

# EMC POLICY BRIEF

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

Top items this week

4 MARCH 2016



Boston Awarded Member Development Charter - Again



North Midlands Devolution Update



Midlands Engine Update



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers



## North Midlands Devolution Update

Councils in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire held talks this morning on the proposed North Midlands Devolution Deal.

Across the two city and county areas, 13 councils have signed up to the devolution proposals and remain determined to secure a transfer of powers from further negotiations with central government in order to ensure their residents do not lose out on the opportunities offered. Alongside Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council; Gedling Borough Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Ashfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council all agreed to be part of the deal. In addition, Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Bolsover District Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council have all signed-up.

South Derbyshire District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and Erewash Borough Council all opted out. Chesterfield Borough and Bassetlaw District Councils have stated their preference to join the Sheffield City region proposals.

## Boston Awarded Member Development Charter - Again



Congratulations to Boston Borough Council on achieving re-accreditation of the East Midlands Regional Councillor Development Charter. EMC would like to commend the commitment, dedication and continuing development in the area of councillor development that was observed during the recent formal assessment process. Details about the Councillor Development Charter can be found [here](#).



**East Midlands APPG** - The East Midlands All-Party Parliamentary Group of MPs met on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March in Westminster. With the focus on infrastructure priorities, Midlands Connect and Midlands Engine; MPs in the region are writing to the Chancellor in advance of the Budget announcement on 16<sup>th</sup> March to press the case of greater investment in a number of road and rail schemes that will support growth across the East Midlands.

### EMC Boards Activity

**Improvement and Transformation Board** - The EMC Improvement and Transformation Board met this week and discussed work to establish collective leadership on health and efforts to better market the region to health professions, considered research from the LGA on the impact of the local government settlement and the issues that EMC should be focusing upon as part of its 2016/17 business plan and member development programme.

**Executive Board** - The EMC Executive Board will meet on 18 March. The Board meeting will include the formal launch of the EMC Housing Review, further information on this will follow.

### EMC Councillor Events

**Future Councillors, 16 March 2016, 10:30, Blaby District Council** - The final event in the 2015/16 Regional Programme of Policy Events for Councillors provides Councillors in the East Midlands with a two great sessions in one day. The morning session will explore the role of the Councillor in the current political context of devolution and the collaboration agenda. The afternoon session will provide Councillors with an opportunity to engage with and learn more about the Councillor Commission, led by Professor Colin Copus, De Montfort University. Further information [here](#).

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## EMC Councillor Development Events Continued

**The Role of the Civic Head and Team, 25 May 2016** - The day will include discussion on the role of prospective Civic Heads, Mayoress, Consorts or Escorts, their Deputies and all Civic Support Officers and will identify any concerns and further needs that the delegates may have in carrying out their duties. For further information about this event visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Businesses Discuss the Future of Transport in Nottingham** - On 24 Feb over 60 representatives from businesses in Nottingham met at the annual Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership Forum. EMCs Director of Policy & Infrastructure, Andrew Pritchard spoke at the event on HS2. For further information visit [here](#).

**Changing Britain, HS2 Ltd Report** - HS2 Ltd has published a new report into the business opportunities associated with HS2. "We have always been fully committed to HS2, and in particular Toton – a hub there would serve both the counties and the cities of Nottingham" Cllr Alan Rhodes, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council. To read the report visit [here](#).

**How the Housing and Planning Bill impacts Councils – Starter Homes and Right to Buy** - Research by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) With the Association for Public Sector Excellence (ASPE) has been published on the impact of the Housing and Planning Bill impact on Councils. To read the report visit [here](#).

**Officer and Councillor Fracking Workshops** - The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) is delivering Officer and Councillor workshops on planning applications for hydraulic fracturing for shale gas or oil for mineral planning authorities. For more information visit [here](#).

**Clark gives green light to 1,000-home urban extension in Northamptonshire** - Outline plans for a sustainable urban extension of up to 1,000 homes in Northamptonshire have been allowed by communities secretary Greg Clark who ruled that the adverse effects would not outweigh the benefits.

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## Midlands Connect



**Midlands Connect Update** - Following the appointment of the Independent Chairman Sir John Peace, we can now announce that the Chairman of the Steering Group is Andrew Cleaves, with his deputy Mike Ashworth.

During March the Midlands Connect team was invited by the Marches LEP to join discussions around the emerging Highways' England Growth Plan. The Midlands Connect team also attended a "Manufacturing & Engineering Conference" organized by the East Midlands Chambers (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire). In addition to this, the concept and aims of MC have been presented at a number of internal Network Rail forums.

**[www.midlandsconnect.uk](http://www.midlandsconnect.uk) Launched** - The website will detail Midlands Connect projects, aims and activities.

**Midlands Connect Steering Group Meeting** - At the Steering Group meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March, Midlands Connect will present to the group a draft document detailing the next phase of the strategy development; this will include a closer examination of the key interventions already identified by Highways England and Network Rail. A period of engagement with our partners will follow.

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## Midlands Engine



**Midlands Engine Update** - Work to deliver greater regional economic growth and productivity improvement continues. Senior ME representatives from the region met with Minister for Local Government Marcus Jones on **February 2**. The Minister and his officials discussed the importance of the ME driving forward its agenda and he was updated on each of the ME thematic components.

**Senior Steering Group** - The Senior Steering Group met in Nottingham on **Tuesday February 23**. Members were given an update on the February 2 Ministerial meeting, promotion of the (now completed) pitchbook presentation for MIPIM 2016 and on current ME work relating to implementation planning, governance arrangements, Skills, Midlands Connect, Finance for Business, Innovation, Economic Planning, and the ME Budget 2016 'asks' submitted to Government. Paul Harris from Rolls Royce spoke on behalf of several manufacturers on establishing a proposed supply chain group that could really drive through productivity improvements.

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## Employers' Issues



**Apprenticeship Levy** - The Government is consulting on its proposal to introduce a levy and targets for apprenticeships through the Enterprise Bill. The Bill gives government powers to set public sector organisations with 250+staff an apprenticeship recruitment target of 2.3% of the workforce headcount per year. A key issue for local government is whether this is based on headcount of FTE, as there would be a significant difference, given the high number of part-time workers in our sector. All employers with a paybill of £3m+ will be subject to a levy to fund apprenticeship training costs, set at 0.5% of payroll. The details of the proposals are still subject to consultation.

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## Employers' Information

**Apprenticeship Levy** - To ensure local authorities in our region are fully informed and able to contribute to the consultation process, EMC will be arranging a meeting in the region with CLG, BIS and other key players. Please contact Sam if you or a colleague in your authority would like to be involved [sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:sam.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk)

**CEEP UK: Newsletter: 26 February 2016** - To view the news letter please visit [here](#). In this issue:

- CEEP Environment Task Force: Additional information after yesterday's meeting
- Reminder- "Pulse of Public Services"
- CEEP Environment Task Force: First draft for CEEP opinion on Circular Economy Strategy and reviewed waste legislation
- CEEP Sustainability Board: Implementation of Public Procurement Package

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## Local Government News



**Conservative Melton Borough Council leader Byron Rhodes to step down** - The Conservative politician has led the authority for nearly five years but will be handing over the top job after the council's annual meeting on May 17. He will remain as one of the council's 25 Tory members as a backbencher. Cllr Rhodes said the move would allow him to devote more time to his other role as the deputy leader of Leicestershire County Council and its cabinet member for finance.

**Silver Award for Innovation** - Melton Borough Council and the Me and My Learning project have been awarded the Silver Award for Innovation at this week's iESE awards ceremony. This category recognises innovation whether by public bodies or those that provide services to them. For more information visit [here](#).

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## Community

### COLLABORATIVE TOURING NETWORK

**Collaborative Touring Network** - In 2016-2019, the Collaborative Touring Network (CTN) will give three independent people/organisations an opportunity to join an existing network of five partners from across England, with support from Battersea Arts Centre. You will be supported by the network to run your own bi-annual festivals featuring some of the UK's top artists alongside the best of your community's home grown talent, as well as developing a model of year round creative activity. For more information visit [here](#). The deadline to apply is **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 12pm**.

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## Health & Social Care



**Adults and HWB Chairs Meeting 14 March** - A Joint Meeting of East Midlands Health and Wellbeing Boards Chairs and Adult Social Care Lead Members' Network will take place on 14 March. The agenda for the meeting will include; the Better Care Fund, HWBs - Future Integration Proposals and Planning of Strategic Priorities and Prevention and the Delivery of Health and Care System Sustainability.

**Case studies on the use of planning powers to limit hot food takeaways** - This week the LGA published seven case studies showing how local authorities across the country are working to limit the impact of fast food in their communities. To access the case studies visit [here](#).

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## EMC Events



**Employment Law Update, 8 Mar 2016** - EMC are pleased to confirm that Darren Newman will be returning again to deliver an Employment Law Update. This event is aimed at senior HR and Legal professionals in the public sector and Elected Members with Portfolio responsibility for HR. For more information about the event please visit [here](#).

**Animal Licensing, 10 March 2016** - The final event in the 2015/16 Low cost CPD for Environmental Health will focus on Animal Licensing. To find out more about the programme visit [here](#).

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## EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE  
Vice Chair: Cllr Jon Collins  
Vice Chair: Cllr Neil Clarke MBE  
Conservative Group: Cllr Chris Millar  
Labour Group: Cllr Robert Parker  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Alan Walters

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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