

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

Top items this week

22 JANUARY 2021



LGA COVID-19 Workforce Survey Research Report



HS2 - Making the case for the whole Eastern Leg of HS2



EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

HS2 - Making the case for the whole Eastern Leg of HS2

Cllr Kay Cutts MBE Chair of the East Midlands HS2 partnership spoke at a meeting of the Northern Powerhouse APPG on **Wednesday 20 January** Chaired by Andrew Jones MP, to make the case for the whole Eastern Leg of HS2 between from Birmingham to Leeds via the Hub Station at Toton and Chesterfield. The meeting also heard from the HS2 Minister Andrew Stephenson MP, who welcomed the strong cross party support for HS2 across the North and Midlands

Employers' Information



LGA COVID-19 Workforce Survey Research Report, Relating to the week ending 11 December 2020 - This report is part of a series of bi-weekly surveys of all councils in England, Wales and Northern Ireland collecting key workforce data on how the sector is responding to COVID-19. An online survey is emailed to heads of human resources, or a nominated contact, in councils from England and Wales on alternate Wednesdays. The data requested relates to the week ending the preceding Friday. The intention is that this collection is the single national source through which such data is gathered, and it will, as appropriate, be shared with government departments and others in addition to providing comparator information for councils.

This report relates to the survey sent out on 16 December 2020 and covers the week ending 11 December 2020. The overall response rate was 49 per cent and covered around a third of the total workforce. To access the report visit [here](#).

SGI News - SGI Europe's newsletters provide an update on recent developments at European level on workforce matters and the most recent newsletter is available from [here](#).

EMC News

EMC Support Activity

Climate Change Workshop for Councillors - This week EMC and the LGA held a joint workshop on Climate Change, with the focus on Climate Change and Community engagement. Delegates were able to hear two case studies, where speakers will share with you their experiences, these were;

- Cllr Adam Clarke will share Leicester City Council's recent experience, and
- Mike Preston, former Parish Councillor in Leicestershire

Delegates also had the opportunity to hear from Michael Gallagher, Regional Energy Projects Manager of Midlands Energy Hub.

Further workshops will be on Climate Change, on the themes of transport, housing and energy and green economic recovery, with information on these workshops to follow shortly.

EMC Cyber Security Network meeting - on 27 January, EMC will host the latest Cyber Security network meeting for local authorities. The network meets regularly to share and engage in hot topics and issues for information assurance at an operational level, providing authorities with an opportunity to share and discuss wider IT infrastructure issues with over 30 of the regions local authorities in membership. For more information on the network contact

Kirsty.lowe@Emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

Virtual Communication Skills for Councillors, 28 January, 14:00 - EMC is offering a one-hour virtual communication session for Councillors. This one-hour session offers an interactive introduction to online communication skills. The outcomes will include: enhanced awareness of positive virtual communications, how to improve personal communication skills, reputation and transferability of skills to the real world.

Please note that we are running two sessions, one for Councillors and one for Officers. Information on the workshop and details of how to book can be found [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



'Right to Regenerate' to turn derelict buildings into homes and community assets - The public will be able to convert vacant plots of land and derelict buildings into new homes or community spaces [details [here](#)].

- New Right to Regenerate will enable public to require councils and public sector to sell unused land and assets
- Proposals for public to have first right of refusal to purchase underused land in England
- Land to be sold by default, unless compelling reason not to
- Making it simpler, quicker and easier for public to transform vacant land and derelict buildings into homes, businesses or community spaces

Transport experts and officials to be questioned on reforming public transport after the pandemic - As part of its inquiry on Reforming public transport after the pandemic, the Transport Committee heard this week from transport officials and experts in France, Singapore and Sweden about the challenges facing their respective transport systems [[here](#)].

Rigorous new targets for green building revolution - All homes and businesses will have to meet rigorous new energy efficiency standards to lower energy consumption and bills, helping to protect the environment [details [here](#)].

- All new buildings to be constructed to be highly energy efficient
- Building work in existing buildings must meet new standards
- Measures to tackle overheating in existing homes and drive down costly bills for families

New regulator established to ensure construction materials are safe - New national construction products regulator set up to ensure homes are built from safe materials [details [here](#)].

The Future Buildings Standard consultation impact assessment - This impact assessment informs the government's [Future Buildings Standard consultation](#). The proposed policy changes will affect new non-domestic buildings in England, existing dwellings and non-domestic buildings in England when undertaking specific building works, and new residential buildings in England [details [here](#)].

The future of public transport and the role of Local Government, LGA report - The Local Government Association commissioned SYSTRA Ltd to undertake research to initiate a debate on the future of public transport in England, outside of London, with a focus on local bus services [details [here](#)].

Homelessness

Nottingham City Council secures grant funding to buy longer-term homes for homeless individuals - Nottingham City Council has successfully secured almost £1m of Government funding to go towards buying 15 one-bed flats for homeless people. Grants totalling £942,000 have been allocated from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) Next Steps Accommodation Programme [details [here](#)].

Government support for rough sleepers and private renters scrutinised - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee takes evidence from former Chair of the Rough Sleeping Taskforce, Louise Casey, as part of its inquiry into the impact of Covid-19 on homelessness and the private rented sector [details [here](#)].

Learning lessons from the response to COVID-19: safeguarding people experiencing homelessness, 25 January 2021, 10:00 - this LGA webinar is part of a series of eight virtual seminars, developed to disseminate and take this work forward and to inform a further briefing on adult safeguarding and homelessness, including the impact of COVID-19 [[here](#)].

Health & Social Care

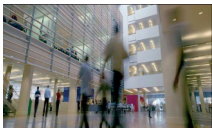
Coronavirus cases by local authority: epidemiological data, 21 January 2021 - Weekly watchlist giving epidemiological coronavirus (COVID-19) data for each lower-tier local authority (LTLA) in England [details [here](#)].

Social care sector to receive £269 million to boost staffing levels and testing - The funding is to protect and support staff and residents in care homes and those receiving help in their own homes [details [here](#)]. The funding announced will protect and support the social care sector, including care homes and domiciliary care providers, by increasing workforce capacity and increasing testing.

New Every Mind Matters campaign - The new campaign launched this week by Public Health England (PHE) to support the nation's mental health, as half of adults say they are more worried during this current lockdown than in March 2020.

To support people during this time, PHE has launched a nationwide Better Health - Every Mind Matters campaign to support people to take action to look after their mental health and wellbeing and help support others such as family and friends. The campaign encourages people to get a free [NHS-approved Mind Plan](#) from the [Every Mind Matters website](#). The [Every Mind Matters COVID-19 hub](#) also includes practical tips and support on how adults can deal with uncertainty, how to cope with money and job worries and how to look after both their own and their family's mental wellbeing while staying at home [details [here](#)].

Local Government News



Nottingham City Council sets out plan for recovery and improvement - Nottingham City Council has set out how over the next three years it will address the financial and governance issues raised in a Government review, to strengthen the authority for the future.

A rapid non-statutory review was carried out last year on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, following a Public Interest Report into the council's governance of Robin Hood Energy. The rapid review raised concerns around past financial management and governance and recommended that the council should produce a three-year recovery plan, setting out the actions needed to restore the financial viability of its capital programme and revenue budget and implement a more robust medium-term financial planning process [details [here](#)].

Nottingham City Council has set out proposals to make £15.6m of savings to help balance the budget for 2021/22 as it establishes a sustainable financial footing amid the Covid crisis [details [here](#)].

Nottingham City Council: Chair of the Improvement and Assurance Board appointment letter - Letter to Sir Tony Redmond appointing him as Chair of the Nottingham City Council Improvement and Assurance Board [details [here](#)].

An introduction to the Community Trigger - Anti-Social Behaviour Case review from the LGA, 28 January 2021, 10:00 - During this LGA session, ASB Help (the charity in England and Wales set up to provide advice and support to victims of anti-social behaviour) will be providing some key examples of best practice and useful case studies to help improve the response to anti-social behaviour and raise awareness of the community trigger process. They will also be speaking about the ASB pledge and how local authorities can show their commitment to victims of anti-social behaviour [[here](#)].

LGA Event, Modern slavery in local government supply chains – deep dive session, 26 January 2021, 10:30 - Following on from the [Modern slavery in local government supply chains webinar on Wednesday 16 December 2020](#), this interactive deep dive session will focus on the high-risk areas (construction, IT and social care) and provide practical, step-by-step advice and guidance on how councils carry out their modern slavery supply chain practices and procedures [details [here](#)].

Migration

EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, September 2020 - This report provides detailed statistics on applications made to the EUSS from 28 August 2018 to 30 September 2020, and applications concluded during the same time period [details [here](#)].

EMC Events



Report Writing - EMC is hosting two 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. These virtual workshops will be highly interactive [full details [here](#)]. The course will explore;

- **What are the expectations with regards written reports in your role?**
- **What should we think about before writing the report?** Exploring: the audience and their expectations, language, tone, length.

The virtual workshop will use both plenary and breakout time to ensure maximum delegate participation, making the session interactive for those taking part. Dates; Tuesday 19 January 9:30 – 12:3; Thursday 28 January 13:30 – 16:30

Virtual Communication Skills for Officers, 28 January - EMC is offering a one-hour virtual workshop on communication. This one-hour session offers an interactive introduction to online communication skills. The outcomes will include: enhanced awareness of positive virtual communications, how to improve personal communication skills, reputation and transferability of skills to the real world [details [here](#)].
Thursday 28 January 9:30 – 10:30

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen
Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney
Labour Group: Cllr Alan Rhodes
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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