

EMC POLICY BRIEF

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

Top items this week

11 MARCH 2016



Brownfield Land Registers -
Where in the East Midlands



Local Authority Challenge
2016—East Midlands



BIS Select Committee Enquiry



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers



Local Authority Challenge 2016 - East Midlands

East Midlands Councils is bringing the Local Authority Challenge to the East Midlands for the first time in 2016. The challenge will offer a rare opportunity for aspiring managers across local government to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal working lives and give them a taste of what senior management is like.

The challenge is open to teams of six people from any area of local authority work. Delegates will spend the day as the management team of a fictional local authority, encountering many of the tasks that a real corporate team would deal with. They will have to work as a team, with neighbouring councils and with partner organisations to deliver a new strategy for the council.

The Challenge will be held on **Thursday 24 November** at a prestigious venue in the region (information to follow).

In 2015 Six teams from the East Midlands joined the East of England event, with excellent feedback given;

“Our two teams were unanimous in saying what an amazing development opportunity the challenge proved to be. One team member commented “after all the training the council has put me through including my MBA, this has been by far the most challenging, realistic and hence most valuable single day course I have ever done”.

Simon Walters, Assistant Director, City of Lincoln Council

For further information about the Local Authority Challenge visit [here](#).

Memorial Service for Councillor Roger Begy OBE - A memorial service will be held at All Saints Church in Oakham on Thursday 17th March to celebrate the life of Councillor Roger Begy OBE.

Councillor Begy passed away on Monday 1st February 2016 after a short period of illness.

The memorial service is open to anyone who wishes to pay their respects to Councillor Begy, who was the longstanding Leader of Rutland County Council and Executive Board Member of EMC.

The service starts at 2pm and will be followed by light refreshments at Rutland County Museum.



EMC News

EMC Boards Activity

EMC Executive Board - Meeting to be held on 18 March and the papers are available from

[here](#).

EMC Support Work

Survey Support - Recently EMC staff have been supporting a number of local authority members by undertaking surveys on their behalf, these have included staff satisfaction and training needs analysis surveys. Those commissioning EMC to work with them have valued the independence and capacity support that EMC has offered.

East Midlands Scrutiny Network - The next Scrutiny Network for Councillors and Officers involved with Scrutiny will take place on 18 March 2016 at Corby Borough Council. Chris Heaton-Harris MP will be the guest speaker at this meeting and will discuss with delegates his experiences of being a past member of the Public Accounts Committee and European Scrutiny Committee. For further information about this network contact kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC News and Support Continued

Animal Licensing Event - Over 130 Environmental Health professionals from across the East Midlands have taken part in an event on Animal Licensing this week, as part of the CPD programme for Environmental Health Officers. To view the programme for this event visit [here](#).

Support and Development for Coaches - This week EMC has held an interactive development session for Coaches in the East Midlands Coaching Network. 20 Coaches from across 7 member organisations took part in the development session on 'Embodied Coaching'.

EMC Councillor Events

Future Councillors, 16 March 2016, 10:30, Blaby District Council - The final event in the 2015/16 Regional Programme of Policy Events for Councillors provides Councillors in the East Midlands with a two great sessions in one day. The morning session will explore the role of the Councillor in the current political context of devolution and the collaboration agenda. The afternoon session will provide Councillors with an opportunity to engage with and learn more about the Councillor Commission, led by Professor Colin Copus, De Montfort University. Further information [here](#).

The Role of the Civic Head and Team, 25 May 2016 - The day will include discussion on the role of prospective Civic Heads, Mayoress, Consorts or Escorts, their Deputies and all Civic Support Officers and will identify any concerns and further needs that the delegates may have in carrying out their duties. For further information about this event visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Brownfield Land Development - Pioneering councils are to help lead the way in bringing forward derelict and underused land for new homes, Communities Secretary Greg Clark announced this week (10 March 2016).

73 councils across England will pilot one of the new brownfield registers, which will provide house builders with up-to-date and publicly available information on all brownfield sites available for housing locally.

The registers will help housebuilders identify suitable sites quickly, speeding up the construction of new homes. Authorities from the East Midlands are;

- Bassetlaw
- East Northamptonshire
- Nottingham
- Broxtowe
- Gedling
- Rushcliffe
- Corby
- Kettering
- Wellingborough

For further information visit [here](#).

Midlands Connect



Midlands Connect and Transport for the North - Independent Chair for Midlands Connect Sir John Peace met informally this week with John Cridland, Chair of Transport for the North. Sir Peace and Sir Cridland shared their emerging plans for their respective areas and discussed areas of mutual concern.

Economic Development, Skills & Education



Fairer school funding plan revealed - Under proposals published for consultation this week, the government has started the process of introducing a national funding formula from 2017 to 2018. This represents an important move towards a system where school funding is allocated on a consistent national formula. As part of this, local authorities will receive funding to help with their responsibilities towards young people with high-level special educational needs on a fair and formulaic basis, so that no pupil is disadvantaged simply by where they live. To access details on the consultation visit [here](#).

BIS Select Committee Inquiry - The Business, Innovation and Skills Committee has launched an inquiry looking at the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine, focussing on whether the Government's devolved arrangements can deliver improved economic growth and if these models could be adopted by other regions.

The Committee's inquiry will focus on the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine and examine if the models for devolved decision-making and co-operation on areas such as skills, science, innovation, and R&D are delivering economic growth and whether they should be adopted in other regions.

To view the inquiry and terms of reference visit [here](#).

Employers' Information



EMCs Employment Law Event - This week EMC held its annual Employment Law event, delivered by Employment Law Specialist and EMC HR Bulletin Contributor Darren Newman. 35 People from across 21 member organisations attended the event. Areas covered included; Employment Tribunals, the Trade Union Bill, Working Time, National Living Wage and TUPE.

Local Government News



Council Leaders continue to push for joint body for North Midlands economic growth - Last weeks Policy Brief provided an update on the North Midlands Devolution where leaders of 13 Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire councils confirmed their commitment to the creation of a new joint-body covering the North Midlands.

Bassetlaw District Council will next week vote on a proposal to seek full membership of the neighbouring Sheffield City Region Combined Authority, leaving open becoming a non-constituent member of the North Midlands CA once formed.

It was agreed at the meeting of council leader last week that the 13 authorities will now explore options with the Government about moving forward, including the creation of a non-mayoral North Midlands Combined Authority. The options coming out of discussions with Government will be reported back to the next meetings of the N2 (Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Economic Prosperity Committee on 18 March and the D2 (Derby and Derbyshire) Strategic Leaders meeting, date to be confirmed.

Northamptonshire - Discussions in Northamptonshire this week have focused on unitary status, with a range of options and arguments for and against being suggested by districts, the county and MPs in the area. Suffice to say there are a range of options being proposed that range from county based proposals to ones that include a single or a number of existing districts within and outside county boundaries.

New £80m fund to tackle domestic violence - The Government has set aside £80m to help protect women and girls from violence. For further information visit [here](#).

Community Rights - The latest figures for the Community Rights movement shows more than 3,000 buildings, green spaces and other local assets have been protected, with 1,800 neighbourhood plans now underway. To promote the programme, the government has produced an interactive map listing protected assets and other community rights uses throughout the country. To access the interactive tool visit [here](#).

EMC Events



East Midlands Coaching Conference 2016, 22 June 2016 - EMCs 4th Annual Coaching Conference will provide a range of experiences, tools and techniques for all coaches (and those thinking starting their coaching journey).

The conference will provide delegates with the opportunity to attend two out of **four** brilliant, practical and enlightening workshop designed to support coaches in their coaching practice. For further information on the workshops and the keynote session visit [here](#).

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children - Age Assessment Training, 22 Mar 2016 - This practical event will cover the legislative background to asylum claims; looks at the relevant guidelines applicable; look at the Merton and other relevant decisions, and issues involved in preparation for the assessment and then the assessment itself. For further information and to book a place please visit [here](#).

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Vice Chair: Cllr Jon Collins
Vice Chair: Cllr Neil Clarke MBE
Conservative Group: Cllr Chris Millar
Labour Group: Cllr Robert Parker
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Alan Walters

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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