

EMC POLICY BRIEF

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

Top items this week

12 FEBRUARY 2016



Midlands Engine Update



Local Government Finance Settlement



Pay Negotiations Update



EMC Events



Local Government Finance Settlement

Key points in final Local Government Finance Settlement announced this week:

- There has been no change to the method of distributing central funding (locally retained business rates and Revenue Support Grant) compared to the provisional settlement which from 2016/17 takes into account council tax.
- Additional funding in the form of transitional grant of £150 million in both 2016/17 and 2017/18 for the councils adversely affected by the change in distribution of central funding.
- The LGA called for the removal of additional tariff/top-up adjustment (no negative RSG). The Government has made available £2.3 million in 2017/18 and £22.8 million in 2018/19 to remove this adjustment.
- Compared to the provisional settlement, an extra £60.5 million has been added to the Rural Services Delivery Grant in 2016/17 and £30 million in 2017/18.
- The additional funding available over the four year period amounts to £415.6 million.
- All Shire Districts will be given the flexibility to raise council tax by the maximum of £5 or 2 per cent. According to DCLG numbers, this is an additional £39.2 million in council tax in 2019/20 if all Shire Districts use this flexibility every year of the four year period.

Analysis

Research conducted by [LGC](#) has identified that more than 70% of the £150m transitional funding for councils in 2016/17 will go to counties. The analysis identified that regionally, almost 30% of the cash will go to the south east, while councils in the East Midlands will receive 6%.



EMC News

East Midlands MPs meet to Discuss Regional Priorities - Co-chaired by Chris Heaton-Harris and Chris Leslie, MPs from across the region met on Tuesday 9th February and

agreed to work on securing a better deal for the region. In recognition of where this region loses out in terms of public expenditure, and where this region has clear strengths and comparative advantage in securing higher rates of national economic growth, MPs will be lending their weight in campaigning for further investment to meet our infrastructure priorities. A background summary note and copy of the presentation is available [\[here\]](#).

Regional Summit on Syrian Resettlement Programme - Over 110 people from across 52 different organisations attended the regional summit on the Syrian Resettlement programme that was held this week. With both local and national speakers, including the Syrian Resettlement Minister, Richard Harrington MP; councillors were able to discuss the Government's proposed programme, the resource support available and likely requirements; and importantly were able to learn from those councils in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (and local community support organisations) that have already taken part in the resettlement programme.

EMC Support

HR Advice line Requests - This week we have had a number of HR Advice line request relating to ongoing developments and legal issues in Employment Law affecting local government. EMC is running an Employment Law event on 8 March that will provide an update on all key Employment Law areas and will be tailored to the specific needs and interest of those attending. For more information about this event visit [here](#).

EMC News (Continued)

Staff Survey - EMC staff are currently supporting a local authority member with their annual staff survey. The survey is to be conducted online, the final report will be delivered to the authority in March. For further information about the design,

development and delivery of staff surveys please contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk.

Councillor Events

Making Progress on Problems, 26 Feb 2016 - EMC is running an action planning session for Councillors, which will provide an opportunity for Councillors to experience directly how action learning works and understand what the benefits are of working with fellow Councillors using action learning to make progress on issues. Information [here](#).

Conflict Resolution and Mediation, 11 Mar 2016 - EMC is holding a half day workshops for local authority Councillors on Conflict Resolution and Mediation on 11 March 2016. For further visit [here](#).

Employers' Issues



Final Pay Offer to Chief Executives - The National Employers have today made a final pay offer to the Staff Side of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives. A letter setting out the details is attached. EMC will update members as soon as there are any further developments with these national pay negotiations. To view the letter visit [here](#).

Employers' Circular Clarifying Final Offer to Craftworkers - Please find attached circular that clarifies the Employers' final pay offer to the Craft unions, along with advice for action that may need to be taken ahead of the introduction of the National Living Wage on 1 April. To view the letter visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



New panel to investigate the 'regeneration' of deprived estates - A new panel, co-chaired by Lord Heseltine, was launched this week to look into the regeneration of some of the country's most deprived estates.

Government review to consider future of HCA - Housing and planning minister Brandon Lewis has announced a review of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

The review will examine the continuing need for a non-departmental public body covering:

- How each of the Agency's functions contributes to government objectives;
- Whether each function and the body is still required; and
- The best future delivery options.

East Midlands RTPi Event Duty to Co-operate, 19 April 2016 - A half day EMRTPI CPD event which will take place on the 19 April 2016 at Pera Melton Mowbray, to explore the Duty to Co-operate in the context of devolution. Key speakers include **Keith Holland** (ex PINS Assistant Director) and **John Baker** (Peter Brett Associates) - as well as local planners Rob Murfin and Pat Willoughby.

If you or a colleague are interested, please follow this link to book a place [here](#).

PAS publishes guidance on housing-led LDOs - Feasibility studies, viability assessments and project leadership are all key elements in developing housing-led Local Development Orders (LDOs), according to a new advice note published by the Government's Planning Advisory Service (PAS). For more information visit [here](#).

Midlands Connect



Midlands Connect Steering Group Meeting - The first Midlands Connect Steering Group meeting took place this week, members of the group include Mike Ashworth, Derbyshire County Council (Vice Chair) and Phil Crossland from Leicestershire County Council. The group discussed the emerging work programme and agreed comments on draft briefs for the first two major work packages (Corridors and Hubs and HS2 readiness).

Midlands Engine



Midlands Engine Ministerial Roundtable - A 'Midlands Engine Ministerial Roundtable' meeting was held at the House of Commons on Tuesday February 2, between Minister for Local Government Marcus Jones and his senior Civil Servants, and Midlands Engine colleagues. The aim was to update the Minister on progress on taking forward proposals in the Midlands Engine Prospectus and also to discuss/propose Midlands Engine 'asks' for Budget 2016 (on March 16); to create a dialogue with Ministers rather than a list of 'demands'.

The Minister said he was pleased with the progress so far on driving forward the Midlands Engine Prospectus. Highlights referenced by ME members included the current work with UKTI on the MIPIM 2016 pitchbook and on Skills.

Midlands Engine Update (continued)

Upcoming Midlands Engine -related meetings

- **February 23** – Midlands Engine Senior Steering Group (SSG) meeting.

Local Government News



MPs urge greater public involvement in devolution deals - MPs have urged ministers and local council politicians to do more to ensure the public is engaged in devolution proposals, negotiations and outcomes.

That's the view of the Commons Communities and Local Government Committee which has just published a report on the Government's devolution legislation and the ground-breaking Manchester deal.

The all-party committee also reviewed the way in which devolution in England is moving ahead in other places such as the Tees Valley, Liverpool, Leeds and Cornwall.

To view the press release visit [here](#).

Centre for Public Scrutiny, East Midlands Health Scrutiny Workshop, 17 February, Leicester Council House. The event will include a presentation on overview and scrutiny and Inequalities, Integration of health and social care and Commissioning and reconfiguration. For further information please contact Brenda Cook, *Centre for Public Scrutiny Regional Advocate, Central and Eastern Region*, brenda@bcook5.orangehome.co.uk

Free Leadership Essentials for Sport and Physical Activity, 2 & 3 March 2016 - Sport England and LGA are pleased to offer the fourteenth Leadership Essentials Sport programme. Over 95% of councillors attending the previous programmes have said they found the programme very informative and would help them in their sport/physical activity/health portfolio role.

The two day programme will include a mixture of speakers from Sport England, LGA and partner councils, group discussions and plenty of opportunity to network and share experiences with members in similar roles.

There is no delegate fee for the academy, which covers accommodation, meals, and course materials for the two days. Places are limited to one member per council. For more information contact grace.collins@local.gov.uk

EMC Events



Planning Masterclass: Preparing for EIPs into Local Plans, 14 Mar 2016 - East Midlands Councils is holding a very practical one day Planning Masterclass on 14 March 2016 at our offices in Melton Mowbray to help local authority planning officers prepare for and perform well at EIPs into local plans. For further information and to book a place please visit [here](#).

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children - Age Assessment Training, 22 Mar 2016 - This practical event will cover the legislative background to asylum claims; looks at the relevant guidelines applicable; look at the Merton and other relevant decisions, and issues involved in preparation for the assessment and then the assessment itself. For further information and to book a place please visit [here](#).

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Vice Chair: Cllr Jon Collins

Vice Chair: Cllr Neil Clarke MBE

Conservative Group: Cllr Chris Millar

Labour Group: Cllr Robert Parker

Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE

Independent Group: Cllr Alan Walters

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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