

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

## Top items this week

24 MAY 2019



Apprenticeships in our Region Event



Hitting the Ground Running event for new Councillors



Launch of Great British High Street Awards 2019



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers



## Hitting the Ground Running: Development session for newly elected Councillors, 12 July 2019

Already over 40 newly elected Councillors from across the East Midlands have registered to attend this EMC and LGA joint workshop.

The aim of the event is to give newly elected councillors a wider perspective on their role, enable them to meet other newly elected councillors from other local authorities, and learn about the support available from East Midlands Councils (EMC) and the Local Government Association (LGA), so as to help them hit the ground running in their role.

The programme will enable councillors to do this through exploring what the role means, learning about the evolving national policy context and challenges facing councils, as well as hearing from experienced councillors on their top tips and unrivalled insights to help equip councillors in their role for the months ahead.

This session is open to all councillors who have been newly elected in May 2019 from across the East Midlands.

**Venue** - Rufford Suite, Nottingham County Council, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP. To book visit [here](#).

The event will take place on the afternoon of the EMC Annual General meeting and we would like to invite all newly elected Councillors to attend both the EMC AGM and the workshop.

**EMC AGM** - The East Midlands Councils AGM will take place in the morning of 12 July at Nottinghamshire County Council at County Hall. We would like to invite all councillors and Chief Executives to attend. The papers for this meeting will be available in due course.



## Apprenticeships in our Region Event, Tuesday 11 June 2019

EMC is holding an apprenticeship event on Tuesday 11 June at Pera Business Park, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0PB, places are free. The event will facilitate the sharing of knowledge, experiences and approaches relevant to the successful implementation and delivery of apprenticeships in the East Midlands region.

With updates from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the LGA including programme support and any relevant funding prospects, the event also provides opportunities for showcasing and valuable learning and networking.

To book a place please do so online via this link [here](#). Places are limited for this event and therefore early booking is advised.

## EMC News

**East Midlands Scrutiny Network** - The next meeting of the East Midlands Scrutiny Network will take place on 28 June at Erewash Borough Council in Long Eaton. For more information visit [here](#) or contact [Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Support Activity

**Mediation** - This week EMC colleagues have supported an authority using Mediation. EMC can offer qualified and independent mediators who will facilitate the process with the aim of helping the individuals to reach a mutually acceptable agreement to resolve their problems. For further information or to speak to one of our mediators about how mediation can assist in a particular situation, please contact Sam Maher [sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Councillor Events

**Charing and effective meetings, 18 June 2019** - EMC working in partnership with Newark and Sherwood District Council to offer 2 Charing skills workshops on 18 June 2019. The workshop is suitable for new and continuing chairs and is interactive, drawing on people's experience and insights from the tutor to lead into group work. It covers formal roles such as charing full council or a planning committee, as well as less formal approaches to charing for scrutiny activity.

- 18 Jun 2019 14:00 - [here](#) and 18 Jun 2019 18:00 - [here](#)

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**£55million Homes England grant funding to boost development of 4,000 homes** - Homes England has agreed funding deals with 12 local authorities to deliver 4,000 homes across England. The funding totalling £55million has been awarded through the Government's £450 million Local Authority Accelerated Construction (LAAC) Programme and will support local authorities with a range of work required to prepare their sites for the development of new homes such as infrastructure

enabling works, planning and technical expertise and site remediation.

The LAAC programme prioritises the use of modern methods of construction, which will increase the pace of delivery across the developments by an average of 40 percent [details [here](#)].

In the Midlands: [Leicestershire County Council](#), High Peak Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council have all received funding as part of this programme.

**HS2 reaches 9,000 jobs** - HS2 Ltd has confirmed that work on Britain's new high speed railway is supporting 9,000 jobs around the country.

Over 2,000 firms across the UK now have contracts with HS2, 70% of them SMEs and 98% of them British. At peak construction, over 30,000 people will be needed to design and build the railway. Since Royal Assent in 2017, there have been 324 apprenticeships within HS2 Ltd and the supply chain.

Nottingham-based Bridgeway Consulting Limited is one of many companies in the East Midlands working on the HS2 programme. They are undertaking ground investigations and engineering surveys to prepare for HS2 in Birmingham, London and Crewe. Through its contract with HS2 Ltd, the SME has been able to create new jobs and upskill 60 employees across a range of disciplines [details [here](#)].

**RTPI East Midlands Awards for Planning Excellence 2019** - The RTPI East Midlands is looking for entries for the Planning Excellence 2019 Awards, enter by 28 June 2019. For more information on the categories visit [here](#).

**UK2070 Commission National Symposium, hosted by Leeds City Council, 13 June 2019** - The [UK2070 Commission](#) is an independent inquiry into national and regional inequalities in the UK. Its purposes are to illuminate and illustrate the need and potential for change, and to identify an agenda of action and deliver it. This inquiry is seen as being very timely given the uncertain future and the deep divisions in our society.

The National Symposium will provide an opportunity for the UK2070 Commission to present the findings of its review so far and the lessons from the past. It will also explore what should be done in order to; Deliver effective devolution and decentralisation; Restructure the economy; Enable Long term spatial planning; and Provide stable long-term funding for action.

The National Symposium will be a key stage in the work of the Commission. It will be an opportunity for you to help shape the Commission's thinking and the common future of all our communities.

**RSVP: [UK2070Commission@turntown.com](mailto:UK2070Commission@turntown.com)**. As places are limited, your early confirmation is desirable.

**'Government must set out bus strategy to halt decline in bus use' according to the Transport Select Committee** - A lack of co-ordinated Government policy and squeezed funding for local authorities is driving bus use into decline, says the Transport Committee. The Committee urges the Government to set out clear ambitions for bus use and specific plans for how it will support local authorities to improve bus services and increase passenger numbers. A single bus strategy, as for rail and road investment, would give a focus to funding, planning and work to improve air quality [details [here](#)].

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## Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

**Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act: final report** - The final report and recommendations of the independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The review considered specific provisions in the Modern Slavery Act 2015: the role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, transparency in supply chains, Independent Child Trafficking Advocates and legal application of the Modern Slavery Act [the report is available from [here](#)].

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## Health and Social Care

**Improving children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing** - The LGA's Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Peer Learning Programme looked at how to prioritise early help and free up acute care for the most vulnerable in order to achieve change; supporting councils and their local partners to learn from each other, and from other councils across the country [available from [here](#)]. The publication includes a case study from Lincolnshire County Council

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## Employers' Information



**EU Settlement Scheme: ID document scanner locations** - Locations where you can go to get your biometric ID document scanned if you do not have an Android device with near field communication (NFC) [details [here](#)].

**CEEP Newsflash - 17 May 2019** - The latest edition of the CEEP Newsflash is available from [here](#).

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## Local Government News



**New report reveals councils face £50bn black hole over next six years – local authorities warn that they will resort to the ‘bare minimum’** - The County Councils Network (CCN), which commissioned the report, called on the government to enhance – rather than downgrade county authorities’ role in public health by deliver sustainable and ‘fairer funding’ for rural public health and bigger role for councils in commissioning wider services.

Councils in England could face a funding black hole of over £50bn over the next six years, with local authorities warning they will have to resort to providing the ‘bare minimum’ if no extra funding is made available. An independent analysis of councils’ financial sustainability up to 2025 from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) for the County Councils Network (CCN) has found that rising demand for services and rising costs, driven in part by inflation, could contribute to councils needing an additional £51.8bn of funding over the period 2019-2025 [details [here](#)].

**Launch of Great British High Street Awards 2019** - The Great British High Street Awards 2019, run by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in partnership with Visa and backed by other supporters, recognises and celebrates local achievements on the UK’s high streets and supports the communities in which we live and work. The campaign includes a competition to find the UK’s best and most improved high streets within two categories:

- the Champion Award to celebrate the UK’s best high streets
- the Rising Star Award for those taking the lead and working to adapt and diversify

Nominations for the awards can be made by local authorities, Business Improvement Districts and – for the first time – groups of high street retailers. Shortlisted entries will be announced in August 2019 [details [here](#)].

**Committee hold opening session of waste management inquiry** - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee held the opening evidence session of a new inquiry into the implications of the waste strategy for local authorities on Monday 20 May. In this wide-ranging opening session the committee took evidence from waste management experts and academics [details [here](#)].

## Homelessness

**Move On Fund** - The Government is making available £50million across England (outside London) up to 2020/21 through the Move On Fund. The fund is part of a package of measures that have been announced through the Government’s new Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The Move On Fund aims to free up hostel and refuge spaces by increasing the availability of affordable move-on, or second stage housing, for rough sleepers and those in hostel accommodation, and victims of domestic abuse currently living in refuges who are ready to leave this type of provision but might otherwise not be in a position to access the next stage of housing.

The fund will provide capital grants contributing towards the costs of developing move-on accommodation for the target cohort. Revenue funding will also be made available to be accessed by successful bidders for the on-going tenancy support and facilitation costs to ensure that those accessing the accommodation are able to sustain their housing [details [here](#)].

## EMC Events



**Charting your course: How to define success and achieve it!, 12 Jun 2019** - This full day workshop help delegates to explore what it meant to them to be successful; the psychology behind goal setting; how to set goals they could achieve and how to quieten negative thoughts. For more information on this workshop visit [here](#).

**Improving Performance in Planning Authorities, 27 June 2019** - The latest cpd event for Planners will focus on ‘Improving Performance in Planning Authorities’. The programme for this event includes presentations from National Audit Office on Planning for New Homes and an Overview of Planning and Performance from Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. 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 CBE  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: TBC

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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