

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

29 JANUARY 2016



Resettling Syrian Refugees
Event with
Richard Harrington MP



EMC Meeting - 5 February
2016



EMC HR Bulletin
January Edition



EMC Events

Invitation to EMC Meeting - includes Lord Gary Porter, Chair of the LGA as speaker



The EMC General Meeting of Council Leaders and EMC members will take place next week on Friday 5 February. The meeting will provide Councillors with an opportunity to hear from Lord Porter of Spalding CBE, Chairman of the Local Government Association, on the 'Current Challenges and Opportunities Facing Local Government'.

The meeting will include updates on;

- **Regional Infrastructure and Investment Priorities** - Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect and HS2 in the East Midlands.
- **East Midlands Housing Review** - with the presentation of the final draft of the EMC Housing Review for endorsement for publication, and as part of EMCs submission to the LGA Housing Commission's call for evidence.
- **International Migration** (Asylum Dispersal and Syrian Resettlement) in the East Midlands

The meeting will take place at Nottinghamshire County Council on 5 February 2016. For further details or to register your attendance contact Lisa.Bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk



East Midlands
Councils

EMC News

East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group, 9 February - Chris Leslie MP and Chris Heaton-Harris MP (Co Chairs of the East Midlands APPG) are to hold the next meeting of

the Group. The focus of the meeting will be to agree upon our regional priorities, which once decided will be used as the basis of collective action by Members going forwards. The meeting will take place on the 9th February 2016, at 2.00-3.00pm in London. Please contact the group's secretariat, Stuart Young at stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk or visit [here](#) for details of the priorities areas to be discussed.

EMC Support Work

Accredited Leadership Development Programme Support - This week EMC Colleagues have delivered an MBTI workshop, part of an ILM 5 Leadership and Management Programme for local authority officers. The MBTI workshop included; Introduction to the Myers Briggs, understanding leadership, exploring leadership attitudes, strengths and challenges and provided an opportunity for delegates to reflect on what they had learnt and how this impacts on Team Effectiveness.

Resettling Syrian Refugees Event with Richard Harrington MP, 11 February - The programme for this event has been published this week and now includes an opportunity for Council Leaders and Executive Board members to meet privately with Richard Harrington MP over lunch. Over 70 people have now booked a place at this event, further places are still available to book from [here](#).

Councillor Events

Making Progress on Problems, 26 Feb 2016 - East Midlands Councils 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. For further details of this workshop and to book a place please visit [here](#).

Conflict Resolution and Mediation, 11 Mar 2016 - East Midlands Councils is holding a half day workshops for local authority Councillors on Conflict Resolution and Mediation on 11 March 2016. For further details of this workshop and to book a place please visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Midlands Connect welcomes legislation for region-wide transport bodies - Midlands Connect, the partnership tasked with developing a transport blueprint to unlock economic growth and jobs, welcomed new legislation that could see it given formal powers over strategic schemes and investment. To read the press release in full visit [here](#).

Welfare Reform and Work Bill, LGA Update - This week the LGA have released an update on the report Stage House of Lords of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill. Key messages from the LGA's briefing available from [here](#).

Planning4People Campaign - This week the Town & Country Planning Association have launched two short films about the #Planning4People campaign.

- The first film is about the #Planning4People manifesto available from [here](#)
- The second film asked 'what does planning mean to you?' available from [here](#)

Employers' Issues



EMC HR Bulletin, January Edition - EMC published its January HR Bulletin this week. This edition covers updates on key national developments including pay negotiations, removal of the Designated Independent Person (DIP) and advice on the use of Market Supplements and Job Evaluation, details below. Employment law specialist, Darren Newman, explores **consistency** when dealing with disciplinary cases. Available from [here](#).

National Developments - Local Government Pay - Trade unions are in the process of consulting their members on the pay offer for Green Book employees. In the absence of an agreement ahead of the introduction of the National Living Wage on 1st April 2016, we recently circulated advice to authorities to increase pay for those on scp 6, 7 & 8 from 1st April to £13,891pa until such time as a pay agreement is finalised.

Removal of the Designated Independent Person (DIP) - National negotiations are continuing in order to agree new provisions in national conditions of service, following the removal of the Designated Independent Person as a statutory protection for Heads of Paid Service, Monitoring Officers and s151 Officers. As soon as agreement has been reached, we will notify you.

Advice on the Use of Market Supplements and Job Evaluation - Joint advice has recently been issued to provide new guidance on the use of market supplements. To access a copy of the guidance, visit [here](#).

JNC for Coroners - Coroners' Pay - Management Side Circular to Local Authorities, 22 January 2016 - A JNC for Coroners Management Side circular and a letter from the LGA to Secretary of State for Justice. The circular can be access from [here](#).

CEEP UK News Alert, 22 January 2016 - This edition [[available here](#)] includes **details of a new EU funding** programme that has recently been launched – the **Urban Innovative Actions** Programme.

This programme is funded by ERDF and it aims to provide a space (lab) for urban authorities to experiment with the most innovative and creative solutions to today's most complex urban challenges.

The programme is aimed at urban authorities with more than 50,000 inhabitants (or groupings of urban authorities with a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants). However, projects should involve urban authorities, delivery partners and wider stakeholders. There is no requirement for transnational working. For further information visit [here](#).

The News alert includes;

- EU funding for sustainable urban development – Urban Innovative Actions
- CEEP Environment Task Force: Next Task Force meeting and Invitation to event on Circular Economy
- CEEP Energy Task Force: Draft response to consultation on review of energy efficiency directive
- CEEP Energy Task Force: Draft response to consultation on new renewable energy directive
- Social Europe e-newsletter : 19 January 2016

Economic Development, Skills & Education



East Midlands Airport soars to a new cargo record - Cargo services into and out of East Midlands Airport have beaten annual records for the second year running. The airport handled 322,918 tonnes during 2015, 4.5 per cent up on 2014, making it the busiest in its 50-year history. For more information visit [here](#).

Local Government News



Devolution Bill receives Royal Assent

Laws which pave the way for powers, controls, and responsibilities to be devolved from central to local government have come into force after the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act received royal assent on Thursday 28 January.

Jim Harker to step down as Northamptonshire County Council leader - Cllr Jim Harker OBE is to step down as Leader of Northamptonshire County Council after more than a decade in the role and 23 years as Leader of the Conservative Group. Cllr Harker will officially resign from the position at the annual general meeting of the County Council in May but will continue as a councillor until the County Council elections 2017. View press release [here](#).

IT Security Network meeting - A network of local government IT Security officers met this week as part of the EMGWARP Network. The network received a presentation on Resilience Direct, a nationally used secure platform for sharing information that supports effective multi-agency working and offers a greater sense of shared situational awareness. Resilience Direct was used during Storm Desmond. Cumbria set up a Strategic Recovery group structure to deal with the aftermath using Resilience Direct and used the mapping feature to brief ministers on impact on Cumbrian infrastructure (bridges and roads destroyed/flood extents). Further information visit [here](#).

UK to offer Sanctuary to Unaccompanied Refugee Children from Conflict Regions

- UK to work with UNHCR on new initiative to resettle unaccompanied refugee children from conflict regions such as Syria to the UK.
- Department for International Development to create a new fund of up to £10 million to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children in Europe.
- New measures to complement existing substantial UK aid and resettlement programmes.

EMSMP Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Task Group meet on Friday 29 January and discussed the implications of the announcement for local authorities in the East Midlands.

The LGA response to the announcement can be found [here](#): The Ministerial Statement can be found [here](#).

LGA's Improvement and Innovation Bulletin - This month's bulletin includes details of the updated infographic which highlights local authorities' increased take up of the LGAs sector-led improvement offer. Along with details of the increased interest in the LGAs political leadership development programmes. To access the sector led improvement pages visit [here](#).

Health & Social Care



East Midlands Platform for Health and Wellbeing - Health remains one of the most significant barriers holding people back from gaining employment; with all the wider problems that this entails.

In looking at ways to address this issue, Public Health England invites EMC Members to a free event organised by the East Midlands Platform for Health and Wellbeing on 'health and worklessness', to be held at Trent Vineyard Conferencing, Easter Park, Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2PX. Please register to attend by emailing Aileen.guyatt@phe.gov.uk or view further information [here](#).

EMC Events



Embodied Coaching - Coaching CPD session, 11 Mar 2016 - The East Midlands Coaching Network is holding a very practical CPD session for Coaches on 11 March 2016 in Melton Mowbray. For further information about this workshop for Coaches please visit [here](#).

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children - Age Assessment Training, 22 Mar 2016 - Following the popularity of this event in December 2015 we are running this session again. 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 about this course 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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