

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

Top items this week

2 NOVEMBER 2018



Housing, Scrutiny and the Housing Revenue Account



Budget 2018



EMC HR Bulletin, October 2018



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

HM Budget 2018

While there were a couple of announcements for Midlands Engine related investments; £70 million to construct the national element of the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (Nottinghamshire) in providing care for civilians to aid their recovery from debilitating injury and return to the world of work; £165m investment in the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village; £8.5m for Coventry's City of Culture; up to £20m for the WMCA to create the UK Mobility Data Institute; and Government's commitment to publish a refreshed Midlands Engine Strategy next year - there was little to cheer about regarding any investment in infrastructure priorities of specific relevance to the East Midlands.

Other announcements of note:

An additional £500m added to the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

Transforming Cities Fund extended by a year to 2022-23 providing a further £440m to 12 city regions.

The Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap has been removed with immediate effect.

EMC News



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EMC Support Activity

East Midlands IT Security Network Meeting - The next meeting of the East Midlands IT Security network will take place on Wednesday 7 November. This meeting will include:

- 'Business Continuity Exercise' led by East Midlands Special Operations Unit
- Discussion of LGA Cyber Security Stocktake Results
- Discussion of the LGA – Cyber resilience funded programme 2018/19
- Presentation on Cyber Essentials PLUS and ICT infrastructure and network overhaul project

Rail in the Midlands

Sir Peter Soulsby, Mayor of Leicester and Chairman of TfEM, and Andrew Pritchard, EMC Director of Policy and Infrastructure, presented at a 'Rail in the Midlands' event in Birmingham today. A further update will be provided in next week's Policy Brief.

EMC Events

Mental Health First Aid

East Midlands Councils is holding a two day Mental Health First Aid course this December (5 & 6 Dec).

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training teaches people to spot the symptoms of mental health issues, offer initial help and guide a person towards support. MHFA does not teach people to be therapists, but it does teach people to listen, reassure and respond, even in a crisis - and even potentially stop a crisis from happening [details [here](#)]. The two day course provides the following:

- An in depth understanding of mental health and the factors that can affect wellbeing
- Practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Confidence to step in, reassure and support a person in distress
- Enhanced interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening
- Knowledge to help someone recover their health by guiding them to further support

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Leicester City Council's greener transport plans get £6.2million European cash boost - Plans to promote sustainable transport and cut carbon emissions across Leicester have received a major boost with the award of almost £6.2million of European Union funding.

Leicester City Council has successfully bid for £6,192,000 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support a range of ambitious transport related projects that aim to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The funding will be shared across four main areas, with the largest share – almost £3.3million – earmarked for the next phase of the Connecting Leicester programme [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

EMC HR Bulletin, October Edition - Pay remains a key theme for the October bulletin, covering support with the pay spine implementation, benchmarking, and Employment Law Expert Darren Newman's insights on the Government's consultation on ethnicity pay reporting [available from [here](#)]. Other topics in this edition include training opportunities to support mental wellbeing, along with;



- Planning Roles – Recruitment & Retention
- Regional Employers Board Work Plan
- Pay Negotiations—Youth & Community and Soulbury Officers, and Teachers in Residential Establishments ([here](#))
- Apprenticeships - This month's newsletter from the LGA on apprenticeships

Modern Slavery

The Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards 2018 - This update of the 2015 Trafficking Survivor Care Standards has been coordinated and compiled by Kate Roberts, Head of Office at the Human Trafficking Foundation. The update, which has been produced by the Human Trafficking Foundation (HTF), has depended on the expertise and significant time given by a great number of experts from across the anti-slavery sector who are listed below as contributors [available [here](#)].

Local Government News and wider

Housing, scrutiny and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - The Centre for Public Scrutiny has published an LGA-funded piece of research on the scrutiny of housing. It looked across the piece at social housing, private rental, planning and redevelopment, and homelessness. These four issues come with some policy levers for local politicians – policy levers over which we think scrutiny ought to have oversight. To access the report visit [here](#).

Evaluation of sector-led improvement: Data analysis report - This report forms part of the Local Government Association (LGA) evaluation of sector-led improvement. It provides a quantitative assessment of sector performance and how this has changed since 2009/10. A total of 104 metrics were analysed, covering the full range of local government services. Seventy per cent had seen an improvement, eight per cent had not changed and 22 per cent had worsened [details [here](#)].

Sector-led improvement in public health: progress and potential - The case studies in this LGA publication show the innovations that can be achieved by local areas collaborating within regions on health issues that can best be tackled at scale [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

GDPR for HR 6 months on, 13 Nov 2018 - EMC are holding a follow up workshop, providing a space to explore GDPR for HR colleagues six months on from the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation back in May 2018 [details [here](#)].

Report Writing, 21 Nov 2018 - EMC is holding a one day seminar on Report Writing for Officers [details [here](#)].

EMC Leadership

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Vice Chair: Cllr Chris Millar
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney
Labour Group: Cllr Anne Western
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
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