

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

Top items this week

12 JULY 2019



Opun and Design Network  
master classes



100% of councils in membership benefitted from at least one of EMC's service offers

EMC Annual Report



Northamptonshire County  
Council Budget news



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## EMC Annual General Meeting - EMC Annual Report

Today the EMC Annual General meeting will take place at Nottinghamshire County Council, the full papers are available [here](#).

Cllr Martin Hill, Chair of East Midlands Councils and Leader of Lincolnshire County Council will present the East Midlands Councils Annual Report for 2018-19 [available [here](#)]. 100% of member councils benefitted from at least one of the EMC services during 2018-19. The Annual Report covers the services provided by EMC, including lobbying for greater investment and infrastructure funds, providing focused member and officer development programmes and our role as the Regional Employers' Organisation; as well as taking forward the increasingly important refugee and asylum resettlement work.

Over the last year, EMC delivered savings on behalf of its member councils estimated to be £778,000 – a return of over 3:1 against total member subscriptions.

We look forward to continuing to work with colleagues across the East Midlands during 2019/20.



£778,000  
savings delivered



48 different  
HR assignments undertaken



£28m secured for Midlands Connect up until 2020



100% of councils in membership benefitted from at least one of EMC's service offers



2,000  
councillors sent our weekly  
policy brief



1,700 councillor and officer places taken on  
EMC training and development programme



116 separate employment related requests  
for information and advice - all completed



12 organisations and  
56 coaches in EMC's coaching network



754 refugees and vulnerable children supported  
by councils across the East Midlands



## EMC News

**Programme Officer - Asylum and Refugee Resettlement (EMC)** - The East Midlands has a leading role in working with Government to put in place equitable and effective arrangements

for asylum and refugee resettlement. EMC is now offering an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills and attributes to lead and support the coordination and delivery of regional projects and programme evaluation.

Working with local authority and voluntary sector partners the role will have responsibility for undertaking research, data collection and analysis and assist with project development work relating to asylum and refugee resettlement in the East Midlands, including the Controlling Migration Fund, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Project and ESOL. For more information visit [here](#). **The closing date is 12pm on Friday 19 July 2019.**

## EMC Councillor Events

**Advanced financial scrutiny skills, 21 Nov 2019** - EMC is working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny to provide a full day workshop on advanced financial scrutiny skills [details [here](#)].

**The Changing Landscape of Local Government Finance, 6 Dec 2019** - This seminar gives a very good grounding in how local government finance works in practice and sets the 'basics' as part of the bigger picture of current developments and longer term trends, funding plans for the next five years and the implications of 'Brexit' [details [here](#)]

**HR Projects with Local Authorities** - During June EMC colleagues have provided support to councils on the following projects; Coaching, Mediation and Designing and supporting the delivery of an assessment process for a graduate training programme. To find out how EMC could support an area of work for you, then please contact Sam Maher at [sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**EMC, Opun and Design Network Masterclasses** - EMC, in conjunction with Opun and Design Network are running a series of four half day masterclasses. The events are professional, practical and useable training courses for local authority officers, the voluntary and private sector with an interest in the practicalities of place making. Numbers of attendees are limited to support discussion between participants and the trainer.



**Manual For Streets, Getting It Right - 24 Sep 2019** - The seminar will help participants to understand the aims and objectives of Manual for Streets and Manual for Streets 2 and provide practical guidance on its use and application. It will provide a critical review of the problems and barriers in applying Manual for Streets, including providing an update on recent case studies and planning appeals.

**Blue Infrastructure - A Practical Guide to Implementing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), 01 Oct 2019** - The seminar will provide an understanding on the importance, benefits and the practicalities in achieving robust SuDS. Including: • a workshop looking at the constraints and opportunities of sites, focusing on the multiple benefits of SuDS – getting the right scheme in the right place; • reference to recent case studies; and • an optional study tour to see stormwater management on the ground, providing practical guidance on SuDS use and application.

**What's Character Got To Do With It - 14 Nov 2019** - We are often left feeling that new development lacks character, that it could 'be anywhere' and that it doesn't 'fit in'. But what do we mean by character and why do we often fall so short of the mark? In this seminar we will attempt to unpick the tricky topic of character, explore what we can do to improve it, and how we can avoid common pitfalls in new development.

**How to achieve a QUALITY green development? - 03 Dec 2019** - In this seminar, we will be looking at how to maximise every aspect of positive impact, through our green space design. Focusing on how we can shape green spaces to make unique, integral, meaningful places. We will identify where soft landscape and green infrastructure can make a tangible, lasting difference.

For more information on these events and how to book please visit [here](#). Places are limited, early bookings are advised.

**Make “places not just homes” and transform retail parks into thriving communities, says Commission** - Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission publishes interim report. Town halls should encourage the redevelopment of retail parks and large supermarkets into communities that include homes, shops and businesses, a wide-ranging report for the government has found.

The new “mixed use” communities should be supported by new public transport to reduce reliance on cars – and are part of plans to revisit these ‘boxland’ developments.

The proposals are contained in the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission’s interim report, ‘[Creating space for beauty](#)’. The report examines the fundamental reasons for ugly developments and public mistrust, and also calls for communities to be given an earlier say in the development process, encouraging greater use of master-planning – rather than communities engaging in town “planning by appeal”. To access the interim report visit [here](#).

## Health & Social Care



**What a difference a place makes: the growing impact of health and wellbeing boards** - This LGA resource captures the achievements, challenges and learning from 22 effective health and wellbeing boards (HWBs) across the country, all of which are making good progress on integrating health and care, improving wellbeing and tackling the wider determinants of health [details [here](#)]. This resource includes contributions from the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

## Welfare Reform



**Terminally ill benefit claimants deserve a fresh and honest evaluation of the way the system supports them** - Amber Rudd has asked the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to set up an honest and in depth evaluation of how the benefits system supports people nearing the end of their life and those with severe conditions [details [here](#)].

The review will include 3 strands of research:

- hearing directly from claimants and charities about their first-hand experiences
- considering international evidence to find out what works in other nations and the support they provide
- reviewing current DWP performance to better understand how our Special Rules for Terminal Illness and Severe Conditions processes operate and perform

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## Local Government News



**Northamptonshire County Council has delivered a balanced budget for 2018-2019 with an underspend of £4.5million** - The figures appear in the final outturn report for that financial year which will be discussed by [Cabinet](#) next week.

This is an improvement of £34.6m on the position reported in July 2018 when the second Section 114 Notice was issued and an improvement of £3.5m from the provisional outturn report approved by the cabinet in May.

The £4.5m balance will be transferred to a budget delivery reserve to support the council's ongoing financial health in 2019-2020.

The advantageous financial position at the end of 2018-2019 means that the authority now has £39.8million in general and earmarked reserves [details [here](#)].

**Space to Connect Fund launched – our new £1.6 million partnership with the Co-op Foundation** - The Office for Civil Society announced the launch of the [Space to Connect Fund](#), our **£1.6 million partnership with the Co-op Foundation** to help community organisations identify, improve and protect spaces where people can connect and co-operate. This Fund builds on the Government's commitment to unlock the potential of community spaces as part of its Loneliness Strategy.

The Fund is now open for applications, with grants of up to £50,000 available across England. The [invitation to tender](#) is also now open to become our 'Space to Connect' Evaluation and Learning partner. The closing date for tender responses is midday on Friday 30 August 2019.

**Consultation: Guidance on statutory duty on local authorities to secure support services and activities for young people** - A review of the guidance for local authorities which sets out how they should secure activities and services for young people has been [launched by Civil Society Minister Mims Davies PM](#).

The review aims to focus attention on the positive role local authorities can play in the provision of youth services, and ensure the guidance is useful and accessible for those who need it most.

The review process will begin with a series of sector led roundtables and a public call for evidence will be open for 8 weeks over the Summer, from **late July to September**. Until the public call for evidence begins any enquiries about this process should be addressed to: [guidancereview@culture.gov.uk](mailto:guidancereview@culture.gov.uk).

**£1m worth of funding and support available to drive tech innovation in civil society while tackling social isolation -**

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) is investing £1 million through the Tech to Connect Challenge, which will be delivered by Nesta and is aimed at tackling social isolation through the use of technology. Social isolation is being looked at in a broad context; people can be isolated due to a myriad of reasons – from a significant illness or a long term health condition or disability, bereavement, or a challenging life transition to a new place or role. This £1 million prize will be split equally between £500,000 business support from Nesta Challenges, and £500,000 for cash prizes and grant funding to successful applicants.

Applications for Tech to Connect are now open until 7 August and the Challenge is open to charities, social enterprises and social tech ventures. DCMS is looking for simple solutions that can make a real difference; concepts may be in their early stages, or may be operational concepts that need scaling up. [Find out more and apply here](#).

**The Communities Secretary's speech at the CIPFA Conference 2019** - Speech given at the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Annual Conference [details [here](#)].

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## EMC Events

**Developing a Mentoring and Coaching Strategy Workshop, 19 September** - a workshop to explore and develop a mentoring and coaching strategy for those authorities interested in setting up their own programmes [\[here\]](#).

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## EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan

Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen

Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney

Labour Group: Cllr Alan Rhodes

Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE

Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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Click on our [Twitter](#) & [YouTube](#) accounts for further information.