



MEETING: COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: 26 FEBRUARY 2024

ITEM: 3 – ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Leader's Announcements to Council

1. I attended my first meeting of the National Association of Regional Employers (NARE) this month as one of the two representatives of East Midlands Councils. Updates from the regions was interesting, particularly the report from London Region on their developing HR Metrics Service which will not only enable councils to benchmark performance but also give us better insights into local government capacity.
2. East Midlands Councils organised an event at Portcullis House, Westminster, last week "Unlocking the Opportunities of East Midlands Infrastructure". We heard how poorly the East Midlands was funded regarding infrastructure and Government investment more widely compared with other regions and also what positive features there are in the East Midlands that would make investment here particularly beneficial. There were a number of East Midlands MPs present including Lilian Greenwood, the Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, but Alicia Kearns was not present.
3. Earlier in February Councillor A Johnson, Councillor R Ross and I attended the East Midlands Councils General Meeting in Nottingham. These meetings are open to any councillor to attend although you need to be nominated by your political group to vote (there are rarely any votes). We had a very informative talk from the Local Government Information Unit as well as receiving useful updates on immigration and asylum seekers and employment.
4. I have been keeping in touch with Leaders and senior members of neighbouring authorities. This month with Leicester, Leicestershire and North Northants. I also attend the Leicestershire Districts catch-up meetings where devolution is a regular agenda item.