

# Press release: New RSC appointed for East Midlands and the Humber

John Edwards, Director of Education and Skills at Manchester city council, has been named as the new Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and the Humber.

He will be responsible for overseeing the growth of academies in the region and will monitor their performance to ensure children receive the best possible education. He is taking over from Jennifer Bexon-Smith.

John will start later this year, working with Sir David Carter to shape the role and priorities of the growing numbers of academies in the region, contributing to the government's agenda of raising standards, by tackling underperformance to create more 'good' school places for every child regardless of background or circumstances.

John Edwards said:

I'm very much looking forward to the challenges of my new role as Regional Schools Commissioner for the East Midlands and the Humber, and hope I can make a real difference to the lives and outcomes of children and young people working in partnership with everyone in the region.

I will undoubtedly miss Manchester and particularly all the people I work with. I know however that in their capable hands learning in the city will continue to go from strength to strength.

National Schools Commissioner Sir David Carter said:

I am thrilled that John Edwards is joining my team as the new Regional Schools Commissioner for the East Midlands and the Humber region. John was selected from a strong national field and will bring a wealth of experience and talent from his work as Director of Education and Skills in Manchester, that has improved the life chances of many young people.

Regional Schools Commissioners' (RSCs) responsibilities include:

- taking decisions on the creation of new academies
- monitoring their performance and improving underperforming academies
- ensuring there is a strong supply of excellent sponsors to work with underperforming schools in the region
- encouraging and supporting high-quality applications for new free schools

The East Midlands and the Humber commissioner works with 970 academies and free schools across the region.

[John will be advised by a board of headteachers](#) of 'outstanding' academies or experienced educational leaders. The board challenges and supports the work of the commissioner, bringing additional educational insight and local intelligence to decision-making.

1. The Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and the Humber is responsible for making decisions about academies and free schools in the following local authorities:
  - Barnsley
  - Derby
  - Derbyshire
  - Doncaster
  - East Riding of Yorkshire
  - Kingston upon Hull
  - Leicester
  - Leicestershire
  - Lincolnshire
  - north-east Lincolnshire
  - north Lincolnshire
  - Nottingham
  - Nottinghamshire
  - Rotherham
  - Rutland
  - Sheffield
  - York
2. The [full list of Regional Schools Commissioners](#) are:
  - Tim Coulson: East of England and north-east London
  - John Edwards: East Midlands and the Humber
  - Vicky Beer: Lancashire and West Yorkshire
  - Janet Renou: North of England
  - Martin Post: north-west London and south-central England
  - Dominic Herrington: South-East England and south London
  - Rebecca Clark: South-West England
  - Christine Quinn: West Midlands
3. The RSCs, supported by their headteacher boards, perform functions of the Secretary of State on her behalf, within a national framework. This will not cut across existing accountability lines; accountability will remain with the Secretary of State, with decisions better informed by sector expertise.
4. Mr Edward's biography: John Edwards has been the Director of Education and Skills for Manchester city council since February 2013, with responsibility for all of the council's education functions, including schools, early years, youth, 14 to 19 and adult skills. Prior to this role, John was Assistant Director for Learning and Skills at Kirklees council, and previously worked for Manchester city council (as Deputy Director of Children's Services) and for Wakefield council. Before moving into local government, John worked in schools across Yorkshire

for over a decade, as a maths teacher, head of sixth form and senior leader. He is married with 2 school-age children and lives in Sheffield.

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## **RR1088 – Multi-site delivery issues for heavy goods vehicles**

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## **Tax transparency: Jeremy Corbyn's tax return**

A Jeremy Corbyn spokesperson said:

“Jeremy’s tax return is complete and accurate. He has declared all income and paid the appropriate amount of tax.

“The payment he received in 2015-16 as Leader of the Opposition of £27,192 appears on the return as a ‘benefit’ rather than as pay because that is how it is categorised by

HMRC.

“This figure is calculated after deducting the waivers Jeremy has made of earlier increases to the benefit. These waivers were also made by his predecessor, Ed Miliband. A parliamentary pension contribution of £3,395 was also deducted (see note).

“We are disappointed the Cabinet Office did not clarify this and explain the figure used on the P60 yesterday in answer to media inquiries they received.

“It is also a matter of concern that some media organisations made entirely false claims without verifying or confirming the facts, and we expect these now to be corrected.

“The owners of the media companies that have attempted to cast doubt over Jeremy’s transparent and accurate tax return are of course among those who could stand to lose from the tax transparency and justice the British people demand.

“Jeremy believes firmly in transparency. These media barons have tax questions of their own to answer. Tax avoidance and evasion deprive the public purse of billions in revenue for vital services and is unfair on those with much lower earnings who pay a higher proportion of their income in tax.”

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## [News story: Technologies of the future: apply for business funding](#)

Innovate UK has up to £15 million to support business projects that stimulate new products and services through emerging and enabling technologies. These technologies could be the basis for billion-pound industries of the future.

### **Emerging technologies**

Emerging technologies are newly developed sciences, where the best application and value is yet to be realised. Examples include quantum technologies, graphene and 2D materials, biofilms, energy harvesting and synthetic biology.

### **Enabling technologies**

Enabling technologies can have wide applicability. Many industries could

benefit from advances in areas such as machine learning, compound semiconductors, and earth observation. Examples of enabling technologies include digital, space and satellite, electronics, sensors and photonics, and robotics.

## Projects

We expect to fund projects in 4 priority areas:

- emerging technologies
- digital
- enabling capabilities
- space applications

Proposals must demonstrate significant innovation; be applicable to more than one industry, sector or market; and improve growth, productivity or create export opportunities for at least 1 SME.

## Competition information

- the competition is open, and the deadline for registration is midday on 3 May 2017
- we expect projects to last between 6 months and 3 years and to range in size from £35,000 to £2 million
- projects must involve at least 1 SME and be led by a business or a research and technology organisation
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their project costs
- a briefing event for potential applicants will be held on 8 March 2017

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## [Transparency data: South West Disposal Site Characterisation Project – Evaluation Report](#)

Due to increased regulatory burden surrounding the Rame Head South disposal site and in light of the continued requirement for dredging and disposal operations, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has been working with the main users of the site in leading a disposal site characterisation study to identify an optimal, sustainable alternative site for long-term dredged material disposal operations within the River Tamar and Plymouth Sound area.

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) has submitted evidence in support of the proposed site in the form of a Site Characterisation Report. A draft version was consulted on by the MMO as part of a targeted consultation exercise with key stakeholders and advisors. The

MMO also made the Site Characterisation Report available on the selected cases page of its website and a period of public consultation took place between 29th November and 23rd December 2016. An Addendum to the Site Characterisation Report has been produced to respond to representations received by the MMO which required a technical response.

The MMO has produced an Evaluation Report which details the conclusions drawn from a review of the evidence submitted, as well as evidence submitted during the consultation period. The MMO has reviewed multiple factors within the Evaluation Report, including environmental, economic and social aspects. Factors included, but are not limited to, the cost to dredging operators with regards to transit times to new sites, the impact on marine ecology, and marine protected areas.

The MMO has considered all available information and concluded that the proposed new disposal has been properly assessed for dredged material. Plymouth Deep (PL035) is now open for marine licence applications for the disposal of dredged material.