

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

Top items this week

3 DECEMBER 2021



Brownfield Land Release Fund



EMC HR Bulletin, November 2021 Edition



Adult social care reform white paper



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## EMC HR Bulletin, November 2021 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#).

Employment Law expert Darren Newman's article as part of the EMC HR Bulletin (November) can be found [here](#). All authorities in the region recognise trade unions and Darren Newman's article looks at cases that will be of interest, including a recent ruling on unlawful inducements: making a financial offer to employees rather than gaining agreement through collective bargaining. In this month's edition, Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article looks at flexible working in the context of case law and the government consultation on flexibility as a default.



November's Bulletin includes:-

- Regional Workforce Priorities
- Xpert HR Regional Deal 2022/23
- Update on Pay Negotiations

### Learning & Development

- East Midlands LA Challenge Results
- Workshop on T Levels, 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 - This 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.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 **£65 per delegate** with a discount for multiple bookings. To book places please visit our website [here](#). A purchase order number will also be required.

### EMC Support Activity

**Regional Deal 2022-23 online information service for HR** - Demonstrating the value of collaborating, EMC negotiates a discount to subscribe to the online information service Xperthr on behalf of our member councils. We have negotiated a price freeze of rates for the coming year based on the current number of user licences. For more information see our HR Bulletin [here](#).

You can join the regional scheme or renew your subscription by contacting Mila by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022, letting her know how many licences you require: [mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

**Keyworkers helped on to the housing ladder through flagship government scheme** - A nurse and a police officer are among the first people to be helped on to the housing ladder through the government's First Homes scheme.

- Keyworkers in Derbyshire are among the first to get keys to discounted homes through government's First Homes scheme.
- 1,500 First Homes to be built across the country and sold at 30% market discount as contracts awarded to housebuilders.

The keyworkers from Bolsover, Derbyshire, are benefiting from the government's First Homes scheme, which offers homes at a discount of at least 30% of the market price to local first time buyers and keyworkers – helping young people and families stay in the communities where they want to live and work.

The government has also published the [prospectus for Help to Build](#), a £150 million scheme announced in April to make self and custom build housing a realistic and affordable option [details [here](#)].

**New homes to be built as part of government drive to develop brownfield land and regenerate communities** -

Derelict sites across the country will be transformed into new homes under the Brownfield Land Release Fund.

- A further £11 million allocated to councils to develop brownfield land into good quality housing.
- New homes to help people onto the property ladder and boost local communities.
- Funding allocated so far will release land for more than 6,800 homes and create more than 21,000 jobs.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced this week the allocation of a further £11 million from the Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) to support 23 redevelopment schemes across 15 councils [details [here](#)]. The announcement follows the allocation of £58 million last month to 53 local councils across the country. Today's additional funding will support more areas to deliver new homes and revitalise much loved towns and cities. In the East Midlands; West Northamptonshire Council, New Southbridge Road, £470,000

**Towns Fund monitoring and evaluation strategy** - This document sets out the approach to monitoring and evaluating the Towns Fund. This document details the department's approach to the monitoring and evaluation of the Towns Fund (which encompasses both the Town Deals and the Future High Streets Fund) and is intended to inform the public and stakeholders of the rationale behind the evaluation and the eventual outputs it will produce [details [here](#)].

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## Midlands Connect

**Government and Midlands Connect sign landmark 'Collaboration Agreement'** - Midlands Connect has signed a new Collaboration Agreement with the Government, consolidating its position as the Sub-National Transport Body for the Midlands and as a trusted partner, adding value and bringing a collective voice from the Midlands region [[here](#)].

As part of the agreed Collaboration Agreement, Midlands Connect commits to:

- Support to the Department for Transport in tackling big strategic challenges including freight, decarbonisation, rural connectivity, alternative fuels and others - focusing on the region-specific aspects of such challenges where Midlands Connect can add most value.

Through the Collaboration Agreement, central government/national bodies commit to:

- Working openly and constructively with Midlands Connect at all levels
- Ensuring that the Midlands Connect Strategic Transport Plan is understood across Government in the context of national decision making.
- Providing a formal response from to future/updated Midlands Connect Transport Plans
- Facilitating regular dialogue between Midlands Connect, and Ministers regarding progress of the agreed priorities within the Midlands Connect Transport Strategy.

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## Health & Social Care



**Ten year vision to improve adult social care** - A 10-year vision for adult social care has been published which will help provide greater choice for those receiving care and certainty over costs [details [here](#)].

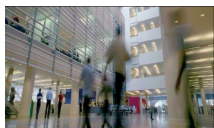
**People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform white paper** - This white paper sets out a 10-year vision for adult social care and provides information on funded proposals that will be implemented over the next 3 years [details [here](#)].

This white paper sets out how some of this money will be spent to begin to transform the adult social care system in England, such as new investments in:

- housing and home adaptations
  - technology and digitisation
  - workforce training and wellbeing support
  - support for unpaid carers, and improved information and advice
  - innovation and improvement
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## Local Government News



**Personal Safety for Councillors, 8 December, 10:30 – 12:00** - Councillors represent their communities as part of an open and transparent local democratic system. This involves regularly meeting residents, often one-to-one and out in the community.

The LGA has launched a series of webinars to help to support councillors' personal safety. These events are UK Government funded and will therefore be open to councillors from all councils, including community, town and parish councils.

The aim of the session will be to equip councillors with the best tools to help them be and feel safe while carrying out their duties as a councillor. The sessions will cover principles of personal safety, risk assessment, use of technology, safe approaches to canvassing, visits, surgeries and travelling, alongside how to manage harassment and stalking incidents. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about their specific circumstances [details [here](#)].

**Scrutiny Improvement Reviews, main themes and findings, report from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS)** - In 2018, CfGS carried out its first evaluation of local authority scrutiny functions using a new method, and under a new title. They brought together a wealth of research, policy and practical experience and developed the "[scrutiny improvement review](#)" (SIR) as a consistent and comprehensive way to evaluate scrutiny arrangements, to diagnose problems and to prescribe solutions.

This short report takes the opportunity to reflect on the common features that their work has surfaced, as well as the impact that SIRs have had. It has an analysis and evaluation of the emerging themes from all of the reviews they have carried out in the past three years [details [here](#)].

**East Midlands Scrutiny Network, 10 December** - The next East Midlands Scrutiny network meeting will take place on 10 December, 10:00 – 11:30. The meeting will include a session from Ed Hammond, Deputy Chief Executive at the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny on 'Scrutiny in Local Government Post Pandemic'.

The East Midlands Scrutiny Network normally meets four times a year and be open to non-executive local authority councillors and officers. The network provides Councillors and Officers with the opportunity to share knowledge, work programmes and information, as well as providing an opportunity to explore national developments concerning scrutiny.

For more information and to receive a calendar invitation to attend this virtual network meeting please contact [Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk).

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## EMC Events



**East Midlands Councils Low-Cost CPD Programme for Environmental Health 2021/22, virtual event on Housing, 9 December 2021** -The seminar topic is Housing and takes place on Thursday 9th December 2021 and will be held virtually via MS Teams [further details [here](#)]. The programme for the event includes presentations on

- Selective Licensing & Civil Penalties Scheme
- Mobile Homes legislation and the new Fit & Proper Person test
- Mobile Homes prosecution case study

**Low Cost CPD Programme for Planners, Planning Post Covid** - The seminar topic is Planning Post Covid and takes place on Thursday 22nd January 2022. This event will include a presentation on Transport Demand Post Covid from Chief Technical Officer, Midlands Connect.

For further information regarding the Low Cost CPD Programme for Planners please contact Lisa Bushell [lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk) or visit [here](#).

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## 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 Rob Parker  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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