

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

## Top items this week

1 MARCH 2019



Integrated Communities  
English Language Programme



Reporting of Key Issues to  
MHCLG



EMC HR Bulletin - February  
Edition



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## Reporting of Key Issues to MHCLG

MHCLG have asked Local Authorities to support in the identification of local concerns should mitigation planning be necessary as a result of Brexit.

Included within the issues raised by local authorities to date;

- Concern continues to be expressed in relation to regulatory services. This is essentially two fold; the resource pressures upon regulatory services teams and the additional time needed to put additional staff in place; and the lack of legal certainty regarding the necessary Statutory Instruments being in place by end-March. Failing to do so may mean Local Authorities being unable to exercise their functions as a regulator.
- Concerns regarding the lack of engagement from DfT, Highways England and Network Rail have been highlighted – and unless addressed, it will continue to hamper the preparedness of Local Authorities. For example, East Midlands Airport could provide some unique challenges of passenger and freight usage, the possibility of traffic congestion in the area that includes M1 and M42 motorways must be addressed. The airport has been identified as one of the critical ports by MHCLG.

### A reminder on a couple of planned events:

- EU Exit and Rural Locations workshop taking place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March in Leeds, from 0930-1630- details [here](#).
- Adult Social Care on 13 March in London, from 1330-1630 - details [here](#).

## East Midlands Councils EMC News

**HS2 Strategic Board** - The HS2 Strategic Board met on 25 February 2019 this week. The Board received presentations on progress to date and next steps on; Toton Hub Station Delivery Board, Chesterfield & Staveley Delivery Board, Skills & Supply Chain Board and the Mitigation Board. Along with an update on the East Midlands Gateways Connectivity Plan and Emerging Options. Information on the Board [here](#).

**Health, Safety and Welfare Event** - this week the final event in the Environmental Health CPD programme took place this week and focused on Health, Safety and Welfare. The event attended by over 125 environmental health officers from across the East Midlands, included presentations on; Health and Safety Executive Update by the Health and Safety Executive, Clay Shooting Ground: Electrical Incident Investigation by Daventry District Council and cCase studies from a Health and Safety Inspector at Birmingham City Council. Presentations from the event are available from [here](#).

### EMC Boards Activity

**Regional Employers' Board, 6 March** - The East Midlands Regional Employers Board will meet on 6 March. The meeting will include presentations on 'The Forgotten Workers: Low-Paid Workers in Multiple Employment' and Recruitment and Retention Pay Information – Building Control. For more information on this Board visit [here](#).

**The Regional Joint Council** (The Regional Joint Council brings together the local government employers and employees. The functions of the Council relates to all Employees covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services) - The Regional Joint Council meeting on 6 March will receive presentations on 'The Armed Forces Covenant' from Charnwood Borough Council and verbal update from trade union and employers' sides on the New National Pay Spine Implementation.

### EMC Support Activity

**LGA Cyber Resilience Funded Programme Phase 2 Bidding** - On Wednesday 6 March representatives from the East Midlands IT Security Network will meet to discuss the latest round of funding from the LGA Cyber Resilience Funded Programme. The meeting is to be hosted by Gedling Borough Council. Contact [Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

**East Midlands Scrutiny Network meeting, 29 March 2019** - The next East Midlands Scrutiny Network meeting is due to take place on 29 March at Chesterfield Borough Council. This network meeting will take a task and finish approach to exploring best practise in Task and Finish Groups. Contact [kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk) for details of the network,

In February EMC published its Councillor Development Induction programme that will start in May 2019. This programme of development covers a wider variety of workshops, including two focused on local government finance;

**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 [details [here](#)].

**The Changing Landscape of Local Government Finance, 06 Dec 2019** - It is more important than ever that all councillors understand how the local government finance system works because there is a high degree of uncertainty around council budgets in the context of the decision to leave the EU and implications on business rates retention [details [here](#)].

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Housing Minister unlocks private rented sector for most vulnerable** - Housing Minister Heather Wheeler MP has confirmed over £19.5 million is to be shared among 54 projects across England to help thousands of people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, to secure their own home [details [here](#)]. Councils will use the funding boost to help vulnerable people secure their own tenancy through support such as, paying deposits or putting down the first months' rent.

**Projects in the East Midlands to receive funding;** North East Derbyshire District Council and Nottingham City Council

**Rail Review Chair says franchising cannot continue in its current form** - Keith Williams, independent chair of the first 'root and branch' [Rail Review](#) to be supported by government, has said that the rail franchising system cannot continue in the way it is now [press release available from [here](#)].

- the Rail Review was established to recommend the most appropriate organisational and commercial frameworks to support the delivery of the government's vision for the railway
- the government will publish a white paper on the review's recommendations, with the implementation of reforms planned to start from 2020
- the review's first evidence paper, [The role of the railway in Great Britain](#), was published on 26 February 2019.

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## Employers' Information



**EMC HR Bulletin - February 2019 Edition** - The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available [\[here\]](#). The February edition of our bulletin covers;

**Employment Law Expert Darren Newman's article** – an in-depth analysis of a topical HR issue and its implications for local authorities, this month looking at Disability Related Absence

- Developing a Mentoring and Coaching Strategy workshop
- National Joint Guidance on Term-time Working - The NJC has produced the first tranche of guidance on working arrangements for Term-Time only employees which will be incorporated as Part 4.12 into the next updated version of the National Agreement ('Green Book'). The information can be found [here](#).
- EU Work-Life Balance Directive Provisionally Agreed
- Consultation on Extending Redundancy Protection For Women & New Parents
- Information on gender pay gap reporting by 30th March.

**Blazing a Trail with National Apprenticeship Week 2019** - The 12th annual National Apprenticeship Week, which will run from 4 to 8 March 2019, is a great opportunity to highlight the fantastic opportunities that an apprenticeship brings to employers, individuals and the economy [details [here](#)].

**LGA Apprenticeships Survey 2019: The Results Webinar, Thursday 7 March** - On Thursday 7 March the LGA will be running a webinar to present the results of their 2019 Apprenticeships Survey. To book a place visit [here](#).

**Government Review of the Apprenticeship Levy, Employer Survey** - In the latest stage of the Government's consultation with employers on the long-term operation of the Apprenticeship Levy, the government has released a short survey for employers, providers and representative organisations. Survey available [here](#).

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## Communities



**Councils, charities and adult learning providers to receive a share of funding which will help adults with their English language skills** - The Integrated Communities English Language Programme will fund over 19,000 learner places, teaching in communities with a high proportion of adults who speak little or no English.

This new programme will start in April and replaces and builds on the success of the existing community-based English language programme which has helped over 73,000 people to improve their English over the last 5 years. The fund will help local authorities and their local partners to improve the coordination of ESOL provision by proposing a better local offer for learners to suit their needs [details [here](#)].

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## Local Government News



**Nineteen local authorities facing impacts from a local air, land or sea port will receive a share of £3.14 million to help them prepare for Brexit, the Communities Secretary confirmed** - Nineteen district and unitary councils across England will receive £136,362 to the end of April for each major port of entry into the UK in their area.

This will allow them to increase their resources to work through the immediate impacts from Brexit in their local areas such as ensuring their port's resilience and potential impacts of greater traffic to surrounding communities.

The allocations have been based on a number of factors including the amount of EU goods each port area receives into the country and its wider importance to the UK's global trade network [details [here](#)]. **In the East Midlands;**

- North West Leicestershire - East Midlands Airport

### **Reshaping financial support: how local authorities can help to support low income households in financial difficulty-**

This LGA study has looked at how 10 councils have been reviewing their approaches so that they can better target their resources on those in greatest need, as well as deliver more holistic responses to support people to become more financially resilient in the longer term [details [here](#)].

**£9.8 million fund to confront knife crime and gang culture** - Community-backed projects in 21 areas will receive funding to help families who are vulnerable to the effects of knife crime and gang culture [details [here](#)].

### **In the East Midlands;**

- Nottingham City Council - Nottingham will provide diversionary and awareness raising activities in schools through intensive 1-1's and universal sessions and improve predictive analytics - £ 490,017.00

**LGA Highlighting Political Leadership Update – February 2019** - The latest version of the LGA political leadership update is available from [here](#). This update includes details of the LGA;

- Leadership Academy
- Political Leadership Masterclasses
- Data and Digital Transformation Masterclasses for Elected Members

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## Homelessness

**Rough sleeping in England: autumn 2018** - Annual statistical release about the number of people sleeping rough in local authorities across England [details [here](#)].

**Tackling homelessness together Consultation-** A consultation on structures that support partnership working and accountability in homelessness services [details [here](#)]. The Government is seeking views on:

- the effectiveness of existing non-statutory and statutory local accountability and partnership structures in homelessness services
- whether the government should introduce Homelessness Reduction Boards and, if so, how this could be done most effectively
- how else we might improve local accountability and partnership working in homelessness services

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## EMC Events

**Employment Law Update**, 13 Mar 2019 09:30 - EMC's popular Annual Employment Law event will take place on 13 March 2019, covering all the topical issues and developments, tailored to local government. Details [here](#).

**Writing for Results - how to write documents that get the results you want!** 27 Mar 2019 - EMC is holding a one day workshop on writing and producing documents on 27 March 2019. By the end of the course, participants will be able to plan and produce documents that: follow a logical structure, are easy to read and achieve a desired result and look professional. The workshop will also demonstrate Word tools to save valuable time. For more information visit [here](#).

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## 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: Mayor Kate Allsop

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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