

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

Top items this week

7 JUNE 2019



Transport for the East Midlands



Community News



Apprenticeship Event, 11 June



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Spending Review News

The spending review is unlikely to take place this year, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has admitted.

Ms Truss said: "The plan was to launch the spending review just before the summer recess...I would suggest that's unlikely given the current timetable of the Conservative leadership election. Although we will need to set revenue budgets [for 2020-21] we do already have capital budgets until 2021."

A delay to the spending review is likely to mean plans to reform the way funding is distributed between councils under the fair funding review will also be put back. The Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government told LGC last week it would "publish further information [on the fair funding review] once the timing of the spending review is clear".

Asked about whether the government would continue with HS2, she said that would be a decision for the next prime minister but that a zero based capital review meant the "entire" capital programme was up for consideration.

She said the Treasury was working on improving how it assessed the value of capital projects with a focus on their contribution to economic growth and improved productivity.

"I want to make sure we are assessing fibre and broadband on the same basis as road and rail," she said.



Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) - The TfEM Board met on the 5th June under the chairmanship of the recently re-elected Mayor of Leicester, Sir Peter Soulsby. Members warmly welcomed a wide-ranging and comprehensive presentation from Abellio on the new East Midlands Railway franchise, which will formally start on the 18th August 2019. The Board went on to agree the 'heads of terms' for a Partnership Agreement with DfT to provide local input into the management of the new franchise, including the ability to address performance issues and promote service enhancements. The agreement will be underpinned by quarterly meetings with senior DfT officials and an annual review meeting between the Chair of TfEM and the Secretary of State for Transport. The Board went on to confirm TfEM support for the following road schemes for delivery in 2020-25, for endorsement by the Midlands Connect Strategic Board on the 20th June 2019:

- A614: Nottinghamshire County Council
- A511 Growth Corridor: Leicestershire County Council
- North Hykeham Relief Road: Lincolnshire County Council
- Chesterfield - Staveley Regeneration Route: Derbyshire County Council
- Newark Northern Bypass (RIS2): Highways England

EMC Boards Activity

Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council Meeting, 11 June - The next meeting of the Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council will take place on 11 June. The Regional Joint Council meeting will include a presentation and update on Apprenticeships from Jamie Saddler at the LGA. The meetings will also include discussions on the Exit Pay Cap Consultation. For more information on the Board contact Mila.Pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

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](#)]. This is an interactive session which aims to help you develop and understand:

- different roles councillors can prioritise to 'make a difference'
- different styles councillors can develop and adopt
- recent key reports on the changing expectations of councillors
- personal targets – including maintaining voter interest, embedding achievements, passing on the baton

This event will seek to involve participants throughout the session in discussing and developing their views.

Read Faster with Greater Understanding, 09 Oct 2019 - EMC is holding a half day workshop for Councillors 'Read Faster with Greater Understanding'. This workshop supports individuals and organisations with increasing the speed of reading, while maintaining the levels of understanding [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Midlands Connect Taking the fight to HS2 critics - Midlands Connect Chairman, Sir John Peace, [has refuted a House of Lords' Economic Affairs Committee report](#) calling for a rethink of HS2, by pointing out that it totally ignores the huge benefits of high speed rail to the Midlands, with not a single mention of the transformational impact HS2 will have on the East Midlands in particular. In the press release it confirms that Midlands Connect and partners will continue to make the strongest possible case, alongside our partners, for the transformational impact HS2 will have on all of our lives. Press release [here](#).

HS2: Bombardier and Hitachi bid to build trains- Two UK-based rail giants have submitted a 'Great British' train proposal to High Speed Two (HS2) that would be the most advanced, customer-oriented train ever to run in the UK.

Residents encouraged to have their say to improve building safety - The government is inviting views on a new building safety regime, as it seeks to bring forward new legislation to keep residents safe [details [here](#)].

The government intends to bring forward new laws to improve building safety. Before doing this, it has launched a consultation (see the [quick read](#)) on the details and [invites views](#) over the next 8 weeks.

The Home Office has also launched a [call for evidence](#) on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in England. The call for evidence is the first part of a process to ensure that the Fire Safety Order is fit for purpose for all buildings it regulates.

RTPI East Midlands Awards for Planning Excellence 2019 - The deadline for submission is 28 June 2019, the winners will be announced at an autumn evening presentation event on 26 September 2019. The awards recognise outstanding projects, teams and people in a number of categories, further information [here](#).

MHCLG Committee launch inquiry into long-term delivery of social and affordable rented housing - The new inquiry will investigate the effectiveness of the Government's current strategies to boost social and affordable rented housing provision. This will include the adequacy of funding levels, as well as programmes and incentives for key stakeholders, such as local authorities and housing associations, to stimulate delivery. The Committee will also look at the challenges facing different areas of the country and consider what lessons can be learnt from successful schemes in other countries [details [here](#)].

Communities



New national strategy to tackle Gypsy, Roma and Traveller inequalities - Communities Minister Lord Bourne has launched a national strategy to tackle entrenched inequality and improve the lives of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is to lead the national strategy, working with several government departments and the Cabinet Office Race Disparity Unit to improve outcomes in areas including health, education and employment.

In order to address the serious disparities highlighted by the [Race Disparity Audit](#), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has provided £200,000 of funding between 6 projects aiming to improve outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the areas of educational attainment, health and social integration. For more information visit [here](#).

Community Cohesion and Integration: a new LGA Research report - There has been a renewed focus on building cohesive communities since the publication of the Casey Review in 2016. The Government's response, in the form of the Integrated Communities Strategy green paper and action plan, cover a range of themes that can be explored through data. The new [LG Inform report](#), compiled with MHCLG, brings together many of these themes in a single benchmarking report. It is intended as a tool to support councils in measuring community cohesion and integration in their differing community contexts, alongside attitudinal data collected by authorities. A key feature of the report is the ability to compare your council's own profile to your CIPFA Nearest Neighbours. For further information contact us at lginform@local.gov.uk

Interactive benchmarking tool - LG Inform has [published](#) an interactive benchmarking tool that compares community cohesion and integration for any local authority against its CIPFA Nearest Neighbours. To access LG Inform visit [here](#).

Health & Social Care

June 2019 Local Health update - Local Health presents indicators for small areas. Providing data for electoral wards and middle super output areas (MSOAs) allows users to look at variation in health within larger areas, such as local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The [tool](#) has been updated, providing new data for small areas in England [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

Apprenticeships in our Region Event: Tuesday 11 June - EMC is holding an apprenticeship event on Tuesday 11 June in Melton Mowbray. The event facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experiences and approaches relevant to the successful implementation and delivery of apprenticeships in the East Midlands region.

Our speakers include:

- Beena Nana and Mark Coulson from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) who will be providing a national policy and general levy update
- Jamie Saddler, Apprenticeships Adviser from the LGA who will provide feedback on the LGA National Apprenticeship Survey, the picture in the East Midlands and forthcoming support available.
- Fay Edwards, Head of Learning and Development, South West Councils will provide information on the potential for an End Point Assessment Model within our region

In addition to the value our contributors will bring, there will also be opportunities to network and learn from each other as well as providing feedback on the most useful types of support you would find beneficial both now and in the future. If you would like to register for this event [here](#)

Local Government News



Unitary programme re-designed to include transformation of services - Following the announcement that two brand new unitary councils will be established in Northamptonshire on 1 April, 2021, the eight councils involved have agreed a way forward to deliver a programme that will see better-quality service delivery across the county.

A transformation programme has been agreed now that Vesting Day has been set for 2021, allowing time for creating much more than just two 'safe and legal' authorities.

In a joint comment, the council leaders of [Corby Borough Council](#) (Tom Beattie), [Daventry District Council](#) (Chris Millar), [East Northamptonshire Council](#) (Steven North), [Kettering Borough Council](#) (Russell Roberts), [Northampton Borough Council](#) (Jonathan Nunn), [Northamptonshire County Council](#) (Matt Golby), [South Northamptonshire Council](#) (Cllr Ian McCord) and [Borough Council of Wellingborough](#) (Martin Griffiths), said:

"The programme will be delivered by a team made up of staff from all eight authorities as well as some external programme management support. A Chief Executive from each current authority will lead each of the projects that make up the programme, making it a plan that is owned and delivered by all Northamptonshire councils."

Innovation in Democracy Programme Launch - The Innovation in Democracy Programme (iIDP) is trialling the involvement of citizens in decision-making at local government level through innovative models of deliberative democracy. We are supporting three local authorities to open up a key policy decision to citizen deliberation, complemented by online engagement [details [here](#)].

Powers & Duties and Records retention review - The LGAs annual review of legislation, performed with the help of Kent County Council's legal team, has now been completed and they have updated the legal [Powers & Duties](#) of local authorities and requirements for [Records Retention](#) to take account of changes over the last year. For further information contact us at lginformplus@local.gov.uk

The LGA's Productivity Experts programme - In 2018/19, the LGA's Productivity Experts programme worked with 42 councils contributing towards efficiency savings and/or income generation of over £42 million over the next four years. To give your innovative project a £7,000 grant boost apply [now](#).

EMC Events

East Midlands Coaching Conference 2019, 26 Jun 2019 - The Conference includes a keynote for coaches who want to develop their knowledge of transformational change. In the workshop we will discuss how to work with clients who want to make changes but who experience obstacles to making the change [details [here](#)].

Supervision using Interpersonal Process Recall, 25 Sep 2019 - EMC is offering Coaches across the East Midlands the opportunity take part in Coaching Supervision. 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: To be confirmed
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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