

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

17 NOVEMBER 2017



East Midlands Infrastructure Summit



EM LA Challenge - The Results



Government House Building Statistics



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

East Midlands Local Authority Challenge 2017 - The Results

On Thursday 16 November East Midlands Councils held the East Midlands Local Authority Challenge at Donington Race Track. 78 people from 13 teams from across the East Midlands took part in the challenge and competed for the coveted prize of the Local Authority Challenge East Midlands Winner.

We are pleased to announce the results below, but congratulations go to all teams involved on the day.

South Kesteven District Council successfully defended the title of Local Authority Challenge East Midlands Winners for the second year.

Teams on the day faced a range of tasks including presentations to Overview and Scrutiny boards of their fictional local authority, challenging media interviews and a last minute emergency response plan to finalise and role out in the final fifteen minutes of the day. Teams had to develop relationships with their leader and manage increasingly challenging situations that arose throughout the day.

Local Authority Challenge East Midlands Winner - South Kesteven District Council

Team Members

1. William Tse
2. Fiona Selva
3. Justin Johnson
4. John O'Hanrahan
5. Vicky Brackenbury
6. Helen Johnson

Runners up - Gedling Borough Council

Team Members

1. Tracey Crawford
2. Sam Palmer
3. Mark Smith
4. Andrew Solley
5. Sara Oleksiw
6. Kathryn Banning



Best Chief Executive - William Tse, South Kesteven District Council

(The runners up for Best Chief Executive; Tracey Crawford, Gedling Borough Council; Jason Bagley, Boston Borough Council; Louisa Horton, Blaby District Council)

Best Partnership Working award - North Kesteven District Council

(The runners up for best Partnership Working; Kettering Borough Council, South Kesteven District Council)

Best Presentation - Gedling Borough Council

(The runners up for Best Presentation; Chesterfield Borough Council, Lincolnshire County Council)

Best Residents' Magazine - North Kesteven District Council

(The runners up for Best Residents' Magazine; Rushcliffe Borough Council and Boston Borough Council)

East Midlands Councils would also like to thank all those on the day who played the crucial roles of Council Leaders, Partners, Cluster Leaders and Media representatives.

For more information on the day visit [here](#).

It was a great day and we look forward welcoming teams to the next Challenge!

EMC Support Activity

Recruitment Support - This week EMC colleagues have supported an authority with recruitment, through the provision of an assessment centre, including psychometric testing. For more information contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

Mediation - In the last week EMC staff have supported an authority with Mediation. EMC has three qualified Mediators, if you would like further information please contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

East Midlands Infrastructure Summit: Driving Growth - Investing in our Infrastructure, 27 Nov 2017 - Following a series of significant announcements on infrastructure investment in the East Midlands, East Midlands Councils and East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire) are hosting a special Summit to discuss the future of the region's transport projects and how local business growth can be maximised through their delivery [details [here](#)].

Local Government Finance, 12 Dec 2017 - The seminar will cover the emerging impact of major changes to local government finance: including the journey towards the 100% localisation of Business Rates, the end of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and the expectation of councils generating local economic growth to help fund services [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



More homes delivered as government outlines housing vision - [New figures](#) out this week show the number of new homes in England has risen by 15% over the past year.

The 217,350 net additions over the past year resulted from: 183,570 new build homes, 37,190 gains from change of use between non-domestic and residential, 5,680 from conversions between houses and flats and 720 other gains.

Latest figures published show that more than 70 local authorities still have not had a local plan adopted and 15 of these are showing particular cause for concern having missed deadlines and failed to make progress.

These 15 local authorities have now been served notice that government has begun the formal process of intervention as set out in the [housing white paper](#). The 15 local authorities are: Basildon, Brentwood, **Bolsover**, Calderdale, Castle Point, Eastleigh, Liverpool, **Mansfield, North East Derbyshire**, Northumberland, Runnymede, St Albans, Thanet, Wirral and York.

They will now have until 31 January 2018 to explain why they haven't yet published a plan and provide any exceptional circumstances for why the government shouldn't intervene. The Communities Secretary would then consider these submissions before deciding whether to use the range of powers he has to direct specific actions on these local authorities. This could ultimately see government take over the process to produce a local plan in a certain area. For more information visit [here](#).

North set to become first region in country to get new transport powers from government - New legal powers to give the North an unprecedented say on how money is spent on transport were announced this week.

Pioneering legislation to transform Transport for the North (TfN) into the first ever statutory sub-national transport body – with legal powers and duties – were laid in Parliament, underlining the government's commitment to the Northern Powerhouse. The Department for Transport also confirmed the award of £18.5 million from a £150 million government fund for TfN's smart ticketing programme. TfN will use this to introduce paperless, smart card season tickets for Northern and TransPennine Express and Merseyrail passengers by the end of 2018 [details [here](#)].

Midlands Connect is working on proposals to establish a similar body across the midlands, the Midlands Connect Strategic Board recently considered updated proposals on establishing Midlands Connect as a Sub-national Transport Body, which will be consulted on in the New Year.

National Housing Federation Report 'The importance of rural services for communities' - Services in rural areas, such as schools and pubs, are the pillars of rural community life. But these services have been increasingly at risk of closing where rural areas have suffered from lack of investment in new affordable homes. Without this investment, it is difficult for families to grow and remain in the same area, and more difficult for people to move to these areas, putting the long-term sustainability of local businesses at risk. To access the report visit [here](#).

London homelessness social impact bond evaluation - The impact evaluation report presents the results of the assessment of the impact of the intervention on rough sleeping, reconnections and entry into long-term accommodation. For more information on this programme and the evaluation visit [here](#).

Regional unemployment still lower than the UK figure - The percentage of people out of work in the East Midlands remains lower than the national picture, according to figures released this morning by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). East Midlands Chamber has analysed the ONS figure for the East Midlands, the **East Midlands Chamber** analysis is available from [here](#).

Local Government News and wider



'The Economic Case for the Derby-Nottingham Metro' - The Leaders of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils have expressed serious concerns over 'unified metropolitan area' plans by Nottingham and Derby City Councils. The 'Economic Case for the Derby-Nottingham Metro' document can be accessed from [here](#).

Minister announces accessibility improvements to voter registration service - The voter registration service has been made more accessible for users, following an audit by the Government Digital Service Accessibility team. The team carried out an audit of the [register to vote website](#) and recommended several ways to further improve accessibility. For example, changing the way webpage headings are displayed on screen readers and the use of colour contrast in error messaging.

Since individual registration was introduced in 2014, over 30 million people have applied to register to vote and over three quarters of these applications have been made online. The changes to the website will make it easier for people with disabilities to complete voter registration and participate in the democratic process. For more information visit [here](#).

New support for tech to boost public sector productivity - Dedicated GovTech Catalyst team and £20 million fund to help tech firms deliver innovative fixes to public sector challenges. Vital public services will benefit from a fund launched this week (15 November 2017) to incentivise Britain's tech firms to come up with smart solutions to fix public sector problems.

A dedicated new GovTech Catalyst team will operate at the heart of government and oversee a new £20 million fund to help tech firms deliver innovative fixes to public sector challenges, which could include reducing traffic jams, freeing up teachers' time and improving the experience of patients visiting their GP.

The team will boost productivity by helping public bodies – such as the NHS or local councils – identify challenges they face that could be solved by new digital technologies. For more information visit [here](#).

Housing Benefit caseload statistics - These summary tables [available [here](#)] show the number of Housing Benefit claimants and average weekly spare room subsidy amount withdrawal by:

- region and local authority
- region and local authority by tenure and passported status
- region and local authority by spare room subsidy
- tenure

Health & Social Care

Public Health England's Chief Executive Duncan Selbie's Friday message, 17 November 2017 - available from [here](#).

EMC Events



East Midlands PA Conference, 29 Nov 2017 - East Midlands Councils is proudly introducing a one day conference designed to support Office Managers, Secretaries, PAs, Team Administrators – in fact anyone who organises others to achieve their goals. For more information and to view the programme visit [here](#).

Coaching Tools Boot Camp, 07 Dec 2017 - This workshop will focus on tools used within coaching sessions. Facilitated by experienced executive coach Cathy Lasher the workshop will help to develop coaches knowledge and skills when using coaching tools, enabling coaches to have access to a variety of different tools and understand when they are most effective. For more information visit [here](#).

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
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Mayor Kate Allsop

Executive Director: Stuart Young

East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe
Pera Business Park
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0PB



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