

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

Top items this week

11 MAY 2018



Inspection of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme



Northamptonshire County Council Commissioners Announced



EMC Coaching Conference 2018



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Northamptonshire County Council Commissioners Announced

Local Government Secretary, the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, has announced he is sending commissioners into Northamptonshire County Council. Mr Brokenshire confirmed 2 commissioners would meet senior officials and councillors before beginning their work.

The action follows the publication of an [independent report](#) which highlighted serious failings within the council. In a written ministerial statement to Parliament, the Secretary of State said the commissioners would be led by **Tony McArdle**, former Chief Executive of Lincolnshire County Council. He will be supported by **Brian Roberts**, former Deputy Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council, and an expert in financial management.

Directions given to the commissioners will see them take over the council's functions associated with governance and scrutiny, appointment of statutory officers and strategic financial management.

The commissioners are due to be in place until 31 March 2021 and will update the Secretary of State every 3 months on progress. To read the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government press release in full visit [here](#).

Appointment of Government commissioners welcomed by Northamptonshire County Council - the press release from Northamptonshire County Council is available [here](#). In the statement Cllr Matthew Golby, leader of the county council, said: "We very much welcome the intervention by the government in overseeing financial and governance arrangements at the council as this goes a long way in allaying uncertainty for staff and partners organisations.

"We are very much committed to working with the government to ensure that we deliver the best services for the people of Northamptonshire, whilst being mindful of providing value for money for the taxpayer.

"Both the council's new-look Cabinet and the senior management team see this as an opportunity to bring improvements and we look forward to implementing some positive change."

Inspection into the governance of Northamptonshire County Council - Documents relating to the inspection into the governance of Northamptonshire County Council and proposed intervention [[available here](#)].

East Midlands Councils EMC Support Activity

Recruitment and Selection support - this week EMC staff have supported a number of authorities with recruitment and selection activities, including support with shortlisting and psychometric testing. For more information contact lisa.butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

'The Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): What Does It All Mean?' - this week EMC held the first event in the Low-Cost CPD Programme for Planners in 2018/19 on Draft National Planning Policy Framework. Over 80 local authority planners from across the East Midlands took part in this event. For more information visit [here](#).

EMC Councillor Events

Chairing and Facilitation Skills for Councillors, 26 June 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 training company. For more information contact [here](#).

An Introduction to Commissioning for Elected Members, 20 Sep 2018 - EMC is offering Councillors in the East Midlands the opportunity to take part in an introduction to commissioning for elected members workshop [[details here](#)]. The objectives of the seminar are to enable councillors to develop their understanding of:

- Commissioning in the context of public sector reform
- How a commissioning council works
- Procurement, contract management and performance monitoring
- Ways in which a robust and effective procurement strategy can benefit from transparency and democratic oversight

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Only half of housing built within 2km of train stations, RTPI study finds - The Government's new planning framework must focus more on transport-oriented housing developments according to a RTPI study published this week.

The [RTPI's Location of Development study](#) – the largest study of its kind - maps and analyses the location of permissions for over 220,000 new homes in 12 fast-growing city-regions between 2012 and 2017, including Cambridge, Brighton, Leeds and Newcastle.

It finds that 51% of new housing between 2015 and 2017 has been permitted over 2km from railway stations. This compares with 53% in the same study conducted for the period 2012 – 2015.

The new figures are published deliberately to coincide with [the Institute's response to the National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\) consultation](#), underlining how poorly located development risks negative economic, social and environmental impacts. For more information visit [here](#).

Housing Secretary James Brokenshire awards funding to reduce rough sleeping - Three areas in England are set to launch new pilot projects to support rough sleepers with complex needs get off the streets into stable and affordable accommodation, Housing Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP has announced this week.

The projects in Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region and the West Midlands Combined Authority will offer individuals intensive support to recover from complex health issues, for example substance abuse and mental health difficulties and sustain their tenancies. For more information visit [here](#).

Improving the use of planning conditions: consultation on draft regulations - Government has issued its response to the consultation on draft regulations, setting out the circumstances when a pre-commencement planning condition can be imposed without the written agreement of the applicant. To access visit [here](#).

Digital rail revolution will reduce overcrowding and cut delays - Transport Secretary Chris Grayling and Network Rail Chief Executive Mark Carne launched Network Rail's Digital Railway Strategy, committing to ensuring all new trains and signalling are digital or digital ready from 2019 [details [here](#)]. With the aim of digital rail technology benefiting passengers across the network over the next decade.

New digital rail technology will:

- safely allow more trains to run per hour by running trains closer together
- allow more frequent services and more seats
- cut delays by allowing trains to get moving more rapidly after disruption
- enable vastly improved mobile and wi-fi connectivity, so that passengers can make the most of their travel time and communities close to the railway can connect more easily

Asylum and Refugee Resettlement



Inspection of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, August 2017 - January 2018 - By the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration. This inspection examined the efficiency and effectiveness of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, looking at the dependencies and risks to successful delivery of the 20,000 resettlement target. It found that the processes on which the Scheme relied were essentially effective. Identification of "the most vulnerable" refugees is delegated to UNHCR; consideration of referrals and matching of refugees to firm offers of accommodation and support is managed by the Home Office; the relocation of refugees to the UK is organised by IOM; and their reception, accommodation and initial support is led by the receiving local authorities. To access the report visit [here](#).

Employers' Information

East Midlands Coaching Conference 2018 - EMC is holding the 6th Annual Coaching Conference in the East



Midlands on 3rd July. The conference will include a focused workshop on working with structural dynamics. Dialogue and Structural Dynamics is a powerful framework that helps leaders and coaches understand and optimise their communications. As part of your personal development journey as a coach, this session introduces you to Structural Dynamics, a theory of face to face communication, developed by Dr David Kantor of The Kantor Institute, MA. In this session you will discover more about

your:

- Typical behavioural stances when interacting with others.
- Preferred language used when interacting with others
- Internal rules that govern the language used and the actions we take when interacting with other.
- Ability to engage in coaching conversations in which the other person feels heard, respected and validated
- Self-Awareness and flexibility in intervening positively when you observe unhelpful patterns of behaviour in yourself and others

For more information visit [here](#).

Local Government News and wider



‘Hitting the Ground Running’: Local Government Association development session for newly elected members - This session is open to new councillors across Yorkshire & Humber and the East Midlands who have been elected (for the first time) in May 2018. The session aims to enable new members to explore their role and share learning from experienced members. It aims to give new members a wider perspective on the role of a councillor, provides an opportunity meet other newly elected members from across the region, as well as learn about the support available from the Local Government Association. The session is free and lunch will be provided. A full programme will be available nearer the time. It takes place on

19 June 2018 at The Carriageworks Theatre, The Electric Press, 3 Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 3AD, 10.30am – 3.00pm. If you would like to attend, please book online [here](#).

LGA Publication, Councillors’ Guide 2018/19 - Are you a newly elected councillor? This guide, produced by the LGA, is designed to provide you with the key information you need to know as a new councillor and is a useful addition to the support and guidance you will receive from your own council. [Download here](#).

LGA Publication, Councillor workbooks - the LGA’s free councillor workbooks, cover a wide range of topics such as community leadership, finance, media and more. Find out more and download [here](#).

New chief executive to be appointed to Lincolnshire County Council - Keith Ireland is to be appointed as the new chief executive of Lincolnshire County Council. To read the press release visit [here](#).

Northamptonshire County Council commits to working with partners on unitary governance proposal - The leader of Northamptonshire County Council says he is committed to working with borough and district council colleagues on a proposal for unitary governance in Northamptonshire. Cllr Matthew Golby says he hopes that the eight councils in the county will be able to reach a consensus in order to submit one collaborative proposal to the Secretary of State for consideration.

At a meeting this week, the County Council’s Cabinet agreed for Cllr Golby, cabinet member for local government reform, performance and transformation Cllr Andrew Mercer and acting chief executive Andrew Quincey to begin discussions with all tiers of local government to develop a combined proposal for a new system in Northamptonshire. Initial submissions for unitary proposals must be made by Friday 27 July 2018, and the new unitary councils are expected to be created by Parliament in April 2020. To read the press release in full visit [here](#).

Women Councillors’ development day - The LGA is holding a women Councillors’ development day on 22 June, Warwick Conference, Coventry for more information and to attend this free event contact grace.collins@local.gov.uk

Public Health England’s Chief Executive Duncan Selbie Friday message - 11 May 2018 - the latest edition of the Friday message is available from [here](#).

EMC Events



“Making it Our Business” - Commercial Awareness Programme for Operational Managers, 06 Jun 2018 - This four day 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](#)].

Negotiation Skills, 04 Jul 2018 - EMC is holding a full day workshop on Negotiation skills. 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](#).

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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