

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET**

7 July 2015

Report of the Chief Executive

EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS – ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2015-16

1. Purpose of the Report

To approve the Council's 2015-16 subscription to the East Midlands Councils.

2. Information and Analysis

The Council's membership of the East Midlands Council is due for renewal for 2015-16 and the subscription is £9,500 which is the same as 2014-15.

Throughout 2014-15 EMC has engaged in a range of policy work and lobbied on issues of importance to Councils in the East Midlands. The EMCs priorities for 2015-16 are completing a housing review; continuing efforts to secure greater investment into the East Midlands and providing a platform for councillors' leadership on key issues. Attached as an appendix is a list of the support/activities undertaken by the EMC during 2014-15.

3. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

4. Background Papers

Letter from the Executive Director EMC dated 26 May 2015.

5. Key Decision

No

6. Call – In

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

7. Officer's Recommendation

That the EMCs 2015-16 annual subscription fee of £9,500 be approved.

**Ian Stephenson
Chief Executive**

Membership of EMC has saved Derbyshire County Council £14,467 in 2014/15



East Midlands Councils support to Derbyshire County Council

Political Representation and Engagement

EMC Representatives - Cllr Anne Western, Cllr Dave Wilcox OBE

Executive Board - Cllr Anne Western

Improvement and Transformation Board - Cllr Anne Western

HS2 Programme Board - Cllr Anne Western

Health and Well Being Chairs Network - Cllr Dave Allen

SUPPORTING ELECTED MEMBERS

Member Development

Events attended by Councillors:

10th Oct 2014 - Rail Event

4th Nov 2014 - Regional Pay Briefing

13th Feb 2015 - EU Priorities Event

Number of councillors who have attended events and APPG Meetings:

9

Networks attended by Councillors:

- Scrutiny Network

SUPPORTING OFFICER DEVELOPMENT

Human Resources (HR) Support

Advice Line & Information and Research Function (part of core service)

Since April 2014, the authority has used the Advice Line 3 times and the Information and Research Function once.

On-Line HR Information System

Your authority has taken up the EMC negotiated discounted licence for Xpert HR and purchased 2 licences at a saving of £4062.

EpayCheck

The authority has signed up to EpayCheck Benchmarking Service.

Professional Learning and Development Support

Low Cost CPD for Planning Officers

Your authority has signed up to this programme offering 3 places on each of 6 seminars at a cost of £30 per person per day leading to a saving of £2,000. Events this year have focused on Neighbourhood Planning, The Future of Town Centres, Open Minded Planning, Appeals and Enquiries, CIL and S106, Manifesto for Planning.

East Midlands Councils Learning and Development Events

Since April 2014, 4 members of staff have attended the following Learning and Development events:

10th Oct 2014 - East Midlands Rail Summit

4th Nov 2014 - Regional Pay Briefing

10th Dec 2014 - Shared Parental Leave

EMC run Planning Masterclass events which have been attended by 2 delegates.

East Midlands Councils Practitioner Networks

Since April 2014, members of staff have attended the following practitioner networks:

- Scrutiny Network
- Performance Management Network

Information Security Support

Information Security

Derbyshire County Council is a member of a scheme that allows access to an information security breach warning service, saving up to £7000 per year in license costs.

STRATEGIC INFLUENCE/ADDING VALUE

In order to reflect sector priorities, a strong focus of the work of EMC has been upon supporting economic growth. In this regard, the following work is highlighted to member councils:

- EMC has worked with LEPs and other partners to prepare for the next round of EU Structural Funds (2014-20) through the delivery of an ERDF Technical Assistance Project. During 2014, two reports have been published and disseminated giving advice and guidance on developing strategic scale projects that cross LEP boundaries.
- EMC has supported the East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group, including an International Migration meeting in June 2014 and, in conjunction with PHE and wider health partners, a meeting on health in October 2014. Both events resulted in published reviews which have then formed the basis for further collective work and lobbying.
- EMC has worked closely with councils to broker a regional agreement on preferred Hub station location at Toton, and worked with councils and LEPs in south and west Yorkshire through the Eastern Network Partnership (now HS2 East) to promote the delivery of HS2 Eastern Leg as a whole.
- EMC has brokered agreement between councils to promote 5 regional strategic infrastructure priorities as the basis for collective work during 2015.
- With strong support from LEPs and councils, EMC has worked closely with the West Midlands ITA to develop the 'Midlands Connect' initiative, which is building the economic case for long term strategic transport infrastructure investment across the Midlands.
- EMC with support from the Met Office and Climate East Midlands undertook a comprehensive review into the 'Changing Nature of Flooding in the East Midlands', which made recommendations for Government, councils and businesses and was the subject of considerable media interest.
- EMC published an updated review of the initial impacts of the Government's welfare reforms in the East Midlands and continues to monitor progress and to make representations to Government where necessary.
- EMC continues to support Rural Network East Midlands and made well-evidenced representations to Government on rural affordable housing policy.
- EMC supported the East Midlands Royal Town Planning Institute in delivering 5 breakfast events at universities across the East Midlands on the future of planning and development with contributions from local MPs, council leaders and academics.
- EMC supported the Town and County Planning Association in hosting a round-table event to inform emerging TCPA policy.
- EMC provided technical support and advice on housing issues to the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, helping to secure over £4 million of Growth Deal funding to support housing projects.

Migration

East Midlands Councils hosts the Strategic Migration Partnership - funded by the Home Office to co-ordinate activities regarding the dispersal, accommodation and support of asylum seekers and wider migration issues across the region. During 2014/15 the EMSMP's achievements include:

- Publication of a major report on The Impact of International Migration in the East Midlands which identified four key themes; Local Data Quality, Cost Shifts to Local Government, Asylum Seeker Dispersal Policy and ESOL Provision.
- Discussions are ongoing with the Home Office and G4S in respect of widening asylum dispersal and how communities are effectively supported.
- The EMSMP has continued to promote Assisted Voluntary Returns through regular updates at Board meetings and the Asylum Support Group.
- Migrant Health Profiles for the region have been completed and will be published following the election period. A successful conference on migrant health for public health trainees in the East Midlands took place in September.
- An anti-human trafficking partnership for the East Midlands has been established and working with police, councils and wider partners, is addressing the priorities of intelligence sharing and training. Training on recognising the signs of trafficking has taken place across four county areas in February and March 2015.

Climate Change

Climate East Midlands (CEM) is an income generating part of East Midlands Councils and provides a range of services to member councils and their communities. CEM helps councils cut costs and carbon, build local resilience to extreme weather and grow the green economy, in line with Government policy and with support from public funds.

- During 2014/15, Climate East Midlands delivered a range of events with and for local authorities and their communities across the region, including 7 *Building Business Resilience* workshops in the Construction, Food & Drink and Agriculture sectors, a training workshop for planners in *Building a Resilient Environment* and a *Peer Learning day* hosted by Leicestershire County Council's Climate Action Team.
- CEM also provided opportunities for councils to participate in national events, including the Adaptation Sub Committee's report launch 'Managing climate risks to wellbeing and the economy', Climate UK's national conference 'Resilience to a changing climate – local solutions', and webinars on 'Communicating around extreme weather' and the new 'Highways Infrastructure Resilience Assessment Modelling tool'.
- CEM has continued to develop and manage a suite of online resources aimed at local authorities on behalf of the Climate UK network, including CEM's own website which now includes 'Local Action' to help publicise local authority-led action on energy and resilience and the new 'Climate Just website and map tool' on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which is designed to allow councils to identify communities in their local areas who are most socially vulnerable to weather and climate extremes.

EMC Policy Briefing

EMC's weekly Policy Briefing which highlights key policy development and relevant EMC initiatives is sent to lead officers and members in your authority.

