

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

## Top items this week



Equality Impact Assessments and Equal Pay Audits Workshop



Transport for the East Midlands



East Midlands Local Authority Challenge 2019



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

16 NOVEMBER 2018

## Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM)

### Transport for the East Midlands

The TfEM Board Meeting will take place on 21 November 2018 at Leicestershire County Council. The board chaired by Sir Peter Soulsby will include;

- A presentation from East Midlands Airport on the future opportunities and priorities
- Infrastructure Priorities in the East Midlands [the paper is available from [here](#)]
  - Making the most of HS2
  - Midland Mainline upgrade and electrification
  - Improving Access to East Midlands Airport
  - A46 Growth Corridor & Newark
  - A5 Growth Corridor
  - Transforming East-West Connectivity
- A Presentation on Midlands Connect Coventry – Leicester- Nottingham Rail Corridor Study
- Midlands Connect;
  - Sub National Transport Body Developments
  - Major Road Network
- A East Midlands Infrastructure Summit in February 2019



## Equality Impact Assessments and Equal Pay Audits Workshop

EMC is holding a half day workshop on Equality Impact Assessments and Equal Pay Audits on 22 November.

EMC is supporting councils to prepare and plan for the implementation of the new national pay spine through a number of practical workshops.

The next workshop focuses on equality impact assessments and equal pay audits. The session will provide participants with a practical opportunity to understand the principles of equal pay audits, how to conduct an equality impact assessment. Attendees will also come away with actions, ideas and information to take back to their organisations. For more information visit [here](#).



## EMC Boards Activity

**Regional Migration Board** - The East Midlands Regional Migration Board will meet next on Tuesday 20 November 2018. The board chaired by Cllr Ivan Ould, Leicestershire County Council will consider; Asylum Seeker Dispersal in the East Midlands, Refugee Resettlement Programmes and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

The board will include an update on the transition to a new Asylum Accommodation and support transformation, representative from the Home Office will attend the meeting and provide an update on strategic engagement.

## EMC Support Activity

**Supporting the development of coaches** - This week EMC staff have supported an authority, through the provision of a development workshop designed to support newly trained coaches. The session explore strengths in coaching using a variety of coaching tools, along with the development of an action plan. For more information on how EMC can support coaching contact [kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Councillor Events

**East Midlands Local Authority Challenge 2019, 21 Mar 2019** - On 16 November 2017 South Kesteven District Council became the Local Authority Challenge Winner for the East Midlands, winning the coveted prize for the second year running. On 21 March 2019 the LA Challenge will return. For more information on the event visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Bright future for industrial site despite missing out on Talgo train factory** - Chesterfield has narrowly missed out in a bid to bring a new train factory to the town that would have created thousands of jobs. Spanish train manufacturer Talgo this week announced it has selected Longannet, in Fife, as the location for its new factory ahead of the former Hartington Colliery site, between Staveley and Barrow Hill.

Chesterfield Borough Council had been working for months with a range of public and business sector partners to bring the factory to the area, which would have created 1,000 jobs directly, with another 4,000 in the supply chain. To read the full Chesterfield Borough Council press release visit [here](#).

**Sir John Peace: we will support Chesterfield following Talgo announcement** - Sir John Peace, Midlands Connect and Midlands Engine Chairman, has vowed to support Chesterfield on its regeneration plans, after narrowly missing out on its bid to bring a new train factory to the town. The Midlands Connect press release is available from [here](#).

**James Brokenshire unveils Housing Court proposals** - This includes

- Communities Secretary sets out proposals to provide greater access to justice for both landlords and tenants in the event of disputes
- [Call for evidence](#) includes a specialist Housing Court which could provide a single path of redress in property cases
- Measures will help to build a fairer housing market that works for everyone
- Landlords and tenants are to receive faster and more effective justice in the event of property disputes, under proposals unveiled by Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP.

Government will seek views on a specialist Housing Court which, if created, would provide a single path of redress for both landlords and tenants – meaning both have the security of knowing they have somewhere to go to seek justice, with the power to resolve the dispute [details [here](#)].

**Framework between Regulator of Social Housing and MHCLG** - This has been drawn up by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in consultation with the Regulator of Social Housing [details [here](#)].

**Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse: consultation** - Summary of responses to the consultation on proposals for new statutory guidance for local authorities to improve access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse [details [here](#)].

**High speed rail international benchmarking study** - A study of 32 international high speed rail schemes to consider lessons that could be learnt for HS2 Phase 2b [details [here](#)].

**Local government and place management groups questioned by MPs** - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee took evidence this week for their inquiry into the future of high streets from local councils and place management groups. The purpose of the session was to investigate the strategies that local government and other organisations have developed to ensure the long-term viability of high streets and town centres.

The Committee will examine the level of resources local councils allocate to support the maintenance and renewal of their local high streets, and their application of planning policies, business rates reliefs and parking strategies. It will also examine the role that non-governmental bodies can play in developing innovative strategies and providing day-to-day management of localities [details [here](#)].

**Cutting-edge digital map to boost Midlands engine** - Local business and council leaders across the Midlands will receive up to £1.5 million to pioneer cutting-edge technology [details [here](#)].

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## Local Government News



**Improvement plan proposed for Northamptonshire children's services** - The Government has proposed to appoint a commissioner to oversee improvements at Northamptonshire children's social care services, following concerns raised by existing commissioners and Ofsted about how the council supports vulnerable children and families [details [here](#)].

**Northamptonshire County Council Improvement Board** - The second meeting of the Northamptonshire Improvement Board was held at One, Angel Square, Northampton on 2 November, 2018.

There were open and constructive discussions on a number of important plans whose development and implementation are key to the County Council's recovery. They are also crucial in ensuring its finances and services are in the best possible position ahead of the expected transition to unitary local government [details [here](#)]. The plans included:

- The Improvement Plan which addresses the issues identified in the LGA Finance Peer Review and the Best Value Inspection
  - The Stabilisation Plan which focuses on the challenge of ensuring that the County Council achieves its financial targets in the current financial year
  - The Workforce Strategy which covers issues such as how staff are led and supported as well as strategies for changing culture and behaviours
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## Local Government Overview and Scrutiny

**Elected chairs for Scrutiny** - The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) have invited expressions of interest from a small number of councils who might be prepared to be part of a piloting exercise on electing a chair for overview and scrutiny for the municipal year 2019-20. For more information visit [here](#).

**To pick or not to pick: A question of work planning** - The CfPS have set out how Oxford City Council's Scrutiny Committee prioritises its work, and how it has been useful in developing a balanced and focused work plan [access the article [here](#)].

**Providing A Lifeline: Effective Scrutiny of Local Government Strategies to Prevent or Reduce Suicide** - This CfPS publication looks at effective scrutiny of local strategies to prevent or reduce suicide, focusing on context and relevance for scrutiny, quality improvement and the role of scrutiny and provides 10 questions for scrutiny committees to ask [access the report [here](#)].

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## Health & Social Care



**Shifting the centre of gravity: making place-based, person-centred health and care a reality** - The examples in this LGA report show what can be achieved by system leaders and staff from local government, the NHS, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, and service user and carer groups working together to improve health and deliver person-centred care [details [here](#)].

**Early education and childcare resource pack** - This LGA resource pack looks at the ways that we deliver our responsibilities around early education and childcare, which are incredibly important when it comes to giving our youngest residents a head start [details [here](#)].

**Bright Futures: one year on** - This update highlights what the LGA campaign has achieved over the past year but also, importantly, looks at where there is still more work to do [details [here](#)].

**Briefing on working with risk for Safeguarding Adults Boards** - This LGA briefing paper is based on work at two LGA/ Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) workshops in April/May 2018 on working with risk in the context of Making Safeguarding Personal [details [here](#)].

**Permanency resource pack** - This LGA resource pack is designed to help councillors understand what permanency is, the factors that can have an impact and the questions that will help to understand what's working well and what could be improved [details [here](#)].

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## EMC Events



**East Midlands PA Conference 2018, 29 Nov 2018** - The East Midlands PA Conference returns for 2018, following the successful first conference held in 2017. This a one day event is designed to support Office Managers, Secretaries, PAs, Team Administrators – in fact anyone who organises others to achieve their goals. For more information [here](#). The conference will include;

**Six Sigma** - a keynote session, providing an introduction to Six-Sigma for PA's, secretaries and admin employees who would like to learn how to improve their day by using various problem solving techniques within the workplace.

**"How to define success for yourself - and achieve it!"** - With the busy-ness of life we don't often get the chance to think about what success means to us personally and professionally; or to understand why we achieve some of the things we want to achieve but not others. This session is an opportunity to explore what it means to you to be successful and fulfilled. You'll also gain an understanding of the 'psychology' behind goal setting; how to set goals you'll achieve and how to quieten some of that negative thinking that gets in the way.

**Working Remotely** - This sessions will; develop understanding in the difference between working remotely and being office based, explore the reality and impact of the change, explore hopes and fears about working remotely, explore 'staying in touch' – connectivity rather than visibility – what you can put in place to help yourself and colleagues stay connected, taking Personal Responsibility for your performance.

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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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