

Local Government Essentials East: Changing Landscape of Local Government

19 May 2026 (08:45 – 15:30)

The Nucleus, Chesterford Research Park, Little Chesterford, Saffron Walden, CB10 1XL

Agenda

Timings	Session
08:45	Registration, refreshments, workshop session sign up and an opportunity to look at sponsor display tables
09:30	Welcome and aims of the day Sharon Bleese, Head of Communications and Commercial Services, Local Government East (LGE)
09:35	The Employment Bill and what this means for temporary recruitment Ben Dixon, Head of Workforce Solutions, Opus People Solutions
09:50	Local Government Reorganisation - A Councillor's Experiences Cllr Jim Hakewill, Independent Councillor, North Northamptonshire Council and LGA Peer
10:05	We need to talk about Contract Management Eddie Gibson, National Account Manager, Government Commercial Agency
10:15	The NHS and Local Authorities: Integrated Working and Neighbourhoods Damian Brady, Managing Director, Sutton Primary Care Networks and Federation
10:40	Refreshments and time to move to workshops
11:15	Workshops: ROUND 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Recruitment in Local Government: Opportunities, Pitfalls and How to Get it Right Matt Masters, Head of Executive Workforce Solutions, Opus People Solutions • Towards Better Contract Management Eddie Gibson, National Account Manager and Rhiannon Chisholm, Senior Account Manager, Government Commercial Agency • Helping Councillors and Communities Through Change Liz Green, Associate, Local Government East Talent Bank • How To Steady Your Wobbleboard Kate Smith, Associate, Local Government East Talent Bank <p>*Workshops from round 1 are repeated for round 2.</p>
12:00	Comfort break and time to move to workshops
12:15	Workshops: ROUND 2 (REPEATED SESSION)
13:00	Lunch and an opportunity to network and meet LGE Talent Bank Associates

14:00	Workshops: ROUND 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Equality Impact Assessments: Framework, Leadership and Governance for Robust Decision-Making Lila Begum, Senior Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer, Bedford Borough Council • Taking People With Us: Because when we do things together, we can do things better Michelle Gant, Associate, Local Government East Talent Bank • Aligning Governance, Process, Technology and People: AI in the LGR Journey Tim Carr and Tony Ellis, Associates, Local Government East Talent Bank
14:45	Comfort break
15:00	Psychological Safety in Times of Change Emma Swan, Director, Thrive Safe
15:25	Summary of the day and close Sharon Bleese, Head of Communications and Commercial Services, Local Government East (LGE)
15:30	Close