

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

Top items this week

28 JUNE 2019



EMC Annual General Meeting,
12 July 2019

Midlands Rail Investment
Plans

EMC HR Bulletin, June 2019
Edition

EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

Midlands Rail Investment Plans

A £2 billion package of improvements to transform east-west connections on the Midlands' rail network has been submitted to the government with a clear message from business and civic leaders: "Don't ignore the Midlands" with Leicester City Mayor and Chair of Transport for the East Midlands (TFEM) Sir Peter Soulsby stating, "This project is a great opportunity to improve connectivity between the East and West Midlands, something which has sadly been overlooked for many years."

The Midlands Rail Hub outlines plans to build 15 pieces of new and improved infrastructure to enable 24 extra passenger trains every hour on the regional network, reduce journey times, make space to shift 4,320 lorries' worth of freight from the road to the railway every day and supercharge the economy by bringing the East and West Midlands closer together.

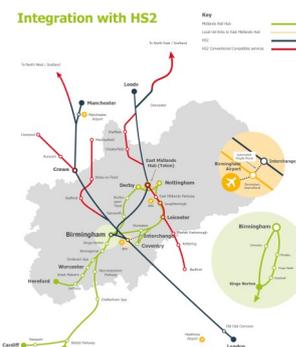
The plans, which can be completed in phases between 2024 and 2033, have been submitted to the government by Sub-national Transport Body Midlands Connect, in partnership with Network Rail and with the backing of 47 partner organisations including West Midlands Combined Authority, local authorities, LEPs, chambers of commerce, HS2 and Birmingham and East Midlands airports.

In the last two years, rail usage in the Midlands has grown faster than anywhere else in the UK^[1], with growth in the last decade of 121% in the West Midlands and 37% in the East Midlands. However, without investment the region's rail network can't keep pace with this record demand, and many services between major towns and cities in the Midlands remain slow and infrequent.

Building more capacity into the railway will future proof the network for the next generation, with significant benefits for passengers, freight and the economy:

- Two extra trains per hour in both directions between Birmingham-Leicester and Birmingham-Derby;
- Plans to reinstate direct services between Coventry, Leicester & Nottingham for the first time since 2004, with two fast trains per hour in both directions;
- One extra train per hour in both directions between Birmingham-Nottingham;
- 36 additional freight paths a day, creating space to move 4,320 lorries' worth of goods from road to rail every day, worth £22 billion a year.

To read the full press release visit [here](#).



EMC AGM - The East Midlands Councils AGM will take place on the morning of 12 July at Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall. We would like to invite all councillors and Chief Executives to attend. The company that recently won the contract to provide rail services across the East Midlands (Abellio) will be giving a presentation on their investment and service improvement plans at the AGM. The papers for this meeting will be available next week.

EMC Councillor Events

Being an effective councillor: Making a difference – doing it your way, 24 Sep 2019 - This workshop looks at the different 'roles' that you, as a councillor, might focus on for you and your community [for more information visit [here](#)].

East Midlands Scrutiny Conference 2019, 04 Oct 2019 - In the run up to the 20 year anniversary of Local Government Scrutiny and to mark the publication of the recent 'Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities', East Midlands Councils is holding a Scrutiny Conference. Speakers include **Lilian Greenwood MP, Chair of the Transport Select Committee** and **Nicky Morgan MP, Chair of the Treasury Select Committee** [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Loughborough University undergraduate planning degree course - Loughborough University is working to establish an undergraduate planning degree course – the first for some time in the East Midlands, which remains the only English Region without an RTPI recognised planning school. From an EMC perspective, we are keen this new academic offer can also support workforce development in local planning authorities across the East Midlands.

EMC has organised a free event jointly with Loughborough University to enable local planning authorities to hear from academic staff first hand and to inform the emerging proposition. The event will take place on 18th July 2019 at 12.00pm - 4.00pm, Pera Business Park, Melton Mowbray.

It is recommended that all local planning authorities in the East Midlands send a senior representative to this event.

To confirm your attendance, please contact lois.dale@emcouncils.gov.uk

RIBA East Midlands - Exemplars in Housing Development - RIBA East Midlands is seeking to identify regional exemplars of good design for medium scale new housing of more than five dwellings of any tenure or tenure mix, to form an exhibition this autumn and to help inform the future promotion of good design in housing.

Submissions can be made by any Local Authority, Housing Association, RIBA Chartered Architect, RIBA Chartered Practice, Developer, Housebuilder, or other clients where a scheme involves a Chartered Architect (to at least reserved matter stage) who should complete the entry.

Further details can be found [here](#) including a template for applications which should be submitted by **31st July 2019**.

Health & Social Care



Putting prevention at the heart of mental health - The Prime Minister announced last week [a new push](#) on mental health, putting prevention centre stage. The Number 10 plan aims to drive a step-change in public awareness and provide practical support, in particular for young people. PHE is at the forefront of this work and this October will be launching “Every Mind Matters” - England’s first mental health literacy campaign letting people know what they can do day-to-day to improve their [mental health](#) and support others.

Last week was loneliness awareness week, highlighting a problem that affects many people from all walks of life and is also a key issue within Every Mind Matters. As set out in the Government’s 2018 loneliness strategy, Public Health England have consulted on updates to our Public Health Outcomes Framework which includes a consideration for a national measure for loneliness, to inform and focus future work on this area. A new campaign called [Let's Talk Loneliness](#) was also announced last week.

Local Government News and wider



PM launches new drive to tackle barriers faced by disabled people - Higher accessibility standards for new housing, an overhaul of statutory sick pay, and greater workplace support are part of renewed efforts to ensure disabled people can fully participate in society. New national outcomes data for disabled people will also be published, shining a light on injustices and driving action to tackle barriers they face.

A consultation on new measures to help employers better support disabled people and those with long-term health conditions in work will also be published next month.

These include reforming Statutory Sick Pay so it is better enforced, more flexible to encourage a phased return to work, and covers the lowest paid.

The Government will also consult on offering small and medium employers a conditional rebate to support those who manage staff on sickness absence and help them get back to work. For more information visit [here](#).

Other proposals include:

- New employee rights to request workplace modifications on health grounds
- New metrics to compare how well companies deliver for disabled customers in essential markets, such as energy, broadband and water.
- New research to ensure disabled people are at the heart of future Government policy, to be published early next year.

Rising to the challenge: lessons of sector-led improvement in local government - This report draws on a series of interviews with the leaders and chief executives which have hosted corporate peer challenges or received sustained improvement support from the LGA.

The aim of the interviews was to capture stories of the experience of [sector-led improvement \(SLI\)](#) and its impact in the words of the people involved. To access this LGA report visit [here](#). This report is based on interviews with the leaders and chief executives in the following councils, including City of Lincoln Council in the East Midlands.

LGA Report ‘Profit with a purpose – delivering social value through commercial activity’ - A publication on some of the practicalities of how councils can deliver social value through their commercial activity by the LGA [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



National Pay Negotiations – Regional Pay Roadshow Event - Negotiations on national pay for Local Government Services employees (Green Book) will be formally launched in July, when the joint trade unions will be submitting their pay claim for 2020. On 12 September 2019, between 1.15 and 4.00pm, EMC will be hosting a Pay Roadshow event to enable councils in the East Midlands to be consulted on the national pay negotiations and engage directly with the employers' national negotiating team. To book a place please call Mila Pereira on 01664 502 648 or email:- Mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC HR Bulletin, June 2019 Edition - The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#). The June Bulletin covers;

Local News

- Regional Employers' Board and Joint Council Meetings
- Apprenticeships in our Region Event information and information on BSc (Hons) Degree in Urban Planning free event on 18 July

National Developments

- The LGA's latest Apprenticeships Newsletter
- Webinars: Closing the gender pay gap
- Exit Pay Cap Consultation which closes on the Exit Pay Cap proposals on 3 July 2019.
- LGA Annual Workforce survey - see below

This month Employment Law expert Darren Newman's article is on **shared Parent Leave**.

EMC Coaching Conference - This week EMC held its 7th annual Coaching Conference focusing on Wellbeing and Change. Kim Morgan, the conference keynote speaker, provided a valued session on change and how coaching can be used to support change. Kim's practical session provided case study examples elaborating on how coaching has made a difference to her clients as well as practical coaching exercises to enable coaches to feel confident in the tools and techniques covered. For more information on the wide range of support EMC can provide on coaching please contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Local Government Workforce Survey 2017-18 - This survey provides information on key elements of the workforce within local authorities in England. The figures provided by councils include school support staff, but exclude teachers. To access this report visit [here](#). More information can also be found in the above link to the **HR Bulletin**.



EMC Events

Developing a Mentoring and Coaching Strategy Workshop to explore and develop a mentoring and coaching strategy for those authorities interested in setting up their own programmes. This workshop will take place on 19 September 2019, for more information visit [here](#).

GDPR for HR - Refresher and update, 14 Nov 2019 - Our annual GDPR for HR half day seminar will provide HR professionals with an opportunity to update their GDPR knowledge [further information [here](#)]

The Power of Constellations Coaching, 5 Dec 2019 - In this power-packed workshop we will cover:

- What is Constellations Coaching and how does it work
- How listening differs when you listen with your Constellations ears
- The 3 forces that govern systems and why you must understand these to be an effective leader and a good coach
- A live demonstration of what a Constellations Coaching session looks like

Further information on the workshop is available from [here](#).

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE
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: to be confirmed

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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