

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

Top items this week

5 APRIL 2019



Improving Productivity and Performance Workshop



Brexit Issues



Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee Report



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Brexit – Developments

URGENT – European Parliamentary Elections

The Prime Minister has today [written](#) to the President of the European Council requesting an extension to the UK leaving to 30 June 2019.

The letter states that “... the United Kingdom accepts the European Council’s view that if the United Kingdom were still a Member State of the European Union on 23 May 2019, it would be under a legal obligation to hold elections. The Government is therefore ... **making the Order that sets the date of the poll.**” It also states “The Government will want to agree a timetable for ratification [of the withdrawal agreement] that allows the United Kingdom to withdraw from the European Union before 23 May 2019 and therefore cancel the European Parliamentary elections, but will continue to make responsible preparations to hold the elections should this not prove possible.”

On that basis, Returning Officers have been advised to actively plan to run a poll on 23 May.

While speculation may continue as to whether the poll will be cancelled, the key message is that plans should be made as though elections will take place.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (David Liddington) wrote to Bob Posner, the interim Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission, to confirm that Returning Officers and electoral administrators will be reimbursed for any reasonable spending on contingency preparations for European Parliament Elections.

* The letter has been published [here](#).

* Further clarity is being sought in relation to costs reimbursement in the event of no longer needing to hold EU elections.

EU Settlement Scheme Letter: a letter to the health and care sector about the EU Settlement Scheme launched on Saturday. It is jointly signed by SoS for Health and Care and Home Sec and provides details of the scheme and reassurances to EU nationals regarding their right to remain before and after the UK leaves the EU. The letter is [here](#).

EMC News



Improving Productivity and Performance - At our recent People Conference in February, EMC explored the theme of leading and managing people in a changing world. Delegates at the conference benefitted from 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. The workshop will take place on 25 April, details available from [here](#).

EMC Support Activity

Developing a collaborative approach to Coaching - This week EMC colleagues have spoken at a regional Coaching and NLP conference ‘Working Collaboratively to Support the Development of a Coaching Culture’. The jointly delivered workshop featured a local authority member of the East Midlands Coaching network on how they have developed their organisational approach to coaching. The presentation focused on the collaborative approach to supporting the development of coaching within organisations that the East Midlands Coaching Network offers enabling choice for coachees and support for coaches, the East Midlands Coaching Network. For more information visit [here](#).

EMC Cyber Security Network - Next week the East Midlands Cyber Security network (known as the EMGWARP) will meet at Rushcliffe Borough Council. The network meeting will include discussion of a regional bid for Cyber Resilience funding to the LGA. For more information on the network contact Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



£201 million road repair fund to resurface extra 1,000 miles - Councils in England will be given a share of more than £200 million for road maintenance and pothole repairs – enough to resurface a road between London and Budapest.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has announced the allocation of an extra £50 million for councils for potholes and flood resilience as well as £151 million to reward examples of councils' best practice – funding that could resurface more than 1,000 miles of road.

These funds come from the £6.6 billion the government is providing in the 6 years to 2021 to improve local roads.

A [guide on best practice on pothole repair](#), developed with the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport, has also been published. For more information visit [here](#).

£3 million boost for innovative local air quality improvements - More than £3 million of government funding has been awarded to 28 innovative projects to improve air quality across local authorities in England.

The money, from the government's [Air Quality Grant](#), supports schemes which help councils develop and implement measures to benefit local communities [[details here](#)].

Midlands Connect



Midlands Connect prioritises 20 road projects to ensure the region sees the full benefit of record £25 billion - Investment - Sub-national Transport Body Midlands Connect has published a list of 20 road projects it wants to see prioritised for construction or development during Highways England's second Road Investment Strategy period (RIS2), from 2020-2025 [[details here](#)].

Newark Northern Bypass - One of Midlands Connect main road priorities for 2020-2025 is ensuring the Newark Northern Bypass is built. Removing this bottleneck will support freight traffic, open up housing & support businesses. Midlands Connect has created a social media video - <https://twitter.com/MidsConnect/status/1111599480044953600>

Midlands Connect March Newsletter - In this month's edition, a bumper mix of Midlands Connect projects moving forward, endorsements from Westminster and national recognition. The newsletter is available from [here](#).

Access for All: 73 stations set to benefit from additional funding - The new stations due to be upgraded from this funding are listed below. They have been selected following nominations from the rail industry, which engaged with local authorities and other stakeholders. We then assessed them against annual footfall, weighted by the incidence of disability in the area, and also took account of local factors such as nearby hospitals and the availability of third party funding. The stations deferred from Control Period 5, which will now be progressed are: Alfreton (Parkway), Market Harborough. All work at the stations is due to be completed by the end of March 2024 [[details here](#)].

Homelessness

NLGN's latest Leadership Index on Homelessness - One year on from the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA), the Index asked local authority chief executives, leaders and council mayors about their experiences of tackling homelessness. Specifically, the Index explored the impact of Universal Credit; funding to meet obligations within the HRA; and rough sleeping. Three core themes emerged, further details [here](#).

Local Government News



Government failing to fully support local authorities to prepare for Brexit - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has called on the Government to take urgent action to enable local authorities to prepare for the consequences of Brexit.

- [Read the summary](#)
- [Read the full report: Brexit and Local Government](#)

In their report published this week, the Committee sets out urgent priorities to improve information sharing and Brexit preparations at a local level. The report further sets out key policy actions that the Government needs to take in the long term to tackle the loss of EU funding streams and the repatriation of policy and legislation currently held by the EU, and to seize the opportunity Brexit presents to re-evaluate how funding and powers can be devolved to local government in order to create the best outcomes for communities [[details here](#)].

National Cyber Security Centre, Local elections 2019: guidance for local authorities - This guidance has been produced by the NCSC and the CPNI for local authorities ahead of the forthcoming local and mayoral elections on 2 May 2019. It contains reminders around good cyber security practices for the systems that support the delivery of UK elections. It does not replace tailored advice and guidance specific to local circumstances [[to access the report visit here](#)].

Councillor workbook: charring skills - Charring a meeting is one of the windows that local communities have into your council. The LGA's charring skills workbook will equip new, and refresh more experienced chairs/chairmen, with all the tools and strategies necessary for a smooth running of a meeting; giving confidence to any councillor who is charring a council or committee. To access the workbook visit [here](#).

Local Government News continued



Forecast underspend at Northamptonshire County Council - The latest finance monitoring report to be discussed by their cabinet next week shows that the current forecast year-end position is an underspend of £0.1m – an improvement on the £0.9m overspend position reported last month. The current financial position is regarded as being such a move in the right direction that last week the Commissioners, who are currently overseeing the running of the authority, recommended that the Section 114 Notice be withdrawn from 1 April [press release [here](#)].

Culture Hub: good practice in cultural services - This online hub, developed by the LGA and Arts Council England, highlights good practice in the delivery of cultural services by councils and their partners [details [here](#)].

Shared Service Map - Every year the LGA produces an interactive map of shared services providing a compendium of council shared service examples across England. The 2018 map can be found at <http://www.local.gov.uk/shared-services-map>. The Local Government Association have instigated the 2019 refresh of the LGA Shared Services Map and have asked Shared Service Architecture to carry out this research.

Shared Service Architects are keen to hear from organisations that have initiated any collaboration projects/shared services in 2018/2019. It is important that to register any **new shared service, or collaboration project that is not shown** on the 2018 LGA Map, to submit data for a new shared service, you can complete the online questionnaire at Survey Monkey by clicking here . The submission deadline is **Friday, 3rd of May**.

Seaside towns must be inspired to reinvent themselves, says Lords report - Many seaside towns and coastal communities are in desperate need of improvements to transport, housing and broadband. Better access to further and higher education for young people in seaside towns is needed too. These are key conclusions of a report by the House of Lords Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns. This report includes a case study on Skegness in the East Midlands. The report is available from [here](#).

Health & Social Care



Essentials: Health & Well-being for HWB Chairs & Vice-Chairs - Health and Well-Being Boards are entering a critical phase of their development. The role of the Chair is pivotal in maintaining relationships with partners through difficult conversations, promoting shared ownership of and collective leadership for the Board and ensuring accountability to the community. The session will be led by peers with input from national partners. The LGA is offering a choice of three programme dates at Warwick Conferences, Coventry CV4 7SH, email grace.collins@local.gov.uk for details.

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. In November 2018 Suzanne Ross from 2thrive, delivered positive and interactive session at the East Midlands PA Conference. The session was inspired participants to 'define success for themselves and achieve it'.

This full day workshop will expand and build on the session held in November 2018, helping 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 visit [here](#).

East Midlands Coaching Conference 2019, 26 Jun 2019 - East Midlands Councils, the home of the East Midlands Coaching Network is delighted to announce details of our 7th annual coaching conference that will take place on 26 June in Melton Mowbray.

The conference will start with an interactive and engaging session on coaching and positive psychology by Ana Paula Nacif. Ana, an experience executive coach, trainer and facilitator, who is currently studying for a professional doctorate in coaching and mentoring, with a focus on wellbeing. 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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