

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

## Top items this week

8 FEBRUARY 2019



Mediation Support



HS2 Minister Visits Region



Leics City awarded share of  
£6m green taxi charger fund



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## HS2 Minister Visits Region

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February, HS2 Minister Nusrat Ghani met with East Midlands' council and business leaders to reinforce support for HS2 and its importance to the region.

Demonstrating the strength of this region's political partnership, Leaders highlighted the ambitious plans at Toton and in Chesterfield/Staveley and emphasised the importance of excellent connectivity between the Hub Station at Toton and the surrounding localities - in particular Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and East Midlands Airport, and of working closely with Transport for the East Midlands and Midlands Connect. The Minister also heard about emerging Midlands Connect work demonstrating that partially opening Toton earlier - by 2030 rather than 2033 and running interim HS2 and conventional rail services - would have a positive business case and would be feasible.

The region also hosted a senior delegation of MHCLG officials today ensuring there is on-going engagement with Whitehall in the further development and delivery of our HS2 growth proposals.

## East Midlands Infrastructure Summit

Mayor of Leicester and TfEM Chair Sir Peter Soulsby gave the keynote presentation at today's Summit on progress towards implementing the region's six key infrastructure priorities. Headline sponsor UBER give an insight into the future of urban mobility and EMA MD Karen Smart announced major plans to expand facilities at the Airport. Sir John Peace spoke about proposals for a Development Corporation to maximise the potential of the land around the HS2 Hub station at Toton, East Midlands Airport and Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station. BBC & ITV were both in attendance and coverage is planned for today's evening news. A full update will be given in next week's policy brief.

## EMC News



**EMC Boards Activity**

**HS2 Strategic Board** - 25 February 2019

**East Midlands Regional Employers' Board** - 6 March 2019

**East Midlands Strategic Migration Board** - 12 March 2019

**Transport for the East Midlands** - 18 March 2019

## EMC Support Activity

**Mediation** - In the last week EMC staff have supported an authority with Mediation. EMC has a number of qualified Mediators, if you would like further information please contact [Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk) Mediation has been an increasingly popular service provided by EMC in recent years and organisations and the individuals involved in the process have valued our independence and experience in helping them to resolve conflict at work.

**East Midlands People Conference** - EMC's inaugural People Conference took place on 6 February. The conference included presentations on;

- How our people professionals can thrive in the changing world of work from the Head of Research at the CIPD
- Managing people in a changing world - Improving productivity and managing culture from a business psychologist
- From a Change-Vulnerable to a Change-Ready, Change-Capable organisation from a Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Employment Studies

The presentations from the event are available from [here](#).

## EMC Councillor Events

**Writing Press Releases, 26 Feb 2019** - EMC is holding a full day workshop for Councillors and Officers on Writing Press Releases. Whether you're an officer or a councillor, a well written news release can get you in the editorial media for free. But how you actually write that news release can make the difference between success and failure. For more information on this workshop visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Government announces plans to tackle illegal traveller sites** - Sajid Javid set out draft measures aimed at making it easier for officers to intervene and remove travellers from land they should not be on. The Home Secretary will also consider making it a criminal offence to set up such camps. It is currently defined in law as trespassing, a civil matter.

In addition, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announced it will provide local authorities with practical and financial support to handle unauthorised encampments [details [here](#)].

MHCLG has committed to give councils up to £1.5 million of extra funding to help them enforce planning rules and tackle unauthorised sites, with funding also available under the £9 billion Affordable Homes Programme to help pay for legal pitches.

Alongside this, the department has given £250,000 to support projects working with Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities to tackle discrimination, improve integration, healthcare and education.

As part of the measures announced, ministers will consider making data available on where legal sites are so it is clear which authorities are not offering their fair share of traveller facilities. Under new guidance to be published, the Communities Secretary will step in and review cases where there are concerns raised there are too many authorised traveller sites in one location.

**Rough sleeping in England: autumn 2018** - Annual statistical release about the number of people sleeping rough in local authorities across England. This release provides information for autumn 2018 on the single night snapshot of rough sleeping that is taken annually in England using street counts, evidence-based estimates, and estimates informed by spotlight street counts.

Local authorities decide on the best method to use, to assess the number of people sleeping rough in their area. All local authorities assessed rough sleeping on a single night between 1 October and 30 November 2018 [details [here](#)].

**City awarded share of £6m green taxi charger fund** - Leicester City Council has been awarded a share of a £6million government fund to create hundreds of charge-points for ultra-low emission taxis.

The city council was one of 17 local authorities to successfully bid for funding to support new infrastructure for greener cleaner taxis. It has been awarded up to £390,000 to support the installation of 18 fast and 10 rapid charge points across the city. Leicester City Council will provide up to £100,000 of match funding for the scheme [[here](#)].

**£48 million funding to drive down bus emissions across the UK** - Communities across the UK will benefit from greener journeys thanks to 263 new low emission buses, Minister Nusrat Ghani announced this week. A £48 million investment from the [Office for Low Emission Vehicles](#) will fund new green vehicles and infrastructure to drive forward government plans to clean up the air in towns and cities [details [here](#)].

**Annual bus statistics: England 2017/18** - This statistical release presents the latest annual statistics on the local bus sector. Local bus services use public service vehicles (PSVs) to carry passengers paying separate fares over short distances. Most of the data are derived from the Department for Transport's (DfT) annual survey of local bus operators. Figures are presented for England, in line with coverage of DfT bus policy [available from [here](#)].

### Bus journeys made per head of population (Passenger journeys per head)

- The top 10 includes Nottingham with 145 bus journeys made per head of population were made, ranked 2 of the areas outside of London. (In Nottingham the bus operator is majority council-owned operator).
- The bottom 10 includes from the East Midlands; Lincolnshire with 18 bus journeys made per head of population and Rutland with 2.

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## Health & Social Care



**Public Health England's 'Health Matters: Health and work' blog** - The best way of ensuring a long life in good health is to have the best start in life, a decent education, a warm and loving home, and an income sufficient to meet our needs. Or to put it more simply, a job, a home, and a friend matter most to our health. The evidence about these wider determinants has existed for years and it is now widely acknowledged that good health is about much more than healthcare alone [the Public Health England blog is [here](#)].

**Shaping health places; exploring the district council role in health** -This LGA publication presents case study examples showing how district councils have improved the health of their local areas [details [here](#)].

**Improving the public's health: local government delivers** - The changes to public health over the last six years should be seen as an exemplar of public sector reform [details [here](#)].

**An effective custodian of the public's health** - A collection of essays on six years of public health in local government put together by the LGA [details [here](#)].

**Don't be left in the dark; children and young people's mental health** - An overview of the challenges facing mental health and wellbeing services for children and young people developed by the LGA [details [here](#)].

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## Local Government News



**Final budget proposals announced by Northamptonshire County Council** - Northamptonshire County Council has announced refreshed budget proposals for the 2019-2020 financial year following public consultation and the Government's announcement to give additional tax raising powers.

A 4.99% Council Tax increase is being proposed which would mean the county would have the second lowest like-for-like county tax rate in the country while at the same time be able to further stabilise its finances and invest in areas people have said are most important to them.

The Council Tax increase would amount to an additional 75p to £1 a week for the 70 per cent of county residents living in properties within the Council Tax Bands of A to C. This would raise an additional £5.8m which will be used as follows:

- An extra £475,000 to permanently reinstate the previous winter gritting and winter maintenance of roads
- Scrapping plans to charge for community use of schools by uniformed and community groups
- An additional £1.2m for Children's Services
- A reversal of plans to charge for higher specification community equipment
- An extra £673,000 towards independent adult social care placements
- Provide greater financial resilience
- Provide a more sustainable financial foundation for any future Unitary Councils

The budget will now be presented before Cabinet on 14 February before being debated at Full Council on 21 February [press release available [here](#)].

**Committee of Public Accounts Report on Local government spending** - The report is available from [here](#).

**Local government Brexit preparedness** - Guidance from government to assist local authority preparedness for exiting the European Union (EU) [details [here](#)].

**James Brokenshire confirms funding package for local authorities in 2019 to 2020** - Councils in England are to benefit from increased funding for core services including additional support for the most vulnerable in society, Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP confirmed this week.

Local authorities' core spending power will rise in 2019 to 2020 by £1.3 billion, taking councils' funding to £46.4 billion. This year's [local government finance settlement](#) includes extra funding for local services with a strong focus on greater support for adult and children's social care. The settlement also supports and rewards economic growth and sets out reforms for a sustainable path for the future funding model for local government.

The 2019 to 2020 settlement marks the end of a 4-year deal – accepted by 97% of councils – which provided local authorities with access to £200 billion in the 5 years to 2020 [details [here](#)].

**New Conversations 2.0 LGA guide to engagement** - The LGA resources in this report support the basic, statutory aspects of engagement, with a particular focus on pure consultation. It explores best practice, legal requirements, and the pre-emptive steps you can take to get engagement around decision-making right [details [here](#)].

## EMC Events

**Coaching for Resilience, 07 Mar 2019** - EMC is holding a Coaching CPD session on 7 March on Coaching for Resilience. This is part of the East Midlands Coaching Network [details [here](#)]. This session has two objectives:

- To support coaches, develop and challenge their understanding of what personal resilience is; its core components and attributes.
- To help coaches learn about a variety of practical and evidence-based techniques that they can integrate into their practice to help not only their client's, but also their own personal resilience and well-being.

**Employment Law Update, 13 Mar 2019** - EMC's popular Annual Employment Law event will take place on 13 March 2019, covering all the topical issues and developments, tailored to local government [details [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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