

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

Top items this week

5 JULY 2019



Gender Pay Gap in Local Government



EMC Councillor Development Programme 2019/20



Programme Officer - Asylum and Refugee Resettlement



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

EMC Councillor Development Programme 2019/20

EMC will be providing a programme of development for Councillors this autumn, the programme includes;

Charing and Facilitation Skills Councillors, 18 Sep 2019 - EMC are working in partnership with Blaby District Council to offer 2 Charing skills workshops on 18 September 2019. The workshop at 13:30—[here](#) and the 17:30 - [here](#).

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 [details [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 [details [here](#)].

Read Faster with Greater Understanding, 9 Oct 2019 - EMC is holding a half day workshop for Councillors 'Read Faster with Greater Understanding'. This workshop will support Councillors in their roles [details [here](#)].

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](#)].

The Changing Landscape of Local Government Finance, 6 Dec 2019 - This seminar gives a very good grounding in how local government finance works in practice and sets the 'basics as part of the bigger picture of current developments and longer term trends, funding plans for the next five years and the implications of 'Brexit' [details [here](#)].

Public Speaking for Councillors, 22 Jan 2020 - EMC is holding a half day workshop for Councillors on Public Speaking [details [here](#)].

Being an Effective Councillor: Strengthening and Sustaining Personal Resilience, 5 Feb 2020 - EMC is running a half day Personal Resilience event for councillors. This is a very practical seminar that will provide each participant with methods and helpful ideas to manage the pressures they face and enable them to be able to maximise the positive aspects of being an elected Member [details [here](#)].



EMC News
Programme Officer - Asylum and Refugee Resettlement (EMC) - The East Midlands has a leading role in working with Government to put in place equitable and effective arrangements for asylum and refugee resettlement. EMC is now offering an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills and attributes to lead and support the coordination and delivery of regional projects and programme evaluation.

Working with local authority and voluntary sector partners the role will have responsibility for undertaking research, data collection and analysis and assist with project development work relating to asylum and refugee resettlement in the East Midlands, including the Controlling Migration Fund, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Project and ESOL. For more information visit [here](#). **The closing date is 12pm on Friday 19 July 2019.**

EMC Boards Activity

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 papers for this meeting are available [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Leasehold axed for all new houses in move to place fairness at heart of housing market - All new-build houses will be sold as freehold in bold move to tackle unfair leasehold practices.

The Secretary of State has also instructed Homes England to renegotiate Help to Buy contracts to explicitly rule out the selling of new leasehold houses, other than in exceptional circumstances, to protect new home buyers from unscrupulous charges.

Other important proposals unveiled include new proposals to make it easier for renters to transfer deposits directly between landlords when moving; extra funding for 19 new garden villages; and radical new measures to speed up planning applications.

New garden communities to be created - The new settlements include a dementia-friendly community village at St George's Barracks, in Rutland, which would allow the elderly to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Planning bureaucracy cut - Councils will be able to approve planning applications more quickly under radical new measures to remove bureaucracy from the system.

The new accelerated planning green paper, to be published later this year, will dramatically improve the planning process. This is part of a renewed and refreshed focus on making sure planning authorities have the resources they need to act for the benefit of homeowners – delivering a better service, faster than ever before.

New Homes Ombudsman - The government wants to see more good quality homes that people are proud to buy and proud to live in – and a New Homes Ombudsman, will protect the rights of homebuyers and hold developers to account.

£2 billion long-term affordable homes funding - The Communities Secretary opened the bidding process for £2 billion in long term strategic partnerships to deliver additional affordable homes with funding available until March 2029.

This marks the first time any government has invested such long-term funding in new affordable homes through Housing Associations, supporting the development of more ambitious long-term plans to build the homes this country needs. These new bids will continue to build on the over 430,000 affordable homes delivered since 2010.

For more information visit [here](#).

£53 million line upgrade to help make midlands railways fit for the future - Rail Minister Andrew Jones visited upgrades worth more than £53 million at Market Harborough Station. The upgrades at Market Harborough form part of a £1.5 billion investment into the Midland Main Line, targeted at creating more seats and reducing environmental impacts between Sheffield, Nottingham and London - opening new opportunities for businesses, jobs, education and housing.

The improvements to Market Harborough station follow a recent £200 million upgrade to Derby station in 2018 to improve signalling and infrastructure, and a brand new accessible station delivered in Ikeston. Two further stations; Retford and Alfreton Parkway in the East Midlands are also set to receive station improvements in the next 5 years. The government also recently announced that Abellio will operate the next East Midlands Railway franchise, entirely replacing the existing intercity fleet with more reliable and comfortable trains.

Passengers will see an 80% increase in the number of peak morning seats into Nottingham, Lincoln and St Pancras, improved delay repay compensation. For the full press release visit [here](#).

Idling drivers could face higher fines under new government crackdown - Public consultation on proposals to impose tougher penalties on idling drivers - Councils already have the power to fine drivers, but the Department for Transport is looking at toughening up those powers to try and put a stop to unnecessary air pollution. details [here](#).

Government plan to make private level crossings safer - Improved signage to protect motorists and pedestrians using private level crossings could be introduced under plans announced.

To improve safety at these crossings, the Department for Transport has worked closely with Office of Rail and Road (ORR) and Network Rail to revise and make improvements to the signage used [details [here](#)].

Understanding Local Housing Markets - This report was commissioned by the Local Government Association to provide local authorities with advice and guidance on how to best understand the various complexities within their local housing markets in order to inform their decision making [details [here](#)].

Planning guidance: letters to chief planning officers - Guidance on various aspects of the planning system, given in letters to chief planning officers of local planning authorities [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



Gender Pay Gap in Local Government - LGA analysis shows that the 2019 mean gender pay gap in local government is 6.1 per cent; the median is 4.0 per cent. The LGA has updated [LG Inform's gender pay gap report](#) for authorities to effectively benchmark against a comparison group of choice as well as last year's data to show how your gender pay gap has changed since last year.

Local Government News



Winners of the MJ Awards - The MJ award winners were announced last week. The entries ranged from corporate-wide initiatives and children's and adult services to housing, IT, regeneration, recycling, public health and employment among others. New categories included Transforming Lives, Digital Transformation and Corporate Director of the Year. For full list of winners visit [here](#).

In the East Midlands, Lincolnshire County Council won the Highways Management award. EMC would like to congratulate all those involved. A number of East Midlands authorities were highly commended;

- Digital Transformation - **Lincolnshire County Council**
- Innovation in Children's Services - **Derby City Council**
- Transforming Lives - **Newark and Sherwood District Council**

The LGAs 'Work Local, Making our vision a reality' - In this new report, the LGA highlights its strong appetite to test Work Local through local pathfinders and our plan for achieving it. The LGAs programme to improve employment and skills services in England through local public-private collaborations [details [here](#)].

Making the most of your museums: a handbook for councillors - Produced with Arts Council England, this LGA handbook shares innovative case studies and advice for council-run museums, including operating models, partnership working and how museums can contribute to wider local priorities [details [here](#)].

New Fawcett Data reveals that women's representation in local government - New data from the Fawcett Society following the 2019 local government elections finds that shockingly women make up just 34% of councillors across England [read the report [here](#)].

The Communities Secretary's speech at the LGA Conference 2019 - Speech by Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP at the Local Government Association Annual Conference [details [here](#)].

Beta Transformation and Innovation Exchange Self-assessment Tool - Developed with local government, for local government, this Transformation and Innovation Exchange Self-assessment Tool lets councils assess themselves against an improvement model and points them to resources in the Transformation and Innovation Exchange that will help with further improvement.

The tool is targeted at senior management and leadership teams, and its purpose is to encourage dialogue and a shared understanding of where a council is and where it wants to get to in relation to innovation and efficiency; and to direct a council to resources which might help with that journey. To use the self-assessment tool, please first read 'Getting started', which explains how best to use it. To find out more visit [here](#).

Health & Social Care



Free health and social care support for councils - The LGA's Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) offers a range of FREE options to help councils and their health partners overcome the demands on service provision in this complex arena [details [here](#)].

Funding of local authorities' children's services: government response to the Select Committee report -

A response by the government to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee report on funding of local authorities' children's services [details [here](#)].

Act now on social care crisis, Lords report tells Government - The Economic Affairs Committee publishes its report Social care funding: time to end a national scandal today. The report recommends that the Government immediately spends £8 billion to restore social care to acceptable standards and then introduces free personal care over a period of 5 years [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

Developing a Mentoring and Coaching Strategy Workshop, 19 September - a workshop to explore and develop a mentoring and coaching strategy for those authorities interested in setting up their own programmes [[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. Information 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

East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe
Pera Business Park
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0PB



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