

A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

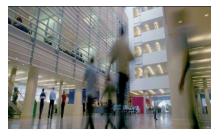
10 DECEMBER 2021



Regional Employment Law Update



Government awards HS2 rolling stock contract



APSE Performance Networks Awards for 2021



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Government awards HS2 rolling stock contract

Next generation of Britain's high-speed bullet trains reaching speeds of over 200mph to be built on home soil.

Announced this week by the government, the state-of-the-art high-speed trains will be built by Hitachi/Alstom JV at their factories in Derby, Crewe and County Durham in a major deal set to support 2,500 jobs across the UK.

- next generation of Britain's high-speed trains to be built in Derby, Crewe and County Durham by Hitachi/Alstom JV
- 2,500 jobs will be created and supported through landmark £2 billion contracts to build HS2's state-of-the-art train

For the first time, the trains will be entirely designed and assembled on home soil, supporting jobs in factories across the Midlands and north and in their supply chains, including apprentices and roles for young people. They will also be the fastest and lowest carbon per passenger kilometre trains of their kind in the UK, minimising environmental impacts and helping decarbonise transport [details [here](#)].

The design, manufacture, assembly, and testing of the new trains will be shared between Hitachi Rail and Alstom.

- The first stages including vehicle body assembly and initial fit-out will be done at Hitachi Rail's facility at Newton Aycliffe, County Durham; and
- The second stage of fit out and testing will be done at Alstom's Litchurch Lane factory in Derby.

Councillor Chris Poulter, Leader of Derby City Council said:

"We are really delighted with this news and congratulate the whole team at Alstom - and their partners at Hitachi - on winning this £2 billion contract."

We have always had an active and supportive relationship with the company and will work with them to ensure they can deliver the new assembly line and have the local skills and supply chain to underpin this whenever possible.

Derby has been synonymous with the rail industry since its inception and this announcement will greatly enhance our bid to secure the headquarters of Great British Rail for the city."

To read the Derby City Council press release visit [here](#).



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EMC News

Regional Employment Law Update on 19 January 2022, 10.00am to 12.15pm (virtual event)

- EMC are very pleased to be able to provide a virtual Regional Employment Law Update on

Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 10.00am to 12.15pm facilitated by Darren Newman.

The session will cover current employment law issues with a focus on the frequent questions and concerns that you have been raising with us at EMC relating to current challenges presented by the pandemic.

On wider employment law, the session will also cover implications of important cases on collective bargaining, discrimination, employment status, redundancy, flexible working, disability discrimination and an employee's political activities.

This session will give you an overall view of what has been going on in employment law over the last 12 months and look forward to what we can expect in 2022. As usual there will be plenty of time for questions.

The cost to attend will be discounted at **£65 per delegate** with a further discount for multiple bookings. To book places please visit our website [here](#). A purchase order number will also be required.

Midlands Engine

Major rewilding plan for Derby Park - Derby City Council has been praised for backing what would be the first large-scale urban rewilding project in the UK.

Last month, the city council approved proposals brought forward by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to rewild Allestree Park. It will now work with the trust and the University of Derby on the project, with a public consultation set to take place to develop the plans, which would see nature reclaim the former golf course.

Subject to the proposed consultation, steps to rewild Allestree Park could include the creation of new habitats such as woodlands, grasslands, wetland and scrubland, the creation of community orchards and community growing and looking at reintroducing key species, such as water vole and harvest mouse [details [here](#)].

D2N2 Local Enterprise partnership launches new low carbon growth fund - Small and medium-sized businesses, public sector organisations and community groups developing low carbon projects across Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire are being urged to apply for investment through D2N2's new Low Carbon Growth Fund [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care



Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for adult social care - Information for local authorities and adult social care providers on the £162.5 million Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund.

This guidance sets out:

- allocations of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for 2021 to 2022
- the conditions that will apply to that grant
- guidance intended to assist local authorities

See 'Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund: examples of allowable activity' above for examples of best practice and case studies of allowable activities under the grant conditions.

The Department for Health and Social Care has also published detail of the outcomes from the [Workforce Capacity Fund](#), which ran from January to March 2021, along with key findings from the fund and results of a survey of local authorities [details [here](#)].

Impact of COVID-19 on Black and Minority Ethnic people, Tuesday 14 December 2021, 2.00pm – 3.30pm - This LGA webinar, funded by Government, is the second in a series of webinars focused on health inequalities following the publication of the LGA's [A Perfect Storm](#) report. It will explore the real impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups and the structural change that is needed to aid recovery and make progress against health inequalities. A diverse panel of experts will share their experiences and perspectives on this issue as well as engage with delegates in question and answer session [details [here](#)].

Inclusive economies and healthy futures: Supporting place-based action to reduce health inequalities - Councils have an unparalleled understanding of their local area and the key institutions in it. This guide will provide inspiration to everyone seeking to build a more inclusive, healthy and prosperous economy in their local area [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



NJC Circular re Return to Working from Home Dec 2021 - Please find attached [here](#) the NJC circular following the announcement from the Government on its guidance to return to working from home.

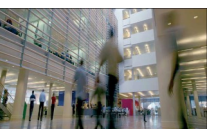
Workshop on T Levels, 20 January 2022 - EMC will be hosting a free workshop for on 20th January 2022 from 10.00-11.30am in partnership with the LGA on T Levels. The session will explain T Levels and work placements. These can be a useful opportunity to develop relevant skills and build

connections with our future workforce. For further information contact mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk

New government 'passport' to help disabled graduates get in to employment - Hundreds of disabled university students are set to benefit from a new 'passport' scheme that will support them as they move into work [details [here](#)].

Training and more testing to help people become HGV drivers - First intensive short courses in HGV driving get under way to help tackle skills shortages and support up to 11,000 people launching new careers in the logistics sector [details [here](#)].

Local Government News



Impact of in-person council meetings survey: October - November 2021 - Between October and November 2021, the Local Government Association (LGA) conducted a survey of councils in England. The purpose of the survey was to gather information on the impact of in-person council meetings for statutory and decision-making meetings, and how this may affect councils in the short- to long-term [survey available from [here](#)].

Impact of in-person council meetings survey: October - November 2021(continued)

The survey asked about a range of topics including councillor attendance at meetings, public engagement, benefits and challenges, as well as costs incurred.

This report focuses on responses from principal authorities (including district and county councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan districts, and London boroughs). The survey achieved an overall response rate of 42 per cent of principal authorities. Key findings

- Almost three-quarters of respondents (72 per cent) thought that councillor attendance was lower since returning to in-person meetings.
- Almost three-quarters of respondents (73 per cent) thought that attendance by members of the public is lower since returning to in-person council meetings.
- More than half of respondents (53 per cent) thought that engagement by members of the public with council meetings is lower since returning to in-person meetings.
- Over four-fifths of respondents (84 per cent) thought that the costs associated with statutory council meetings had increased.
- Almost three-quarters of respondents (71 per cent) thought that the costs associated with statutory council meetings had increased since the return to in-person meetings compared with when meetings were held in-person prior to March 2020.
- Over half of respondents (55 per cent) said that some councillors had been unable to attend all or the majority of in-person council meetings since May 2021.

APSE Performance Networks Awards for 2021 - The APSE Performance Network Awards took place at the Performance Networks Seminar on the evening of Thursday 2 December 2021, for details of the winners and the other shortlisted authorities visit [here](#). EMC would like to congratulate all the shortlisted authorities in the East Midlands;

Cemetery and Crematorium

- Shortlisted for Best Performers in this category - North East Derbyshire District Council and
- Shortlisted for Most Improved Performers in this category - City of Lincoln Council

Parks, Open Spaces and Horticultural Services

- Shortlisted for Best Performers in this category - Gedling Borough Council and North Northamptonshire Council (CK shared service)

Refuse Collection

- Shortlisted for Best Performers in this category - North Northamptonshire Council (CK shared service)
- Shortlisted for Most Improved Performers in this category- West Lindsey District Council

Sports and Leisure Facility Management

- Shortlisted for Best Performers in this category - Ashfield District Council

Street Cleansing

- Shortlisted for Best Performers in this category - Bolsover District Council, Gedling Borough Council, North East Derbyshire District Council and West Lindsey District Council

Creating resilient and revitalised high streets in the 'New Normal' Monday 13 December 2021, 10.30am – Pragmatix Advisory and Trajectory Partnership have been working together to undertake research for the LGA into the future resilience of high streets and town centres. The research explores expected future trends and the challenges facing high streets across England, and outlines what steps local government can take to revitalise and strengthen the resilience of these places within the current environment of post COVID-19 recovery. This webinar will coincide with the launch of the research, and introduce the tools created to help support councils going forward [details [here](#)].

EMC Leadership

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Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen
Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney
Labour Group: Cllr Rob Parker
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny

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