What the outcomes of the General Election mean for Local Government

EMC Events for Councillors

New Role of a Councillor Workshop - 24 June 2015 (1.30pm-4pm) and 14 July 2015 (6pm-8.30pm). EMC is holding two half day workshops for new Councillors or those new to roles in their authorities. It will include: Understanding of the role of the Councillor; making connections and understanding the context in which the Council works; making relationships with Council Officers work well; a look at current bills and recent acts and a link to resources; and an overview of support available to help new Councillors to stay ahead of the game! Details are available here.

Being on the Frontline! Maximising your impact in the Community - 8 October 2015 (10am-4.30pm). EMC is holding a workshop for Councillors on maximising impact in the community. A highly thought provoking, interactive and practical day spent understanding and exploring the concrete actions you can take to make a difference locally. Details are available here.

East Midlands Councils (EMC) is holding the first event in the 2015-16 Regional Programme of Policy Events for Councillors - What the outcomes of the General Election mean for Local Government and Public Services – on Wednesday 24 June 2015 between 10am – 1pm.

The General and Local Government elections are almost upon us. EMC is committed to supporting its member authorities in the post-election period and this event is designed specifically to provide initial analysis of what the outcomes of the elections will mean for local government and the public sector.

EMC looks forward to welcoming councillors to this event (both experienced and newly elected), which will be the first post-election opportunity for councillors to meet and discuss regionally some of the important issues highlighted by the election. Keynote speakers include Dr Jonathan Carr-West, Chief Executive of the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) and a leading national thinker on local government transformation, local democracy and public services with a substantial media profile and sector credibility.

The event will provide initial reflections on future policies, including fiscal policy towards local government and the public sector. The event will also reflect on the prospects for further devolution, both across the country and locally.

This event is essential for Council Leaders and Portfolio Holders, as well as all councillors interested to hear what the outcomes of the General Election mean for local government and the public sector.

Open to all councillors, this event is part of EMC’s Regional Programme of Policy Events for Councillors. Local Authorities subscribed to the Programme will have access to four free places. Two free places are also being made available for authorities that haven’t subscribed to the Programme.

For more information or to register your interest in attending please contact kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk or click here.

Planning & Transport (Officer Contact: andrew.pritchard@emcouncils.gov.uk)

A final reminder that EMC is holding the first event in the 2015/16 Low Cost CPD Programme for Planners, ‘Planning, Health & Wellbeing: A 21st Century Approach’, on 28th April 2015. The event is an opportunity to hear from a range of speakers involved in improving health outcomes through the planning system, including local authorities, Public Health England and the TCPA. If you have not already done so please contact moira.hunt@emcouncils.gov.uk with details of those wishing to attend from your authority. Presentations from past events in the Programme are available here.

The RTPI Planning for Housing Network are holding a free Greenbelt Debate at Oxford Brookes University on 12 May 2015 at 4pm. The event brings together a number of leading thinkers with divergent views on the subject of greenbelt development. The debate will be nationally focused, discussing the concept of the greenbelt in cities outside London. Click here to book.

W: www.emcouncils.gov.uk E: info@emcouncils.gov.uk T: 01664 502 620
Housing (Officer Contact: andrew.pritchard@emcouncils.gov.uk)

Building on recent reviews which have looked at welfare reform, migration, flooding and health, EMC is about to commence a review into housing in the East Midlands. Recent regional research by the National Housing Federation (available here) has highlighted the persistent gap between housing need and the delivery of new stock, and the rising disparity between house prices/rents and wages. The review will look at a range of issues around affordable housing, including the impact of the East Midlands Declaration and inter-actions with the reformed benefits system, and take a look at the challenges of delivering housing of all tenures and the relationship between housing markets and local economies across the East Midlands. The Housing Review Steering Group, Chaired by Cllr Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council, will prepare an interim report to be considered at EMC’s AGM on 17 July 2015.

Cabe at the Design Council is holding a free network seminar on ‘Housing Growth Best Practice’ at their London Offices on 1 May from 10am – 2pm. It will provide an opportunity to hear from some of those at the sharp end of planning and housing delivery, and those with ideas for change. Speakers and panel members include: Stewart Murray – GLA; Terrie Alafat – CIH; Andrew Jones – AECOM; John McGill - London Stansted Cambridge Consortium; and Andy Wood - Exeter and East Devon Growth Point. To book contact meera.loader@designcouncil.org.uk.

Community Issues (Officer Contact: stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk)

A library and housing office in Broxtowe are set to close so they can be demolished – paving the way for a £5 million all-in-one community hub. A joint service centre is due to open in spring 2017, featuring a new library, improved IT equipment, information desk for council and housing services, meeting rooms and an outdoor area. The Nottingham Post has details.

Economic Development, Skills & Education (Officer Contact: peter.williams@emcouncils.gov.uk)

Commercial property consultancy Lambert Smith Hampton has published its 2015 annual Office Market Report. The report looks at the current economic climate for business and comments on the supply and take-up of office accommodation in a number of centres within the region including Nottingham, Northampton, Derby and Leicester.

Local Government Policy (Officer Contact: stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk)

ONS has published UK Electoral Statistics for 2014, reflecting the number of electors registered to vote in the UK on 1 December last year. The figures show that of the top 10 Parliamentary Constituencies with the greatest percentage increase in parliamentary electors between 2013 and 2014, Wellingborough was ranked 3rd (4.2% increase), with Northampton South ranked 6th (3.4% increase). Conversely, Nottingham South, Loughborough and Leicester South were among the 10 Constituencies with the greatest percentage decrease in parliamentary electors over the same period (-12.6%, -10.8% and -10.0% respectively).

The LGA is holding its 2015 annual conference and exhibition on 30 June – 2 July in Harrogate. For details and to book on the conference, which costs £495+VAT for LGA members and £640+VAT for others (to attend the whole event), please click here.

Over one hundred entries to the MJ’s annual local government awards in 16 categories have been selected as finalists. The categories cover a wide variety of local government services including adult care, children's services, finance, legal, infrastructure, public health and senior management. Local Authorities in the East Midlands are finalists in six categories: Nottingham City Council and Leicester City Council are both finalists for Best Council Service Team; Nottingham City Council is a finalist for Children’s Services; Corby Borough Council, North Kesteven District Council and Nottingham City Council are all finalists for Delivering Better Outcomes, with Mansfield District Council and South Northamptonshire Council commended in this category; North Kesteven District Council is a finalist for Excellence in Community Engagement, with City of Lincoln Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council both commended in this category; Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council are both finalists for Legal Services; and Rushcliffe Borough Council is a finalist in the Senior Management Team category. Rutland County Council was also commended in the Innovation in Finance category; Nottingham City Council was commended in the Innovation in Social Care category; and Bassetlaw District Council was commended in the UK Digital City category. Full details of the finalists, along with those commended, are available at awards.themj.co.uk. The winners in each category will be announced at The MJ Awards gala night on June 18 in London.
Local Government Policy (cont.) (Officer Contact: stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk)

ONS has also published the Tourism Atlas for England and Wales, 2015. It comprises an interactive mapping tool and reference tables. A separate Statistical Digest of Rural England (April 2015 Edition) has also been published, along with rural focus reports for individual local authorities in the East Midlands.

EMC Events, Training & Development

East Midlands Coaching Conference on 3 June 2015. East Midlands Councils is holding the third annual East Midlands Coaching Conference on Wednesday 3 June 2015. The event will include a keynote session from Lis Merrick, on Coaching and Neuroscience, Intuition and the role of Gender in Coaching. Details are available here.

Planning Masterclass: The Local Authority Role in Neighbourhood Planning on 29 September 2015. East Midlands Councils is holding a one day Planning Masterclass for local authority officers to provide advice on supporting local communities to prepare their Neighbourhood Plans. Details are available here.

EMC is also offering a range of support events for PAs and Secretaries, these include;

Team Secretarial Skills on 17 November 2015. A one day event on secretarial skills for secretaries who work with multiple managers on 17 November. Details are available here.

Executive PA Skills on 18 November 2015. A one day programme for Executive secretaries. Details are available here.

Follow up – Follow on - Enhancing your Secretarial Skills on 19 November 2015. A half day follow up session for Secretaries and Executive Assistants who attended the events at East Midlands Councils in 2014. Details are available here.