

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

Top items this week

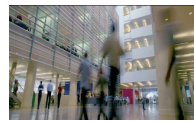
14 DECEMBER 2018



Programme to support Place Making at local level



Provisional local government finance settlement



Digital projects to improve public services



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Provisional local government finance settlement 2019 to 2020

The provisional local government finance settlement for 2019 to 2020 has been published this week by Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP.

A summary of the announcement is included below; analysis and reflections for the East Midlands will be included in the Policy Brief next week.

Announcements include

- Rural Services Delivery Grant by £16 million in 2019-20 to maintain this at last year's level.
- £20 million to maintain the New Homes Bonus baseline at 0.4% in 2019-20 - details [here](#).
- No change to the Council Tax Referendum limits set for local authorities in 2018-19.
- Measures agreed with the Home Secretary to allow Police and Crime Commissioners to increase the police precept to £24.
- Intention to directly eliminate the £152.9 million "negative RSG" in 2019-20 using foregone business rates.
- Plans to increase business rates retention to 75% from 2020
 - Business Rates Retention Pilots announced for 2019-20; 15 new pilots will get underway, including **Leicester & Leicestershire** and **Northamptonshire** in the East Midlands.
- Increased growth in business rates income, which has generated a surplus in the business rates levy account in 2018-19, proposing to distribute £180 million of levy surplus to all councils based on need.
- Working with local authorities to promote efficiency and, developing a package of support to help councils become more efficient and get better service outcomes. MHCLG will launch a continuous improvement tool in Spring 2019.

Borrowing for commercial purposes - in the Oral statement to Parliament, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government's said *'I share the concerns of CIPFA and others about the risks that these local authorities are exposing themselves and local taxpayers to. We are considering with HM Treasury what further interventions may be required'*.

Consultations announced

- **Business rates retention reform** - This consultation seeks views on proposals for sharing risk and reward, managing volatility in income and setting up the reformed business rates retention system [[here](#)].
- **Review of local authorities' relative needs and resources** - This consultation seeks views on the approach to measuring the relative needs and resources of local authorities, which will determine new baseline funding allocations for local authorities in England in 2020-21 - details [here](#).
- **Local government finance settlement 2019 to 2020: technical consultation** - This consultation seeks views on technical issues concerning the 2019 to 2020 local government finance settlement - details [here](#).

Provisional local government finance settlement 2019 to 2020: draft equality statement - details [here](#).

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government overview is available [here](#), all documents [here](#).

EMC News

East Midlands Infrastructure Summit 2019, 8 February 2019 - The Regional Infrastructure Summit will bring together leading businesses and politicians, and will provide an opportunity to review progress in taking forward our joint priorities for strategic transport investment and to consider future challenges and opportunities [details [here](#)].

Keynote Speakers will include:

- Sir Peter Soulsby, Chair of Transport for the East Midlands and Leicester City Mayor
- Sir John Peace, Chair of Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect

Writing Press Releases, 26 Feb 2019 - EMC is holding a full day workshop for Councillors and Officers on Writing Press Releases. Whether you're an officer or a councillor, a well written news release can get you in the editorial media for free. But how you actually write that news release can make the difference between success and failure. So this workshop has been designed (and updated for the social media world) to help hone the perfect news release. It's aimed at anyone who'd like a bit of publicity for their authority or department but can't afford advertising or the services of an expensive PR company. For more information on this workshop visit [here](#).

EMC Support Activity

Coaching Champions Support - This week EMC colleagues have met virtually with coaching champions from across the East Midlands. The virtual meeting included discussions on coaching demand, development of coaches and accreditation routes for coaches. For more information on coaching support and the East Midlands Coaching Network contact kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Launch of programme to support Place Making at local level - The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), Local Government Association (LGA) and Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) have launched Future Place: a joint two-phase initiative to recognise, reward and encourage high quality place making in England.

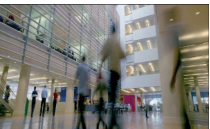
The Future Places selection will be chosen by an expert panel based on how they propose to improve and enhance people's lives, community wellbeing and sustainable environments.

In phase two of the Future Place programme, Local Authorities will be asked to nominate two Future Place-Makers from their team to participate in a leadership programme; a digital resource will then be created to share best practice and processes.

By sharing innovative approaches to funding, design and delivery, the Future Place programme aims to demonstrate the potential and necessary conditions for successful place making in England.

The call for expressions of interest is open until 22 January 2019. For more information on how you can take part visit <https://www.architecture.com/campaign/futureplace>

Local Government News



Innovative digital projects to improve public services win funding - Councils have been awarded almost £1.3 million to find solutions for how digital technology such as chatbots, artificial intelligence and one-stop shop websites can improve services for the public.

There are 16 funded projects to kick-start 'Mission Wiki Fix' from the first round of the Local Digital Fund, with more to follow. Overall, 57 local authorities are named partners on these bids [for details the successful projects click [here](#)].

From the East Midlands;

- **North East Derbyshire District Council, Bolsover District Council** are both named as partners involved in a project titled 'Can chatbots and AI help solve service design problems?' The lead organisation for the project is Oxford City Council, for more information visit [here](#).

Blackpool first council to be awarded self-supply water licence- Blackpool Council has been granted a self-supply licence to manage and monitor its own water usage across 120 sites. The council is the first public sector organisation to successfully apply to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) [details [here](#)].

Nottingham City Council wins Local Authority of the Year Award - Nottingham City Council's Energy Services have won the prestigious Energy Awards for Best Local Authority Initiative of the Year for their Smart Energy Buildings [details [here](#)].

Nottinghamshire County Council: Local Government Reorganisation - It was announced earlier this week that 'Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire: Outline Case for Change' which was due to be debated at County Council meeting on Thursday 13 December has been withdrawn. The statement by the Council is available [here](#).

APSE Winners and Finalists 2018 - The awards ceremony took place at the performance networks seminar on the evening of Thursday 6 December 2018. The full results can be found [here](#). Winners in the East Midlands were:-

- Refuse collection - Best performers winner: **Kettering Borough Council**
- Sports and leisure facility management - Most improved performers winner: **Broxtowe Borough Council - Chilwell Olympia Sports Centre**
- Street cleansing - Most improved performers winner: **Kettering Borough Council**

Decline and fall: understanding how and why local government fails, what leads to central Government intervention, and what comes after - the latest blog post from the Centre for Public Scrutiny [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care



Funding to help improve the lives of those affected by alcohol - A total of £10.5 million of funding is being allocated by Public Health England (PHE), to help improve the lives of adults and children impacted by alcohol, consisting of:

- £4.5 million innovation fund for local projects working with children and families
- £6 million capital fund to improve access to alcohol treatment in the community

In addition, PHE is announcing a call for bids for a share of a £6 million capital fund for local authorities, which can be used to improve services and facilities for people with alcohol problems. PHE is encouraging local authorities to submit an application to bid for money by 21 January 2019, with successful projects announced next spring and money being made available from 2019 to 2020. For further information visit [here](#).

Why have increases in life expectancy slowed down in England? - To understand what is happening, PHE were commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to undertake [a review of trends in life expectancy and mortality in England](#), with a particular focus on the number of deaths in some recent winters and the slowdown in mortality improvement. This review has now been released [details [here](#)].

Homelessness

James Brokenshire unveils action plan to combat rough sleeping - Communities Secretary unveils the government's next steps to help people off the streets and meet its target to end rough sleeping for good by 2027 [details [here](#)].

Rough Sleeping Strategy: delivery plan - Delivery plan setting out progress and next steps on the August 2018 Rough Sleeping Strategy [details [here](#)].



EMC Events

Strategies for Consulting & Negotiating Locally to Implement Change, 18 Dec 2018 - EMC is holding a half day workshop on Strategies for Consulting and Negotiating Locally to Implement Change on Tuesday 18 December. Led by the LGA Workforce team who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in this area. this workshop will:

- Look at the legal framework around the range of changes to contracts and policies that support Council's transformation programmes
- Discuss some key strategies around consultation and negotiation; including with trade unions
- Provide an insight into current local government industrial relation themes
- Allow an opportunity to explore issues around barriers to successful change for your organisation

For more information on this event visit [here](#).

Commercial Awareness Programme - "Making it our Business", 23 Jan 2019 - This modular programme is offered by EMC in partnership with NEREO to 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. There are six modules, which take four days to complete and two half day Action Learning set meetings. They are:

- Trading and Marketing in Public Services
- Negotiation Skills
- Practical Project Management
- How to Write a Commercial Business Case
- Customer Relations
- Presenting Your Business Case

All of the workshops in the suite consist of a mixture of current theory and practical exercises to apply key learning. For more information visit [here](#).

EMC Leadership

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Labour Group: Cllr Anne Western
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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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