

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

Top items this week

29 MARCH 2019



Funding for Homelessness in the region



EMC HR Bulletin - March Edition



LGA Peer Challenge Workshop



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

East Midlands Councils EMC Executive Board

East Midlands Executive Board met on 29th March to consider the implications for Brexit on local authority services, alongside other issues including HS2, Local Government Employment issues, asylum and refugee resettlement and the government's proposed new funding formula. The 'just-this-minute' rejection by MPs of Theresa May's EU withdrawal agreement by 344 votes to 286, UK's Brexit plans are now even more unclear throwing up the possibilities of a no-deal Brexit on the one side, or a further extension with the potential of holding European elections.

Board Members also took the opportunity to formally thank Cllr Jon Collins, leader of Nottingham City Council and Vice-Chair of EMC, for his significant contribution over a number of years and wished him well for the future.



EMC HR Bulletin March Edition

The latest edition of the March EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#). The March Bulletin covers;

Monthly Employment Law article – Employment Law expert Darren Newman provide a monthly article with in-depth analysis of a topical HR issue and its implications for local authorities. The March 2019

edition covers Positive Action.

Local News - At our recent People Conference in February, we explored the theme of leading and managing people in a changing world. Our attendees benefitted by hearing from Steve Whiddett who focused on Improving Performance and Managing Culture. In addition to the conceptual model (PACE) that he described, he also introduced a diagnostic tool and practical workshops for managers that is available.

Given the level of interest expressed at the People Conference, EMC has been working with Steve and the LGA to bring you opportunities to access this development through a workshop that is both informative and practical in terms of improving productivity and performance at an organisational level. Details [here](#).

National Developments

- Government Consultation on Extending Maternity Leave Employment Protection
- Increases in Statutory Payments
- Review of National Job Evaluation Scheme Guidance
- Revised Green Book for Local Government Services

East Midlands Councils EMC News

East Midlands Scrutiny Network - The Scrutiny network met on 29 March 2019 at Chesterfield Borough Council. The focus of the network meeting was on Task and Finish Group working, providing network members with the opportunity to discuss arrangements for task and finish group working and exploring best practise. For more information on the network visit [here](#). The network will meet next on 28 June at Erewash Borough Council.

EMC Support Activity

Recruitment and Assessment Centre Support - This week EMC staff have supported an authority with recruitment to a Director post, designing and delivering a two day assessment centre, which included psychometric assessments. For more information on EMC support for Recruitment and Assessment centre design and delivery contact

Sam.Maher@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

An Introduction to Commissioning for Elected Members, 07 Nov 2019 - EMC is offering Councillors in the East Midlands the opportunity to take part in an introduction to commissioning for elected members workshop on 7 November [details [here](#)].

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](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Bus revolution to put power in passengers' hands - Rural bus services could be overhauled thanks to a new digital system pioneered by the government.

Buses Minister Nusrat Ghani has announced £4 million for a platform which will provide location information about services – giving greater certainty to passengers about when their bus will arrive.

The platform enables app developers to use information from GPS trackers, which are already fitted to 97% of buses. This will provide a service which is available in some major cities. It will give people in other areas across the country, including rural and remote areas, the ability to plan journeys more easily.

The government is also investing in ways to speed up bus journeys. As part of [the first tranche of the £2.5 billion Transforming Cities Fund, Derby and Nottingham, the North East, Portsmouth and Southampton](#) will see the deployment of bus priority traffic lights to speed up trips to the city centres.

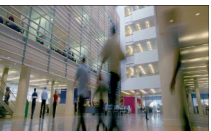
For more information visit [here](#).

£4.5m of funding agreed to forge ahead with reducing roadside emissions - Derby City Council will receive an initial £4.5m of funding to take forward the traffic management measures proposed to tackle and reduce roadside emissions in the shortest possible time [details [here](#)].

Annual Asphalt Industry Alliance survey - Each year the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) commissions an independent survey of local authority highways departments in England and Wales.

The 2019 ALARM survey – the 24th annual report – highlights that, overall, local authorities have seen their highway maintenance budgets increase for the second successive year and there are some small signs that this is stemming further decline in local road conditions. Despite these glimmers of hope, the amount needed to bring then local road network up to scratch is now approaching £10 billion [details [here](#)].

Local Government News



LGA Corporate Peer Challenges - The Local Government Association (LGA) is holding a training event to update and widen its pool of officers and members who form teams on LGA Corporate Peer Challenges. We are particularly looking for officers from areas in most demand, including our numbers of senior female peers. Please could you therefore encourage senior officers working in the following areas to participate: [finance](#), [commercialisation](#), [transformation](#), [economic growth](#)

and [county councils](#).

The session will take place on 4 June at Rushcliffe Borough Council, West Bridgford, near Nottingham. For further details and to book a place, please visit the LGA [website](#).

James Brokenshire announces over £36 million for the Great British Coast - Seventy projects up and down the Great British Coast have been awarded a total of over £36 million from a UK government fund to help develop and improve tourist attractions, create jobs and promote socio-economic growth. This includes **Boston in the East Midlands**, more information [here](#).

Nearly 200 pocket parks will help transform the nation - Over 40 unloved, neglected or derelict urban spaces across the country will be transformed into new green spaces for the whole community to use, Parks and Green Spaces Minister Rishi Sunak MP confirmed this week.

In addition, through the £3.75 Pocket Parks Plus programme over 150 community-led groups will receive funding to help bring parks that have fallen into disrepair back into use. The announcement also includes the allocations of the £9.7 million funding to local authorities to enhance the resources they need to maintain and boost recreational spaces. In the East Midlands;

- South Kesteven District Council
- Northampton Borough Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Nottingham City Council
- City of Lincoln Council

For more information visit [here](#).

Scrutiny Frontiers 2019, Experiences from the frontline - In this Centre for Public Scrutiny publication a range of local authorities share their experiences of scrutiny, providing an opportunity to reflect on the practise of others in order to learn from them and gain awareness of what is possible. A range of methods and approaches are outlined, highlighting aims, challenges and key components to successful scrutiny work. To access this publication visit [here](#).

Rural pubs across England will be expanded to include Post Office facilities, grocery shops and libraries thanks to £188,000 of government funding - Minister Jake Berry announced 76 new projects will receive money through [Pub is The Hub](#), an organisation that supports rural pubs to diversify and help pubs bring communities together by expanding their services beyond food and drink [details [here](#)].

Local Government News continued



Local Government Finance and the 2019 Spending Review inquiry - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has announced an inquiry into local government finance. Ahead of the Spending Review 2019 expected this autumn, the inquiry will consider how effective the existing funding set-up for local government is in providing resources to meet need and demand for local services both now and in the future [more [here](#)]. The deadline for submissions is 17/04/19.

National census of local authority councillors 2018 - The LGA has carried out the eighth Census of Local Authority Councillors in England. This census provides the most comprehensive, timely overview of local government representation and, with previous years' data, how that has changed over time. The results will help to inform central and local government and political groups in the development of strategies and policies for local government. The report is available from [here](#).

LG Inform Value for Money (VfM) Profiles updated – these profiles are a one stop shop for councils' cost, performance and activity data. They help users understand the costs of delivering local services, and provide an overview of comparative spend and performance over time relative to other similar authorities. Containing over 6,000 data items from Government and other sources, the profiles have been updated with the latest financial and contextual data. Access the [profiles for your authority](#). In addition to detailed reports for each indicator there is also an ['Outliers'](#) report to focus on key data compared to comparator organisations. Email lginform@local.gov.uk.

Troubled Families: early help service transformation maturity model - This guide is for local authorities delivering the Troubled Families Programme. It provides practical advice on service transformation [details [here](#)].

Homelessness

James Brokenshire confirms funding to help people off the streets - Councils across the country will share over £46 million to help get people off the streets and into accommodation, Communities Secretary, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP has confirmed this week. The money forms part of the government's £100 million Rough Sleeping Strategy and will be used to fund rough sleeping coordinator roles, add new or additional outreach services and extend existing or provide new temporary accommodation. This includes night shelters and hostel spaces. There is also an opportunity to provide housing-led solutions such as Housing First services. For further information visit [here](#), funding in the East Midlands;

- Derby - £343,000
 - Lincoln, City of - £519,396
 - Leicester City Council - £349,688
 - Nottingham City Council - £461,849
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Health & Social Care



Funding awarded to 23 projects to help those affected by alcohol - Local authorities across the country will use £6 million funding to increase access to alcohol treatments, with a focus on helping parents and rough sleepers [more information [here](#)]. In the East Midlands

- **Derby**: increasing the number of beds available for alcohol-using rough sleepers, and providing a place where they can engage with treatment services
 - **Nottingham**: creating a dedicated space in Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, funding a mobile FibroScan machine and the development of 8 'Housing First' accommodation for homeless people with a primary alcohol problem
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EMC Events



Developing a Mentoring and Coaching Strategy Workshop, 16 May 2019 - A workshop to explore and develop a mentoring and coaching strategy for those authorities interested in setting up their own programmes. 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: Mayor Kate Allsop

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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