

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

Top items this week

9 MARCH 2018



Changes to National Planning Policy Framework



Key Strategic Transport Priorities for the East Midlands



DOCAS/Check Off Legislation Update



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

A Shared Vision for the East Midlands

Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) and Midlands Connect are working together on a common set of key strategic priorities that will help to address the historic underfunding of the East Midlands and support economic and housing growth:

1. Making the most of HS2
2. A Midland Main Line fit for the 21st century
3. Improving access to East Midlands Airport
4. A46 Growth Corridor & Newark
5. A5 Growth Corridor
6. Transforming East-West connectivity

Transport for the East Midlands and Midlands Connect have jointly published a document [available from [here](#)] summarising all of the region's strategic priorities for an external audience.

Sir Peter Soulsby, TfEM Chair & City Mayor of Leicester

"TfEM brings together the nine local transport authorities in the East Midlands, providing collective leadership on strategic transport issues for the region. TfEM works to identify the transport priorities that will improve the region's economy and wellbeing of its people and to influence key delivery bodies.

In doing so, TfEM is working with Midlands Connect to increase the level of national spending on transport in the East Midlands from a low level towards the average for England as a whole".

The Way Forward

Together, TfEM and Midlands Connect can transform connectivity and accelerate growth across the East Midlands. Midlands Connect's landmark strategy offers immediate, early solutions as well as long-term transformational ideas to revolutionise transport in the Midlands, especially East-West connectivity, and helps raise productivity at least to the national average.

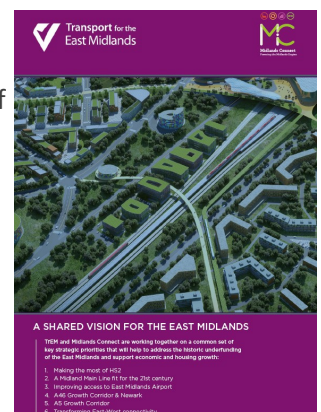
TfEM is developing complementary proposals to further boost the regional economic benefits.

Together, we can help achieve the Midlands Engine's aim of adding £54 billion to the economy by 2030.

But our influence can grow further. Midlands Connect is forging ahead to become a statutory Sub-National Transport Body, which would give the partnership legal status and give unprecedented regional influence over major government investment decisions. TfEM is developing proposals for a key role in the management of the East Midlands rail franchise.

We can achieve more in partnership. And the more support we have, the more we can speak with a unified voice to get the best deal for the Midlands.

The infrastructure priorities document [available from [here](#)] provides further details on the identified priorities.



EMC Boards Activity

EMC Executive Board - The EMC Executive Board will meet next on 23 March.

East Midlands Regional Employers Board - The Regional Employers Board and Regional Joint Council will meet next on 4 April 2018.

EMC Support Activity

Recruitment support - EMC are currently supporting an authority for the recruitment for a senior local authority officer. For more information on the support that EMC can provide please contact Sam.Maher@emcouncils.gov.

EMC Councillor Events

The Role of the Civic Head and Team, 23 May 2018 - EMC is running an event on 23 May 2018 on the Role of the Civic Head and Team. For more on this event visit [here](#).

Chairing and Facilitation Skills for Councillors, 26 Jun 2018 - EMC is running a half day Chairing and Facilitation Skills event for Councillors. The training is to be delivered by Nelson Training, an award winning drama based training company. For more on this event visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Review - A [major overhaul to the National Planning Policy Framework](#), has been launched this week providing a comprehensive approach for planners, developers and councils to build more homes, more quickly, in the places people want to live. Councils and developers will now be required to work with community groups to ensure those affected by new developments will have a say on how they look and feel [more details [here](#)]. The

Government objectives for the review are:

Greater responsibility - Local authorities will have a new housing delivery test focused on driving up the numbers of homes actually delivered in their area, rather than numbers planned for. Developers will also be held to account for delivering the commitments, including affordable housing and the infrastructure needed to support communities.

Maximising the use of land - More freedom will be given to local authorities to make the most of existing brownfield land to build homes that maximise density. Redundant land will be encouraged such as under utilised retail or industrial space for homes, with more flexibilities given to extend upwards on existing blocks of flats and houses as well as shops and offices.

Maintaining strong protections for the environment - Ensuring developments result in a net gain to the environment where possible and increases the protection given to ancient woodland so they are not lost for future generations.

Ensuring the right homes are built - Delivering more affordable homes that meet the housing needs of everyone wherever they are in their life, including sites dedicated for first time buyers, build to rent homes with family friendly tenancies, guaranteed affordable homes for key workers and adapted homes for older people.

Higher quality and design - Introducing new quality standards so well designed new homes are built in places people are proud to live in and live next door to.

More transparent planning process - Local authorities will be encouraged to work together and continue to close the gap between planning permissions granted and homes built. A new standardised approach to assessing housing need will be introduced with new measures to make the system of developer contributions clearer, simpler and more robust, so developers understand what's expected of them and will be in no doubt that councils will hold them to their commitments.

Draft revised National Planning Policy Framework - The draft revised National Planning Policy Framework incorporates policy proposals previously consulted on in the [Housing White Paper](#) and the [Planning for the right homes in the right places consultation](#). Budget 2017 included additional proposals to change planning policy and legislation to bring forward more land in the right places. This consultation seeks views on these additional policy proposals. Further details [here](#).

Ministers will attend Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee on Government's housing priorities - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee will hold a one-off session with Minister of State for Housing Dominic Raab MP and Minister for Housing and Homelessness Heather Wheeler MP on the Ministry's housing priorities on Monday 12 March. Further details available from [here](#).

Employers' Information



DOCAS/Check Off Legislation Delayed - The Cabinet Office has today announced this week [Trade Union \(Deduction of Union Subscriptions from Wages in the Public Sector\) Regulations 2017](#) will not be coming onto force on 10 March 2018, as had been expected. The Cabinet Office will be looking at bringing them into force at a later date and we can expect an update shortly.

EMC Employment Law Event - This week over 40 HR professionals from across the East Midlands attended the annual EMC Employment Law seminar, led this year by Employment Law expert Darren Newman.

Local Government News



CLG Select Committee - Inquiry into Local Authority Scrutiny (Government response) - The Government has published its response to the select committee report on the effectiveness of local authority overview and scrutiny. To access the response visit [here](#).

Financial sustainability of local authorities 2018 - The National Audit Office's report on Financial sustainability of local authorities 2018 can be accessed from [here](#).

Survivors of domestic abuse now able to vote anonymously - The Houses of Parliament have passed government proposals for changes to anonymous voter registration. The changes will come into force in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on 7 March and in Scotland on 1 April [details [here](#)].

Government response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life Review of Intimidation in Public Life - The government's response to recommendations by the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Review of Intimidation in Public Life [details [here](#)].

East Midlands Scrutiny Network - on 16 March the East Midlands Scrutiny network will meet at Long Eaton Town Hall, Erewash Borough Council. The agenda for the meeting will include a presentation on Erewash Borough Council review into water Safety/drowning prevention and local council's responsibilities by Cllr James Dawson, Erewash Borough Council.

There will be an opportunity for network members to share details of how scrutiny operates and is structured within your authority, along with a presentation from an authority that has recently undertaken an independent review of their Scrutiny Function. Network members will also discuss the Communities and Local Government Select Committee Inquiry - Effectiveness of Local authority scrutiny committees. An opportunity for network members to discuss the findings, recommendations and the Government's response. For more information on the network visit [here](#).

Health & Social Care



5 ways businesses can help employees eat well and move more - A new free resource published by Public Health England '[Physical activity, healthy eating and healthier weight – a toolkit for employers](#)', produced in collaboration with [Business in the Community](#). To access the toolkit visit [here](#).

Public Health England Chief Executive Duncan Selbie's Friday message - 9 March 2018 message is available [here](#).

EMC Events



Trading and Marketing Public Services, 16 May 2018 - EMC is holding a full day workshop on Trading and Marketing Public Services. This module introduces managers to the role of trading and entrepreneurship in a public service environment and some fundamental principles of marketing. For more information on this event visit [here](#).

"Making it Our Business" - Commercial Awareness Programme for Operational Managers, 6 Jun 2018 - This modular programme is designed to support operational managers in public services to support them in becoming more commercially aware when looking for opportunities to trade their service both internally and outside the organisation. For more information on this programme visit [here](#).

LEAN Practitioner Training, 19 Sep 2018 - LEAN Practitioner Training is a two-day module to develop your understanding of how using a variety of LEAN thinking and improvement tools can achieve improved services and outcomes. 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
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Mayor Kate Allsop

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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