

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

Top items this week

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EMC HR Bulletin, January 2019



Brexit - Information sharing with MHCLG



East Midlands LA Challenge 2019



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Brexit - Update for Local Authorities

Local authorities across England will receive a share of £56.5 million to help support their preparations for Brexit, ministers announced this week. The Treasury announced in December that MHCLG would receive £35 million to prepare for Brexit. MHCLG has added an extra £21.5 million funding using finance from its 2018 to 2019 budget.

Councils will receive £20 million this financial year (2018 to 2019) and £20 million in 2019 to 2020 to spend on planning and strengthening their resources.

A further £10 million will be available in the next financial year (2019 to 2020). This funding is intended to help local authorities with specific costs which may arise following Brexit.

£1.5 million will be allocated in 2018 to 2019 only to local authorities facing immediate impacts from local ports, with the decision on the allocation and distribution of that funding to be announced shortly.

A further £5 million will be split by teams in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, local authorities, and Local Resilience Forums for specific purposes such as strengthening preparations and supporting communities. For more information visit [here](#).

Allocations for authorities

As a share of the £40 million allocated to local authorities across the financial years 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020, all unitary councils will receive £210,000 and combine authorities will receive £182,000. County councils will receive £175,000 each and all district councils will receive £35,000.

Information sharing with Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Alongside this announcement of funding, MHCLG have put in place arrangements to improve engagement with local authorities through the establishment of 'regional hubs' for the sharing of emerging local and regional issues, predicted and actual impacts, and sector readiness.

With the intention of providing a strategic view of the key issues facing councils, as well as new issues that are emerging or changing, local authorities have been requested by MHCLG to provide this information on a weekly basis with a focus on:

- Priority concerns/barriers to preparedness which need immediate escalation in Whitehall
- Medium-longer term scenarios (e.g. concerns about supply chains)
- Feedback on Whitehall communications to councils

EMC will be working with local authority chief executives in aggregating this information on a weekly basis and appreciate the efforts of member councils in pulling this information together.



EMC News

East Midlands LA Challenge, 21 March 2019 - Deadline for team registrations 7 February

18 teams have already registered to take part in the 2019 EM LA Challenge, the deadline for team registrations is 7 February.

The challenge is open to teams of six people. 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.

This year the Challenge will be held at Derby Arena the home of the Derby Velodrome.

For more information on the Local Authority Challenge, or to provisionally book a team contact Kirsty Lowe, at kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk or call 01664 502 637.

EMC Boards Activity

East Midlands Councils General Meeting - Leaders and Senior Members from across the region attended EMC's General Meeting today (1.2.19). The meeting included a presentation from Bev Smith, Chief Executive, North West Leicestershire District Council on Practical Implications and Planning in relation to Brexit.

East Midlands Scrutiny Network - This East Midlands Scrutiny network met on 1 February, hosted by Rutland County Council. The network meeting received a presentation from John Cade, University of Birmingham. Northampton Borough Council provided a presentation on their recent review of Homelessness Support within their borough.

The next network meeting will take place on 29 March. This meeting will focus specifically on Task and Finish Groups and explore best practice in this area. For more information on the network please contact

kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Support Activity

East Midlands Councillor Development Network meeting - This week the East Midlands Councillor Development Network met to discuss Councillor Induction Programmes that will be offered after the 2nd May local government elections. The network received a presentation from the East Midlands Special Operations Unit on their offer to support local authorities with Cyber Awareness sessions for Councillors. If you would like more information on these free Cyber Awareness sessions please contact Kirsty Lowe kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk who will connect you with the East Midlands Special Operations Unit.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Housing Minister tightens up rules on electrical safety to better protect renters - New measures designed to ensure mandatory electrical inspections are carried out by competent and qualified inspectors [details [here](#)].



Brokenshire unveils £500 million affordable homes funding boost - Nearly £500 million will be spent building more than 11,000 much-needed affordable properties across the country [details [here](#)].

The Housing Associations to benefit from the funding – in the third wave of strategic partnerships – are: Bromford, Curo & Swan, Liverpool Mutual Homes & Torus, Longhurst & Nottingham Community Housing Association, Together, Walsall Housing Group, Yorkshire and Your Housing Group.

Local Government News

Final local government finance settlement 2019 to 2020: written statement - Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government this week gave his written statement on the local government finance settlement 2019 to 2020.



This settlement is the final year of the 4 year offer which was accepted by 97% of councils in return for publishing efficiency plans. This settlement comprises a broad package of measures and confirms that Core Spending Power is forecast to increase from £45.1 billion in 2018-19 to £46.4 billion in 2019-20, a cash-increase of 2.8% and a real-terms increase in resources available to local authorities.

In the speech to the House of Commons the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said

"I have also decided to provide Northamptonshire County Council with an additional 2% Council Tax flexibility, to assist with the improvements to council governance and services after their serious issues. Use of the flexibility will ultimately be a matter for the authority's cabinet and full council."

The full speech is available from [here](#). The Northamptonshire County Council press release is available [here](#).

Review of Local Government Ethical Standards - The Committee on Standards in Public Life has published its report on local government ethical standards. The report looks at the current framework governing the behaviour of local government councillors and executives in England and makes a number of recommendations to promote and maintain the standards expected by the public [details [here](#)].

Jobcentre Plus: opportunities for public and voluntary organisations - Opportunities for public and voluntary organisations to help Jobcentre Plus move people off benefits and into employment [details [here](#)].

LGA Event, Communicating Brexit Locally, 6 February - The LGA is hosting an event bringing together some of the leading senior communicators from central government to share the Government's latest Brexit advice and key messages on the issues that matter most to councils looking to inform, engage and support their communities, businesses and staff.

The event is free to attend and is aimed at officers with responsibility for communicating what Brexit means for the residents and communities their councils support [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

Ageing and Health Expenditure - [The Health Profile for England](#) report shows that although we are living longer than decades ago, we are not necessarily living healthier lives. This trend opens up discussion about the question and opportunities that an ageing society presents [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



EMC HR Bulletin, January Edition - [The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from here.](#)

This is a one-stop shop for all the latest information in the world of HR, L&D and OD. This month's edition covers:-

- The People Conference 2019 – the major event for HR, L&D and OD professionals taking place on 6th February 2019. For this inaugural conference, the theme looks at a major issue we are all facing – change; in particular, Managing and Developing People in a Changing World. We have worked with CIPD who are providing key national lead officers who will be speaking at the event, along with other experts and experienced leaders to offer a blend of plenary sessions and practical workshops. The Conference is being chaired by Bev Smith, Chief Executive of North West Leicestershire DC, who will be sharing the learning from her own experience of leading a journey of culture change. We have had such a positive response and are pleased that so many of you will be joining us, that we can extend our offer of one free place for every delegate place booked. There is still time to join us!
 - Learning and development opportunities available over the next few months include our LA Challenge event and the Employment Law Update Seminar
 - Darren Newman's article looks at key points arising from *Burdis v Dorset County Council* and the importance of getting the reason for dismissal right – is it a capability or a conduct issue?
 - Our national round-up includes pay spine implementation survey results, news on national joint guidance on term-time working, apprenticeships and the NGDP programme.
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Midlands Engine



MEIF helping to drive the Midlands Engine after £25 million milestone -The £250 million Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF) has reached its first milestone after supporting investment of £25 million in the region's businesses.

In the East Midlands, a diverse mix of firms have received finance from the Midlands Engine Investment Fund. A highlight from its equity finance activity includes the Fund's £400k investment in Nottingham-based Locate Therapeutics Ltd – part of a £2 million funding package supported also by Mercia Fund Managers. Allowing it to recruit six experts, this finance is to play a supporting role as the regenerative medicine specialist brings its targeted drug and stem cells delivery system to market [details [here](#)].



EMC Events

Writing Press Releases, 26 Feb 2019 - EMC is holding a full day workshop for Councillors and Officers on Writing Press Releases. Whether you're an officer or a councillor, a well written news release can get you in the editorial media for free. But how you actually write that news release can make the difference between success and failure. For more information on this workshop visit [here](#).

Negotiation Skills, 13 Feb 2019 - EMC is holding a full day workshop on Negotiation skills. The workshop will help managers to understand what negotiation is, and is not, in the business world. It will give them practical skills to enable them to prepare for a negotiation scenario, weighing up variables and anticipating challenges along the way. For more information or to book a place 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

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