for thousands of homes - A £45 million cash injection into key community projects will help kick-start the building of thousands of new homes, Housing Minister Dominic Raab announced this week [details [here](#)]. As part of government's drive to get Britain building homes again, a total of 79 projects will receive funding to support building up to 7,280 homes on council owned land. Projects that will receive funding in the East Midlands;

- Broxtowe - Residential Development Eastwood, £1,000,000
- Rushcliffe - Depot- Housing Development - West Bridgford, £300,000

Better standards for Nottingham's private rents as new licensing scheme gets green light - Private tenants in Nottingham will benefit from better quality accommodation and greater protection from rogue landlords after the Government approved a new licensing scheme. Nottingham City Council's scheme covers over 30,000 privately rented homes in Nottingham, it is the largest outside London to be given approval by the Secretary of State. A report by the BRE (Building Research Establishment) Group estimated that 21% of Nottingham's private rented properties are likely to have 'Category 1 hazards', examples of this type of hazard could include exposed wiring, a dangerous boiler, cold bedrooms, a leaking roof, mould on walls or ceilings and vermin infestation. Selective Licensing will help ensure these issues are addressed. For more information visit [here](#).

Congestion busting scheme rolled out to benefit drivers - Lane rental schemes, where utility companies are charged up to £2,500 a day for digging up the busiest roads at peak times, could now be adopted by councils nationwide after successful trials in the south-east [details [here](#)].

Local authorities questioned on private rented sector - Next week (21 February) the Communities and Local Government Select Committee will hear from local authorities and representative bodies on Private Rented Sector inquiry and draft Tenant Fees Bill, as part of its pre-legislative scrutiny of the proposed ban on letting fees imposed on tenants. **Witnesses include** Andy Fisher, Head of Housing, Health and Communities, Boston Borough Council in the East Midlands [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

HR Support to Councils - During January EMC provided support to councils with Disciplinary investigations, Restructuring support and Mediation. To find out how EMC could support an area of work for you, then please contact Sam Maher at sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk

Local Government News

Northamptonshire County Council - Northamptonshire County Council's Cabinet met this week and agreed to a sale and leaseback arrangement for its One Angel Square headquarters. It is hoped about £20m from that sale will help to set next year's budget although Mr McLaughlin's report warned: "*The county council's ability to set balanced budgets beyond 2018-19 will be dependent on further asset sales, but can only be in any way sustainable through 2019-20 and 2020-21 through cost reduction, demand control, rigorous financial control and iron discipline in decision making and delivery.*"

LGA consultation on revised agreement on the procedures for referring homeless applicants to another local authority - the LGA has published this week a draft revised agreement on the procedures for referring homeless applicants to another local authority for consultation with local authorities. Deadline for views is 13 March 2018 [details [here](#)]. The aim is to have the new agreement accompany the new Homelessness Code of Guidance likely to be published by MHCLG in coming weeks.

EMC Events

Health and Safety for Environmental Health Officers, 1 Mar 2018 - The sixth event in the 2017/18 Environmental Health CPD programme will focus on Health and Safety, for more information visit [here](#).

GDPR for HR, 01 Mar 2018 - EMC is holding a one day seminar on the General Data Protection Regulation, this seminar has been designed specifically for HR colleagues. The EMC's **GDPR for HR** course takes an overview of **GDPR requirements** and looks specifically at the requirements of **HR people** and departments. For more visit [here](#).

EMC Leadership

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Vice Chair: Cllr Jon Collins
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Labour Group: Cllr Anne Western
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