

EM IEP Monthly News Bulletin

October 2008



East Midlands

Improvement and
Efficiency Partnership

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Information

EM IEP Programme Manager Vacancy

Initially working on Climate Change/Environmental Services
Salary: **£38,404 - £42,664**

Would you like to provide valuable support to the 46 councils and 5 Fire & Rescue authorities in the East Midlands region?

Would you like to stretch your abilities to meet your full potential?

Working as one of the EM IEP Programme Managers could enable you to meet these challenges. Nottinghamshire County Council is the host authority for the East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Support Team. The post of EM IEP Communications and Information Officer will be advertised on the Nottinghamshire County Council website from 29th September

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/jobs.htm>

Please refer to the following web page address for background information on the EM IEP
www.eastmidlandsiep.gov.uk

Please contact Andrew Foster (07921 491698) andrew.foster@nottsc.gov.uk for further information.



Information

East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership

The EM IEP aims to bring lasting improvements to our area and has a budget of £20 million over the next three years to do exactly that. It will help forge closer relationships between East Midland authorities, there are 46 councils and five fire and rescue authorities involved, to help them challenge and support one another on their 'improvement journeys'. Other local government organisations, such as the Audit Commission, Government Office East Midlands and the Improvement and Development Agency, will also play an important role.

A leaflet has been published by the EM IEP that is intended to give you an idea of the kind of work that will be carried out by the newly formed East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (EM IEP). The leaflet has been distributed to all 46 councils and 5 fire & rescue authorities across the EM and is also available to download from the EM IEP website.

www.eastmidlandsiep.gov.uk/about_us.htm

Summer 2008

East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership

East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership

Landscape, Bridges Park, Charnwood Forest

Dulwich, The Crescent, Sutton

Landscape, Sheep Tade Mill, Gainsborough

A brief introduction

This leaflet is intended to give you an idea of the kind of work that will be carried out by the newly formed East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (EM IEP).

The partnership aims to bring lasting improvements to our area and has a budget of just under £20 million over the next three years to do exactly that.

"The EM IEP development presents an exciting opportunity and challenge for local authorities across our area to manage their own improvement."

"With significant resources made available by government over three years, there is a good incentive to strive for real service and performance improvements."

Councilor Mark Hyl, chairman of the board

It will help forge closer relationships between East Midland authorities — there are 46 councils and five fire and rescue authorities involved — to help them challenge and support one another on their 'improvement journeys'.

Other local government organisations — such as the Audit Commission, Government Office East Midlands and the Improvement and Development Agency — will also play roles.

The first East Midlands IEP members board meeting was held in May 2008.

This leaflet:

- A brief introduction.
- A bit of background.
- What will the partnership be doing?
- Who's behind it?
- Our vision.
- The delivery plan.
- Further information.

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Information

The best councils to work for

Two authorities in the East Midlands have been named in the top 25 'best councils to work for'.

East Northamptonshire Council was praised in the recent Times survey, which shines a spotlight on good council employers and what they do to get the best out of their people. The survey contains questions on leadership, day-to-day management, team colleagues and pay and benefits. Voted for by those who work there, the poll shows how people really feel about where they work.

East Northamptonshire Council came 18th in the poll and was praised for the way staff were involved in the direction of the council, as well as its recognition of outstanding individual contributions from staff.

For more information go to the Times website:
www.timesonline.co.uk





Information

Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnerships Introduction

Councils and their partners face a tough challenge - the need to make peoples' lives better in a tight financial climate. Councils are well placed to meet this challenge with the right kind of support. This is where the RIEPs are set to play such a pivotal role. IDeA Knowledge provides an introduction to the nine RIEPs and how they support improvement.

Visit www.idea.gov.uk/rieeps

Efficiency information with council tax bills

Ministers launch a local government consultation on providing efficiency information with council tax bills.

See the following link:

www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/952176

LSPs and workforce challenges

Is your local strategic partnership taking effective action to ensure that you have a skilled and committed public services workforce to deliver your sustainable community strategy? Access our new resource with case studies and guidance that will help you realise your LSP ambitions.

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=8632187

OGC Temporary Staff Times

The September edition of the OGC Temporary Staff Times is now available to download from:

www.eastmidlandsiep.gov.uk/news_info.htm

This edition includes:

- Increase to minimum wage
- Update on the EU Temporary (Agency) Worker Directive



Information

Common core principles to support self care: a guide to support implementation

Self care includes both self care and self management. Self care is about individuals taking responsibility for their own health and well-being. Self-management is about individuals making the most of their lives by coping with difficulties and making the most of what they have. It includes managing or minimising the way conditions limit individuals' lives as well as what they can do to feel happy and fulfilled to make the most of their lives despite the condition.

Supporting self care is about working in partnership in a process of two-way communication, negotiation and decision making in which both the individual and the care professional contribute to the care planning process to achieve the best possible outcomes for the individual; it is not about care professionals handing over responsibility to individuals.

The 'Common Core Principles to Support Self Care' aim to help health and social care services give people control over, and responsibility for, their own health and well being, working in partnership with health and social care professionals.

Consistent with the personalisation agenda they put people at the centre of the planning process, and recognise that they are best placed to understand their own needs and how to meet them.

The Common Core Principles are intended to support self care in its broadest sense and will include but not be limited to those individuals living with a long-term condition or complex needs. The principles are consistent with the policy directives of the White Paper 'Our health, our care, our say', the seven outcomes set out in 'Putting People First' and a wide range of other policies and initiatives. The seven outcomes will be used to structure goal-setting for health, social care and related activity in Local Authority Agreements.

To download the document go to:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084505





Information

Foundations for the future: a Councillor's guide to strategic housing

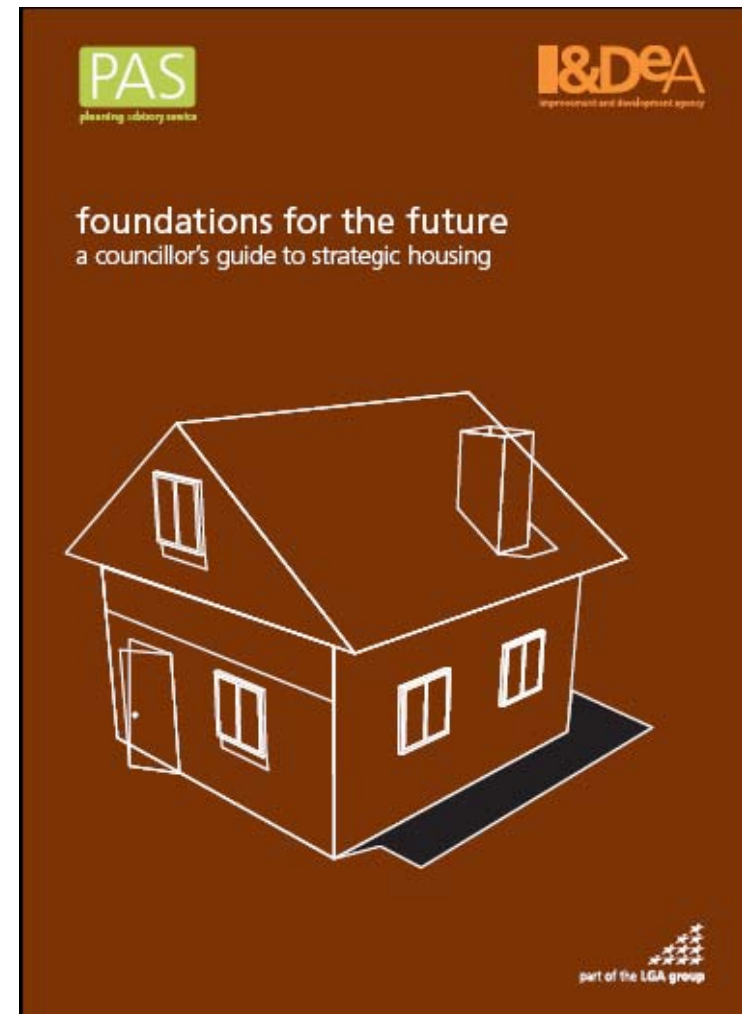
This IDeA publication aims to give elected members a snapshot of how they can affect housing policy. Read it and discover how to make policy and set strategy.

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio8702494

Implementation of 14-19 Reforms

This report evaluates the progress being made in implementing 14-19 reforms, based on visits to 16 local authority areas from April 2007 to March 2008.

www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Implementation-of-14-19-reforms-an-evaluation-of-progress





Information

Inclusion of Efficiency Information with Council Tax Demand

Notices:

People are rightly expecting more information, consultation, a greater say in decisions and the ability to demand answers or action from public services when things are not right.

At the same time, citizens place a high emphasis on the efficiency and value for money of those services. Councils recognised this and rose to the challenge set for them by the Gershon Review. They have reported forecast figures for cashable efficiency gains of £3.3 bn over the last four years – the equivalent of £123 off the average Band D council tax bill.

But it is vital to maintain a relentless drive for innovation, improvement and efficiency. We expect local government to be able to achieve three per cent efficiency savings each year over the next three years, as with the public sector generally in this spending review period. By doing so, this year, councils will not just have almost £1 bn extra in core grant, but also £1.5 bn on top to invest in better services, or help control council tax pressures.

Without information, citizens cannot be empowered. Taxpayers place great emphasis on getting value for money from local government, and it is right that they are given the data they need to judge progress and to hold councils to account. This consultation paper sets out a proposal to require councils to include standard, simple measures of efficiency performance alongside council tax notices to highlight for each household the real achievement of local government for them – and put that achievement properly into context.

Making best use of the resources and choices available to councils is at the heart of delivering successful public services. I look forward to receiving your responses to this proposal as the empowerment of local people is a subject that is vital to us all.

John Healey
Minister for Local Government

Access the full report from:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/952293.pdf



Information

4ps launches new guidance to support Local Authority regeneration

Six out of ten local authorities are failing to make the most out of their property assets despite facing tough economic challenges, according to new research commissioned by 4ps. 4ps, local government's project delivery specialist, is today urging local authorities to use their property assets wisely to help finance new regeneration schemes and achieve efficiency savings. Selling off old or underutilised buildings can generate significant income for local authorities and their property assets can be critical to making regeneration schemes viable. 4ps' research shows that in 2007/08 local authorities generated over £105 million by selling off buildings which were no longer in use. Andrew Rowson, 4ps' Director for Housing and Property, is calling on local authorities to review their property portfolio in order to free up funds for local regeneration.

For further information visit www.4ps.gov.uk

Local Authority Byelaws

Following consultation in 2006 on the discussion paper *Local Authority Byelaws in England: Procedures for making, confirming and enforcing byelaws* published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) the Government has now brought forward this consultation. The aim is to make it easier and less bureaucratic for councils to bring in byelaws and enforce them. The consultation document entitled *The making and enforcing of byelaws* takes as its starting point that there was a clear consensus in the 2006 discussion paper that byelaws currently confirmed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) should no longer need confirmation by Central Government before they can be enacted and enforced. A similar view was taken in relation to other government departments.

It proposes allowing councils to make certain byelaws without confirmation from the Secretary of State (that they can be enacted and enforced) and to enable councils to introduce fixed penalty fines for byelaws as an alternative to enforcement through the Magistrates' Courts. Councils are urged to consider the Government's seven step process and the level of penalty fine.

The consultation closes on **20 November 2008**.



Information

New version of Improvement Network launched

A new version of the Improvement Network and its Improvement Tools has been launched to better meet the needs of its users. Access this feature article, which explains more about these benefits and wealth of new content available.

Please note that the Improvement Tools content is only accessible to users with the following email address domains: '.gov.uk', '.nhs.uk', '.nhs.net', '.pnn.police.uk'. The licence to these tools has been extended until 31 May 2009.

<http://www.improvementnetwork.gov.uk>



Preparing a local economic assessment

It's likely that government will impose a duty on councils to carry out a local economic assessment. However, you don't need to wait for this legislation – it is essential to underpin policy development with a good evidence base. IDeA have gathered some case studies and created a nine-step guide to help you prepare your own.

Download additional information from the following link:

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=8712709





Information

Westminster Water Saving Scheme to reduce water usage by 20%

Civic buildings in Westminster are being audited and fitted with water saving devices to save taxpayers up to £400,000 over the next five years. Almost a third of Westminster City Council's 147 buildings have already been surveyed and fitted with equipment such as infrared sensors on sinks and urinals, restricted flow showers and Hippo bags in toilets to save water.

The improvements, which should be complete by the end of the year, should reduce the amount of water used by the council by 20 per cent and save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of pounds. The audits and improvements apply to all civic buildings in Westminster such as City Hall and Council House, schools, libraries and One-Stop-Shops.

The company leading the changes, AquaFund, will also check for leaks and check the council's water bills to ensure the council is on the right tariff and is spending the right amount on VAT.

For more information contact Jenny Legg at Westminster City Council's press office on [020 7641 2259](tel:02076412259).

5.2% Cost avoidance on electricity bills possible

Over 40 officers from 46 different authorities in the East Midlands heard how it is possible to save over 5% on energy bills by following the Flexible Procurement methodology developed as part of the Pan Government Energy Project during a workshop facilitated by the EM IEP on Tuesday 23 September. Berni Holdsworth from the MOD as the Programme sponsor supported by Susie Owen and Martina Lenaghan from OGC explained to delegates the complex issues involved and emphasised the need for Local Authorities to collaborate and aggregate demand to gain maximum advantage from the public sectors position as the largest purchaser of energy in the UK.

In an era of constantly changing prices a strategy based on "Flexible Procurement" has been shown and audited to delivery a 5.2% cost avoidance.

Delegates learned that the Project has developed a Complaint Contract framework to facilitate Flexible Procurement and to manage the risk strategy for what is an increasingly technical procurement area. The slides and documents provided for this workshop are available on the EM IEP web site:

www.eastmidlandsiep.gov.uk/events/feedback.htm



Information

Local Authorities take up the fight against Climate Change

The Government today published statistics for the 2006 Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions at Local Authority and Government Office Region level.

The figures represent all UK emissions allocated to Local Authority areas on an end-user basis, incorporating all business, household and transport emissions, so that they are distributed according to the location of energy consumption.

Up until now these statistics have been “experimental” but this is the first year that allows a meaningful year on year comparison of CO₂ emissions in local areas.

Local Authorities have risen to the challenge of climate change as demonstrated by the widespread commitment to include climate change targets in their Local Area Agreements (LAAs). Significantly, the majority of LAAs contain targets against National Indicator 186 on reducing per capita emissions of CO₂ in their areas, of between four and 15 per cent of the 2005 baseline.

For more information go to:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080918b.htm>

Joint Waste Authorities – summary of consultation response

Defra has published a summary of responses to its recent consultation on draft Regulations and draft Guidance for establishing Joint Waste Authorities (JWAs) in England. The option of JWAs was sought by local authorities to help deliver a more efficient and sustainable waste management service and to provide a legal framework for joint waste working arrangements.

In light of comments, Defra will consider expanding some areas of the draft guidance to provide more detail regarding the information that should be included in a proposal for a JWA.

Download additional information from the following link:

www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080815a.htm

For further information contact
Hamid Kennedy – 01305 755494

h.kennedy@dorsetcc.gov.uk



Information

Carbon Reduction Commitment

You may be affected by a new legally binding climate change and energy saving scheme called the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). It will cover large business and public sector organisations. It will have a significant impact on reducing UK carbon dioxide emissions from these organisations.

For more information visit :

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/business/crc/

Commissioning Substance Misuse and Family Support Services

This case study describes how the Staffordshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) partnership re-commissioned their young people's substance misuse service in 2006-07. The study focuses on how stakeholders were involved in service design and how competitive tendering was used to capture innovative working models. The scope of the new services commissioned includes Tier 2 and 3 drug and alcohol services and a countywide family support service for children and young people with an increasingly complex range of needs. The approach outlined in this case study is transferable to other targeted and specialist services.

View the case study produced by Every Child Matters
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/search/EP00397/



Event

EAST MIDLANDS EXPO 2008

Acting on CO₂

Your invitation to
**The East Midlands Sustainable
Development Event of the Year**

Wednesday 19th November 2008

9:30 am till 4:00 pm

The EPIC Centre, Lincolnshire Showground,
LN2 2NA

*An unparalleled opportunity to network with
businesses and organisations involved in delivering
sustainable goods and services*

- More than 80 exhibitors
- Local food producers' market
- Tour the new sustainable EPIC Centre

- East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network Conference
- Building Climate Friendly Communities Seminar
- Sustainable Construction Workshop

For more information and to sign up for these free seminars and workshops please visit:

www.emra.gov.uk/east-midlands-expo



Event

Beyond eco-towns: Can we build 3 million zero carbon homes by 2020

Tuesday 4 November

10:00 - 15:00

Venue: LGiU, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0TB

Rates

LGIU Affiliated Organisations: £150.00 (£176.25 inc VAT)

Others: £250 (£293.75 inc VAT)

Description

Before the plans have even been finalised eco-towns are under fire. Will they be able to balance the demands of sustainable living and housing shortage? Will they find the solution to zero carbon housing? Will they successfully integrate into local communities?

At this seminar you will find out about the latest developments in the eco-towns proposals and standards. But the principle of well-designed buildings and infrastructure that delivers sustainable communities should not be limited to eco-towns. New ideas and solutions to sustainable living are already being tested in negotiations for housing allocations and masterplans that you are working on now.

Take part in the seminar to learn about the sustainable projects that are already taking place and debate how we take the ambition for sustainable living forward.

Aims of the event

- To understand the potential for eco-towns standards to deliver housing and sustainability goals
- To provide insight into how planning policy can deliver low carbon, affordable housing
- To share the ideas and learning from zero carbon developments and see how it can be translated into other communities.

Speakers

Henry Cleary (Deputy Director Communities & Local Government Housing & Growth Programmes Team), Gideon Amos (Chief Executive, Town & Country Planning Association), Kate Gordon (Senior Planning Officer, CPRE) and Centre for Cities

Who should attend

Councillors and officers interested in planning, transport or sustainability.

Go to www.lgiu.gov.uk for further information.



Event

A new public services innovation conference: Share bright ideas to improve people's lives

**Thursday 20 – Friday 21 November 2008,
Business Design Centre, London N1**

People want to live in places with high-quality services, a safe environment, accessible transport links, a strong sense of community and opportunities for all. This aspiration is not new but the world in which councils and other local public service providers are seeking to achieve it is changing rapidly and becoming increasingly complex. So much so that it is no longer simply enough to speak of improving council performance as the solution to creating the sort of places people want to live.

Local Area Agreements have now been signed and the issues we face – climate change, community cohesion, affordable housing, teenage pregnancy, and worklessness are not things we can crack by simply doing more of the same but better. They require innovations in local public services, which by definition, do not yet exist and require local public service providers to design. They require us to harness the collective expertise and knowledge we hold to generate new ideas.

This new conference will help you to deliver the top priorities for your locality.

It will provide a unique opportunity for public service policy makers and providers to come together to share ideas and insights, showcase emerging good practice and design together solutions to the most intransigent problems.

Facilitator **Gene Payne** will shape this event around the issues you want to tackle. With the help of innovation experts from the Young Foundation, the Innovation Catalyst, Forum for the Future, Improvement and Development Agency and the Leadership Centre for Local Government, we will explore what we already know, develop new ideas and ways of taking them forward.

But the learning won't stop there. During the event we will capture the best ideas and practice that emerges and showcase the best of these across the local government family in *first* magazine in the months to follow.

For more information: email: info@lga.gov.uk, tel: 020 7664 3131



Event

FREE training – Business Improvement

We've already saved a lot of time and money

You could feel the buzz...it was amazing

The trainers were great, really helpful

These are just a few of the quotes from people who have completed the **FREE Business Improvement training**, available to all local authorities in the region. The East Midlands IEP is supporting the programme to help build capacity within organisations, a vital theme of both the National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy and the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The programme has been developed in collaboration with NA Consulting, a professional training organisation, working alongside regional colleges. Participants work together in teams of 10 to carry out a short, **'real-world' improvement project** within their authority, bringing tangible organisational benefits as well as individual development.

The training is fully funded so there is **no cost to participating authorities** - other than staff time, at approximately 6 days per person, spread over 12-16 weeks. The training is carried out entirely in the workplace, and leads to an NVQ level 2 in Business Improvement Techniques.

In the East Midlands over 140 staff have completed the training and a further 60 are currently on the programme, from twelve local authorities - Derbyshire County Council, Northamptonshire Police, Mansfield DC, North West Leicestershire DC, Newark & Sherwood DC, Ashfield DC, Nottingham City Council, Wellingborough BC, East Northamptonshire DC, Daventry DC, Broxtowe BC and North Kesteven DC. Several other authorities are in advanced discussions, adding further momentum to the programme.

Places on the training programme are limited, given the funding allocation, so if you or your authority would like to take advantage of this offer, please contact Merlin Tinker in the first instance.

Merlin Tinker, Programme Manager at EM IEP
Telephone: [07534 266 228](tel:07534266228)
Email: merlin.tinker@nottsc.gov.uk

Event



East Midlands
Improvement and
Efficiency Partnership

ICT showcase – Green IT

Tuesday 28th October, 9.30 – 13.30
Pera, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 0PB

Background

Local authorities are looking to reduce their environmental impact, and IT can help. From server consolidation to remote working, new technologies and new ways of working can help to save the planet as well as saving money.

To provide some practical advice about Green IT, we're holding an 'ICT Showcase' workshop, the second in a new series of workshops, designed to bring good people and good ideas together.

In this workshop, Steve Grant will describe how Peterborough have introduced a number of practical measures to save both energy and money. Warwick Andrew will talk about the green steps that have been taken at Chesterfield and the changes to behaviour that have been brought about. Two speakers from OGC will describe the framework agreements and eAuctions, covering the energy-saving hardware and software that is helping to make IT more energy efficient. Fred Shaw

will talk about Birmingham's scheme to recycle old PCs and benefit the community at the same time.

Whether you've already made changes or are just about to develop a green IT strategy, this is a great opportunity to share experiences and get some practical guidance.

Target audience

ICT managers from local authorities across the East Midlands, as well as green champions interested in the contribution that IT can make to energy savings.

Why you should attend

Leading local authorities have reduced their energy bills and their carbon footprint by implementing a wide range of green IT measures. Some are simple changes that are easy to implement, others are complex projects that take months. This is a chance to hear what has worked, and to get ideas for what might make a difference at your own authority.

If you would like to attend, please email Lois Dale from the East Midlands IEP –

lois.dale@nottsc.gov.uk

Free event – Using customer intelligence

The National Process Improvement Project (NPIP) is holding two free, one day events led by Colin Whitehouse, Senior Advisor to the Department for Communities and Local Government, who will demonstrate practical examples of how Local Authorities can use customer intelligence to drive forward their service transformation agendas. The events will be held at:

- Chorley – 9.30 am Thursday 2nd October 2008 - Chorley Town Hall
- London – 9.30 am Wednesday 8th October 2008 - Kensington and Chelsea Town Hall

Learn how:

- Using the four NPIP building blocks, together with Pathfinder Local Authorities' top tips, you can help make your service improvement initiative a success
- Chorley Council's 'Circle of Needs' analysis is leading to multi-agency, citizen-centric service delivery
- The London Borough of Lewisham is putting customers at the heart of its transformation strategy
- Manchester's 'Hot House' approach uses customer insight to shape channel strategies
- Chorley, Tameside and Staffordshire Moorlands got awarded Beacon status and hear their future plans for a continued, successful transformation.

Who should attend?

Local Authorities and other public sector bodies committed to engaging with citizens, improving service delivery or managing business process-led organisational change. Make sure you have your say. Contribute your ideas and opinions on BPI in practice at what is certain to be a lively and productive event.

About NPIP:

The National Process Improvement Project (NPIP) was established in October 2006 to examine how Business Process Improvement (BPI) tools and techniques could improve service delivery and drive efficiency. The experiences of the Pathfinder Local Authorities showed that a thorough understanding of citizens' needs was as important to success as the analysis of current delivery practices.

Register for your free place at:
www.govevents.co.uk/npip/bpi



Event



East Midlands
Improvement and
Efficiency Partnership

EU legislation and EU Social Conditions events

Due to an over demand on the initial courses and in conjunction with Shoosmiths we are providing a further two workshops on:

Want to keep up to date with EU legislation ?

The course provides:

- an update on recent developments and case law, on various EU public sector procurement legislation topics including, competitive dialogue, the recent case law on award criteria, and the practical impact of next year's changes to the Remedies Rules,
- an opportunity for delegates to discuss the issues with the presenters.

EU Social Conditions

The course provides:

an update on recent guidance and case law surrounding Social Clauses within EU public sector procurement legislation topics, showing practically what can be used and what cannot.

an opportunity for delegates to discuss the issues with the presenters.

These further courses are being held on 1st of December and the 6th January as half-day event.

Note for legal professionals you can claim CPD points for these courses.

Please contact lois.dale@nottscc.gov.uk for further information.

Contact Details and Useful Websites



East Midlands
Improvement and
Efficiency Partnership

Contacts

Chris Allison,
Director

tel: **0115 977 3875** email: chris.allison@nottsc.gov.uk

Andrew Foster,
Assistant Director

tel: **07921 491 698** email: andrew.foster@nottsc.gov.uk

Heather Parker,
Strategic Programme Planning and Support Manager

tel: **0115 977 3492** email: heather.parker@nottsc.gov.uk

Helen Richmond,
Programme Manager

tel: **07921 491 696** email: helen.richmond@nottsc.gov.uk

Merlin Tinker,
Programme Manager

tel: **07534 266 228** email: merlin.tinker@nottsc.gov.uk

Melanie Rowe,
Principal Officer Performance and Improvement

tel: **0115 977 2873** email: melanie.rowe@nottsc.gov.uk

Lois Dale,
Administration, Events and Secretariat Manager

tel: **0115 977 4921** email: lois.dale@nottsc.gov.uk

Rebecca Parker,
Temporary Communications Officer

tel: **0115 977 3288** email: rebecca.parker@nottsc.gov.uk

Websites

East Midlands Improvement & Efficiency Partnership

www.eastmidlandsiep.gov.uk

EM Procurement Hub (Password Protected)

<http://secure.emce.gov.uk/procurement/index.htm>

Sustainable Procurement Information Network (SPIN)

www.s-p-i-n.co.uk

Source East Midlands Contract Portal

www.sourceeastmidlands.co.uk

Procurement Connection Online Toolkit

www.procurementconnection.co.uk

East Midlands Law Share Partnership (EM LawShare)

www.emlawshare.co.uk

Postal Address

East Midlands IEP Support Team

47 Loughborough Road,

West Bridgford,

Nottingham,

NG2 7LA