

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

Top items this week

23 NOVEMBER 2018



Transport for the East Midlands



Inspection of the Home Office's management of asylum accommodation provision



Consulting and Negotiating Locally to Implement Change workshop



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Inspection of the Home Office's management of asylum accommodation provision report published

The Independent Chief Inspector for Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) has published a report into asylum accommodation.

Inspectors examined resources, policies, processes and performance in respect of the provision, by the Home Office, of asylum accommodation. The full report is available from [here](#).

East Midlands Regional Migration Board - The Regional Migration Board discussed the current and future asylum accommodation demands in the East Midlands at the Regional Migration Board on 20th November. The Board raised concerns reflected in the ICIBI's report regarding the standard of accommodation and management of the current arrangements. The Board welcomed the offer from the Home Office to be a strategic partner in shaping dispersal during and beyond when the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts become operational in September 2019. Commitments were made by the Home Office to work with councils in the East Midlands including data sharing, equitable distribution of asylum seekers and consideration of the nature and scale of costs of dispersal.

In addition the Home Affairs Committee met on 20th and 21st November to consider asylum accommodation. Evidence was submitted by Cllr Roger Lawrence leader of Wolverhampton Council, Cllr David Simmonds, Deputy Leader Hillingdon Council, Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham and Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council. Further information on the inquiry examining asylum accommodation contracts can be found [here](#). The Home Affairs Committee Oral evidence transcript from : Asylum accommodation session held on Wednesday 21 November 2018 is available from [here](#).



East Midlands Infrastructure Summit 2019 - In a follow up to the East Midlands Infrastructure Summit held in 2017 a 2019 East Midlands Infrastructure Summit will be held on 8 February 2019 at City Hall, Leicester City Council. This Summit will be hosted by City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby and will include a presentation by Sir John Peace, Chair of Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect.

EMC Boards Activity

Regional Employers' Board - The next Regional Employers' Board will meet next on 28 November. The board will include a presentation on Ethnicity Pay Reporting and Recruitment and Retention Pay Information. The Regional Joint Council meeting will follow the Regional Employers' Board and will feature a presentation on the National Strategy for the Local Government Workforce: "Great People for Great Places" by Naomi Cooke, Head of Workforce, Local Government Association.

EMC Support Activity

Planners CPD Event - The latest event in the programme of CPD events for planners took place this week [information and presentations [here](#)]. The event titled 'What's wrong with planning and how can we make it better?' included presentations on; Recording Decisions - Best Practice, Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture Award, Peak National Park Authority and Lessons Learned from Junction 24 and National Planning Consent Regime?

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. So this workshop has been designed (and updated for the social media world) to help hone the perfect news release. It's aimed at anyone who'd like a bit of publicity for their authority or department but can't afford advertising or the services of an expensive PR company. For more information on this workshop visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Raynsford Review of Planning in England - Following discussions at the EMC Housing & Planning Summit on the 5th October 2018, the final report on the Raynsford Review of Planning in England was launched in Parliament on the 20th November 2018 at an event hosted Lord Kerslake. The Raynsford review was undertaken with support from the Town & Country Planning Association and is independent of Government. The report makes 24 recommendations aimed at creating a people centred planning system that can better meet the needs of current and future generations. Access the report [here](#).

Local bus passenger journeys - Department for Transport Published data - The Department of Transport has published local bus passenger data. The East Midlands shows a 10% decline in bus passenger journeys between 2009-10 and 2016-17. Nottingham and Derby have both seen a marginal increase. To access the full report visit [here](#). Nottingham City Council became the first local authority to have its air quality plan approved as part of the Government's programme to tackle harmful emissions from road transport [details [here](#)]. Nottingham's plan will include measures to:

- Retrofitting 171 buses with technology to reduce emissions, funded through the Government's Clean Bus Technology Fund.
- Changing the age and emissions policy for hackney carriages and supporting an increase in low emission taxis.

New measures to keep people safe on the roads - The 50 proposed new measures are part of the government's plan to combat road rage, encourage greater mutual respect between road users and protect the most vulnerable. Councils will be given powers to tackle dangerous parking in mandatory cycle lanes, and will also be encouraged to spend around 15% of their local transport infrastructure funding on walking and cycling [details [here](#)].

Transport for the East Midlands - The Transport for East Midlands (TfEM) board met this week and considered the East Midlands Infrastructure Priorities. Following the East Midlands Infrastructure Summit held in November 2017 in Leicester, TfEM and Midlands Connect agreed a document (available [here](#)) highlighting six joint priorities as a basis for renewed lobbying.

The document was presented to the Secretary of State by Sir John Peace at a meeting held on the 5 March 2018 and the subject of a further meeting with Sir Peter Soulsby, Sir John Peace and the Secretary of State on the 11 July 2018. The update report presented to the board [available [here](#)] provides an update on progress across all six joint priorities and where possible sets out proposed next steps.

The six joint priorities are;

- Making the most of HS2
- MML fit for the 21st Century
- Improving Access to East Midlands Airport
- A46 Growth Corridor & Newark
- A5 Growth Corridor
- Transforming East-West Connectivity

Midlands Engine

Launch of the Midlands Engine Economic Observatory - A new economic observatory that will provide valuable data and insight had been launched this week. Up-to-date analysis will allow the Midlands Engine Partnership to target resource in the most effective ways to present the evidence to Government on the best ways to accelerate growth in the £207bn economy [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

Soulbury Workforce Survey - Final Report - The a final report of the Soulbury Workforce Earning Survey by the LGA has been published [available from [here](#)].

Voluntary reporting on disability, mental health and wellbeing - The voluntary reporting framework has been developed by the government in partnership with leading businesses and third sector organisations to support employers to voluntarily report information on disability, mental health and wellbeing in the workplace. It is aimed at organisations with over 250 employees, but can be used by employers of any size [details [here](#)].

Support with implementing the new National Pay Spine - This autumn EMC has provided a range of workshops supporting local authorities with implementing the new National Pay Spine. The final session in this series of workshop will be on 'Consulting and Negotiating Locally to Implement Change'. This workshop will be held on in December, details to follow.

EU settled status webinar - The LGA have provided details of a webinar on the EU Settlement Scheme pilot that begins on 29 November 2018, please find below links to a recording of the webinar and the slides for those who were unable to join. The recording and the slides will aid your understanding of the process for your EU Workers to secure a pre-settled or settled status under the Settlement Scheme.

Webinar Recording <https://youtu.be/nAv5j8NepLo>

Webinar Slides: [http://www.nhsemployers.org/-/media//Employers/Documents/Cavendish%20Coalition/Settlement scheme/Settlement_scheme_webinar_slides](http://www.nhsemployers.org/-/media//Employers/Documents/Cavendish%20Coalition/Settlement%20scheme/Settlement_scheme_webinar_slides)

Local Government News

£1m to create more construction jobs in Nottingham - Government funding of £1million has been given to Nottingham to get more people into construction training and jobs. Partners in Nottingham have been given a slice of a £22million funding pot, which will be used to launch construction academies with Nottingham College [details [here](#)].

Tackling gambling related harm – a whole council approach - This LGA publication provides an overview of problem gambling, and how councils can begin to try to help local residents who are impacted by it [details [here](#)].

£500,000 fund launched to celebrate Windrush Generation throughout the year - Thousands of communities across the country will have the opportunity to bid for a share of £500,000 of new funding to hold their own local events to celebrate the contribution of the Windrush Generation on Windrush Day and throughout the year [details [here](#)]. There is a budget of up to £500,000 available to fund events across the country. £350,000 will be exclusively provided to local authorities, whilst £150,000 will be available for charities and community groups.

Consultancy firm iMPower Top 10 list of the most productive councils - The report by consultancy firm iMPower has published its [Top 10 list of the most productive councils](#). Councils in this list had achieved greater than average outcomes from a less than average spend per head. Drawing on 30 publicly available datasets, the iINDEX ranks 150 councils using 49 outcome indicators.

2018 Rankings - **Leicestershire** and East Riding of Yorkshire retain their 2017 positions as the most productive councils in England. Wigan, Gloucestershire and **Derbyshire** have also stayed in the Top 10. To read the full report visit [here](#).

Health & Social Care



Health Matters: Air pollution – sources, impacts and actions - the [latest edition](#) of the Health Matters (Public Health England's professional resource) focuses on the sources and health impacts of air pollution, as well as the actions that local government, healthcare professionals and the public can take to reduce exposure and improve air quality [details [here](#)].

Effect of Budget on health and social care examined - The Health and Social Care Committee hears from policy analysts and leading bodies in health and social care, on the implications of the Budget on health and social care. The Committee's questioning is expected to focus on the impact of the Budget on areas of health spending not covered by the announcement of funding for the NHS over the next five years, made earlier this year ([on which the Committee took evidence on 2 July](#)). For more information visit [here](#).

Shifting the centre of gravity: making place-based, person-centred health and care a reality - The examples in this report show what can be achieved by system leaders and staff from local government, the NHS, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, and service user and carer groups working together to improve health and deliver person-centred care [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

Commercial Awareness Programme - "Making it our Business" 23 Jan 2019 - This modular programme is offered by EMC in partnership with NEREO to operational managers in public services to support them in becoming more commercially aware when looking for opportunities to trade their service both internally and outside the organisation. For more information visit [here](#).

Negotiation Skills, 13 Feb 2019 - EMC is holding a full day workshop on Negotiation skills. This full day 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 visit [here](#).

East Midlands PA Conference 2018, 29 Nov 2018 - The East Midlands PA Conference returns for 2018, following the successful first conference held in 2017. This a one day event is designed to support Office Managers, Secretaries, PAs, Team Administrators – in fact anyone who organises others to achieve their goals. For more information [here](#). The conference will include sessions on; Six Sigma for PAs, "How to define success for yourself - and achieve it"! and Working Remotely, along with a wellbeing session offered by conference sponsors Clarins.

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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