

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

Top items this week

14 JUNE 2019



New technologies to transform public services



East Midlands Regional Employers' Board



East Midlands HS2 Executive Board



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers



Regional Employers Board and Regional Joint Council

The Regional Employers Board and Regional Joint Council met this week chaired by Cllr Tom Beattie, Leader Corby Borough Council and benefitted from an apprenticeships update from Jamie Saddler, LGA Apprenticeships Adviser. Discussions also took place regarding the consultation on Exit Pay Cap Proposals as well as employment law, regional and national developments being provided to the Employers Board by Sam Maher, Director of HR & Councillor Development.

EMC Apprenticeship Workshop - EMC facilitated an apprenticeships workshop this week with attendees describing the opportunity to hear the latest apprenticeship update and share and network with colleagues as very useful. The LGA also explained the funding opportunities available to local authorities to support their apprenticeship journey and our colleagues in South West Councils provided information on the End Point Assessment Model that could be offered through EMC and the assessment opportunities in our region for various subject experts, particularly in Revenues and Benefits. Full details from the event will be available shortly on our website.



East Midlands HS2 Executive Board

The East Midlands HS2 Executive Board met on 12 June, chaired Cllr Simon Spencer, Deputy Leader of Derbyshire County Council. The Board received an update on Growth Strategy Delivery and the recently published Route Refinement Consultation, which includes changes to the HS2 line between Ashby and Diseworth in Leicestershire, with the addition of a construction railhead, and around Trowell in Nottinghamshire.

Cllr Tricia Gilby, Leader and Huw Bowen, Chief Executive of Chesterfield Borough Council made presentation on the HS2 Chesterfield Station Master Plan and proposals for the regeneration of the Staveley Corridor including the planned HS2 Infrastructure Maintenance Depot.

East Midlands Councils EMC News EMC Councillor Events

Being an effective councillor: Making a difference; doing it your way, 24 Sep 2019 - This workshop looks at the different councillor roles. This interactive session aims to develop understanding of:

- different roles councillors can prioritise to 'make a difference'
- different styles councillors can develop and adopt
- recent key reports on the changing expectations of councillors
- personal targets – including maintaining voter interest, embedding achievements, passing on the baton

This event will seek to involve participants throughout the session in discussing and developing their views. For more information visit [here](#).

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.

Many authorities recognise the need to invest in financial scrutiny training in order that members can provide constructive challenge to the assumptions underpinning a council's approach to financial planning whilst also capitalising on the social intelligence implicit in councillors' community leadership roles.

This action-focused one day workshop is aimed at Scrutiny Chairs, Scrutiny Officers, Scrutiny Members, Backbenchers, Chairs of Audit, Section 151 Officers and Senior Finance Officers. For more information visit [here](#).

EMC Annual General Meeting (AGM) - East Midlands Councils AGM will take place on Friday 12 July at Nottinghamshire County Council. All councillors and Chief Executives are invited to attend. The agenda and papers will be available in due course.

EMC Support Activity

East Midlands Scrutiny Network meeting - The next network meeting will take place on 28 June at Erewash Borough Council in Long Eaton, the agenda for this meeting is available from [here](#). The network is open to both Councillors and Officers involved with scrutiny, the network is keen to welcome Councillors new to scrutiny. The agenda for this network meeting can be found here. The meeting will include a presentation on the recently published 'Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities'. For more information about the network contact kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Local Government News and wider



East Midlands Cyber Security Network meeting - The next EMGWARP network meeting will take place on Tuesday 2 July at Gedling Borough Council. The agenda for this network meeting will include an update on the LGA Cyber Resilience Bid. For more information about the network contact kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Performance Management Network meeting, 21 June - The next Performance network meeting will take place on 21 June and will include an item on Culture change, along with a presentation by the Association for Public Service Excellence. For more information on the network visit [here](#).

One Public Estate - The One Public Estate programme, led by the Office of Government Property and LGA; the British Property Federation (BPF), which supports the property industry's largest network for young professionals, BPF Futures; and U+I, the specialist regeneration developer, have joined forces to launch the BPF Futures Challenge.

The **#HighStreetChallenge** aims to put the property sector's future leaders at the heart of solving one of the biggest challenges facing our towns and cities: how to bring new life into urban centres. One successful local authority will also receive £100,000 investment to help bring the proposal to life.

Find out more on how to be part of this exciting opportunity by downloading the prospectus below [details [here](#)].

Let's Talk Loneliness - Government loneliness campaign launches - Let's Talk Loneliness, launches on **Monday 17 June**. The campaign, which comes out of the Government's [first strategy for tackling loneliness in England](#), will show that feeling lonely is simply part of being human, much like being hungry, and encourage people to act through easy-to-understand messages and information.

Small charities: views on the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy - Homeless Link and Homeless Justice are working in partnership to reach out and hear directly from small charities (under £1m income), community groups and/or faith-based groups working on homelessness. They want to hear about experiences locally, views on the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy and the challenges and opportunities being faced.

The survey can be found [here](#) and the deadline for completion is **Monday 24 June 2019**.

Minister sets out plan for new technologies to transform public services - A plan for how the government can harness new technologies to transform public services has been set out by the Minister for Implementation, Oliver Dowden.

The Minister for Implementation, Oliver Dowden launched a new guide to help government embrace artificial intelligence and an online marketplace to support tech start-ups sell to the public sector. These measures accompany a new Technology Innovation Strategy, setting out the government's approach to enabling widespread adoption of new technologies across the public sector [details [here](#)].

Details of the AI Guide can be found [here](#) - This sets out guidance for public sector organisations on how to assess if using AI will help meet user needs; how to make best use of AI; and how to implement AI ethically, fairly and safely. The AI guide was produced alongside the AI Review which was announced at Budget 2018 and led by the Government Digital Service and Office for AI.

Read the Innovation Strategy [here](#) - This includes plans for building a better pipeline of tech talent in government by doubling the number of technology apprenticeships, improving data sharing to help solve problems such as fraud and serious violence, and addressing problems caused by out-dated computer systems.

Health & Social Care



Reducing Parental Conflict: a digital discovery - This report presents findings from our investigation into the digital behaviours of parents in low-income households that experience parental conflict. The findings have given us new insight into opportunities for us to provide better digital services and ultimately help to improve outcomes for children [details [here](#)].

Health Matters: Looking ahead to the health of future generations - Professor Alissa Goodman from UCL's Centre for Longitudinal Studies covers how life course research and the four national cohort studies the Centre runs is helping us understand how the health of successive generations is changing and what risks we face for the future [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



Derbyshire County Council's has launched the council's new Workplace Wellbeing Strategy - The strategy, which will support council employees with their physical and mental health and aims to reduce sickness absence, was approved by Cabinet on Thursday 6 June.

Sickness rates at the council are higher than the public sector average. In 2018/2019 10.22 days per employee were lost to sickness, compared to the public sector average of 8.4. They are also higher than the private sector, at 4.4 days, and the non-profit sector at 6.3 days. The cost of sickness has fallen from £8.9 million in 2016/2017 to £7.8 million in 2018/2019 [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Government ushers in new era of green commutes with e-bike Cycle to Work scheme - Commuters will have more opportunities to boost their health, benefit the environment and speed up their journey to work, thanks to updated Cycle to Work guidance.

Cycling Minister Michael Ellis has announced a refreshed scheme this week, which could help many more commuters turn to greener journeys using e-bikes, 70,000 of which were sold in the UK last year. The refreshed guidance will make it easier for employers to provide bicycles and equipment including e-bikes worth over £1,000, by making it clear that FCA authorised third party providers are able to run the scheme on their behalf [details [here](#)].

£7.8 million to drive forward innovative ideas to transform railways - Drones capable of inspecting railway infrastructure, hydrogen train trials and a sound-bending wall to cut noise pollution are among 24 winning projects in the third round of the First of a Kind (FOAK) competition, unveiled by the Department for Transport this week. Run by Innovate UK and funded by the DfT to support research, development and innovation in the UK rail industry, the competition seeks innovative ideas that can be adapted to transform rail travel.

Strengthening resilience of railway infrastructure and operations, enhancing rail freight services, and reducing environmental and noise impacts were the themes for this round. Each of the winning schemes will receive between £250,000 and £350,000 [details [here](#)].

EMC Events



Licensing/Legal Conference - the latest event in the Low cost CPD for Environmental Health Officers will take place on 20 June. The programme for this event includes;

- Using Taxi Licensing Policy to Protect the Local Environment - Nottingham City Council
- Modern Day Slavery - Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Unit

For more information contact Lisa.Bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk

'Improving Performance in Planning Authorities' - the latest event in the East Midlands Councils Low-Cost CPD Programme for Planners will take place on 27 June. The agenda for this event includes;

- Planning for New Homes - Aileen Murphie, Director, National Audit Office
- An Overview of Planning and Performance - MHCLG (Planning and Performance)
- Improving Planning Performance from a Leadership and Management Perspective - Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
- Innovative Planning using CHLOE demonstration (nominated for 2019 Planning Resource Award) - Daniel Gates, David Lock Associates
- Helping Development Management Services Improve - Planning Advisory Service
- Joint Working and Plan Making - Nottingham City Council

For more information contact Lisa.Bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk

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 CBE

Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE

Independent Group: to be confirmed

Executive Director: Stuart Young

East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB



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