

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

Top items this week

28 MAY 2021



East Midlands Councils  
Nomination Process



EMC HR Bulletin, May  
2021 Edition



Rail White Paper Briefing  
Note



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## EMC HR Bulletin, May 2021 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#). In this month's edition, Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article considers COVID-19 and holiday entitlement.

The May Bulletin includes:-

- Pay Negotiations update
- Regional and National COVID-19 workforce update
- LGA Apprenticeship Newsletter, May 2021
- In-Person Right to Work Checks
- Circular on Working Arrangements over Christmas and New Year

### Learning & Development

- EMC Coaching Confidence workshops
- EMC Leadership Development programme
- Coaching for Transitions – 18 June 2021

**SIGI News** - SIGI 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 Boards Activity

**East Midlands Councils (EMC) Nomination Process** - EMC will shortly be inviting nominations for membership. All local authority member authorities are allocated one place on EMC, which is usually the Leader of the Council unless otherwise specified. In addition to this there are another 40 added places which are allocated based on the political balance of the region. For more information on EMC Representation and Nomination visit [here](#).

### EMC Support Activity

**Mediation** - This week EMC colleagues have supported an authority using Mediation. EMC can offer qualified and independent mediators who will facilitate the process with the aim of helping the individuals to reach a mutually acceptable agreement to resolve their problems. For further information or to speak to one of our mediators about how mediation can assist in a particular situation, please contact Lisa Butterfill [lisa.butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk)

### EMC Councillor Events

**Chairing and effective meetings, Friday 18 June, 10:00 - 13:00** - It covers formal roles such as chairing full council or a planning committee, as well as less formal approaches to chairing eg. for scrutiny activity and public meetings. The focus is guided by delegates and can include problem solving around challenges chairs might face [details [here](#)].

**Audience** - The workshop is suitable for new and continuing chairs. **Costs** - £75 per person (plus VAT).

**Overview and scrutiny workshop for Councillors, Thursday 24 June, 10:00 – 13:00** - This workshop will cover the principles behind scrutiny and the different ways of working, as well as skills for the roles. It will look at the formal roles such as O&S committee meetings, less formal approaches to scrutiny such as task and finish groups and inquiry days and the importance of all parts of the system collaborating constructively through scrutiny. [details [here](#)].

**Audience** - for new and experienced non-executive councillors and co-optees involved in O&S activity. **Costs** - £75 per person (plus VAT).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Rail White Paper Briefing Note** - East Midlands Councils/ Transport for the East Midlands have produced a short Member Briefing Note on the Government's recent Rail White Paper (Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail), available [here](#).

**Coventry-Leicester-Nottingham: Leaders hail 'once in a generation' opportunity to reconnect the Midlands** - The Mayor of Leicester and the Leader of Coventry City Council have hailed the release of a report by Midlands Connect, which promotes plans for direct rail links between Coventry, Leicester and Nottingham, as a 'once in a generation opportunity' to better connect the three great cities.

The report comes just weeks before the expected publication of the Integrated Rail Plan, which will set the agenda for the next thirty years of rail travel and outline Government spending in the Midlands and North.

Midlands Connect's plans would reinstate direct rail services between Coventry, Leicester and Nottingham for the first time in two decades, creating over 2million extra seats on the region's rail network every year.

The improvements would introduce two new trains each hour, also calling at Loughborough and East Midlands Parkway, made possible by a new dive under at Nuneaton, creating space for these services to pass through the area, alongside plans to improve line speed along the route, making journeys faster [details [here](#)].

**Committee to take evidence on the Williams-Shapps plan for rail** - On Wednesday May 26, the Transport Committee will heard directly from Keith Williams, architect of the Rail Review, and the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps MP. They were also joined by key commentators in a one-off session to consider the Government's vision and plans to deliver better rail services across Britain [details [here](#)].

**Councils given funding boost to develop new local design guide for housing development** - A new national design code meaning areas are beautiful, well-designed and locally-led is being tested across 14 areas in England [details [here](#)].

The shortlisted councils will take part in a 6-month testing programme to apply the [National Model Design Code \(NMDC\)](#) in their area and help Britain Build Back Better, by making sure current and new residents alike will benefit from beautiful homes in well-designed neighbourhoods.

- 14 councils across England given £50,000 each to develop new design codes
- Codes will set out design principles for new development in local areas
- Local design codes will be expected to enhance the character of the local area – for example by using honey-coloured stone in the Cotswolds or red brick in the Midlands
- Selected areas will test how to give communities a real say in the layout, design and appearance of buildings in their area – helping the country Build Back Better

From the East Midlands - **North West Leicestershire District Council**

**Neighbourhood planning: Two funds to support greater uptake** - Through this prospectus we are establishing two funds to support our desire to spread neighbourhood planning into more towns and cities [details [here](#)].

One fund will allow local authority led pilots to test a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning, while the other will provide direct financial support to local authorities to support neighbourhood planning in under-represented areas.

The closing date for applications is **11.59pm on 7 June 2021** (note the deadline for applications has been extended by a week from 31 May 2021).

**Planning training for councillors** – the Planning Advisory Service is delivering this refresher/introduction training via Zoom for councillors engaging in planning. The sessions will cover local plans, planning application decision making and infrastructure. Places can be booked via these links: [Local Plans: Tuesday 8th June; 10am session or 5pm session](#), [Decision Making: Wednesday 9th June; 10am or 5pm](#) and [Infrastructure: Thursday 10th June; 10am and 5pm](#)

**East Midlands DevCo appoints Managing Director** - Richard Carr joins the DevCo having steered multi-billion-pound projects in different parts of the country and will now spearhead the progress of EM DevCo, the body now formally set up to begin laying the foundations for a new kind of statutory development corporation, part of government plans to boost growth through planning reform.

The proposed East Midlands development corporation will help accelerate the planning and development of three major sites centred on the East Midlands Airport area, Toton and Chetwynd and land around Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station [details [here](#)].

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## Health & Social Care

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK** - The official UK government website for data and insights on coronavirus (COVID-19). Including data on Testing, cases and vaccinations. With case information by region and local authorities [\[here\]](#).

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## Local Government News and wider



**A councillor's workbook on equality, diversity and inclusion** - This LGA workbook has been designed as a distance learning aid for local councillors and should be read in conjunction with your council's own guidance on equalities, diversity and inclusion [details [here](#)].

**Windrush Day 2021 launches with £500k for celebrations** - Communities across the country will receive a share of £500,000 to host events marking Windrush Day, Communities Minister Lord Greenhalgh confirmed [details [here](#)].

Forty-two projects from across the country will be funded this year as the nation pays tribute to the outstanding contribution of the Windrush Generation and their descendants on 22 June 2021 [information on the project visit [here](#)].

Projects in the East Midlands;

- Leicester Caribbean Cricket Club, £8,100.00
- Open Doors Forum, £13,481.00
- Leicester City Council, £10,078.00
- The Vine Community Centre, £21,209.00
- Kainé Management, £10,592.00

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## Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

**Home Office publishes EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics** - The Home Office published EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics up to March 2021.

This publication takes an in-depth look at the total number of applications to the EU Settlement Scheme between 28 August 2018 and 31 March 2021, and their outcomes [details [here](#)].

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### EMC Events



**Barnardo's Child Trafficking and NRM session, 17 Jun 2021** - This 2 hour briefing session will give an overview of what Child Trafficking is, how to spot some of the signs and indicators and what to do next. It will include an introduction to the Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship (ICTG) service and how we can support you [[here](#)].

**Workshop for Chairs and Vice chairs of Overview and Scrutiny, Tuesday 29 June, 10:00 – 13:00** - The workshop will focus on the specific tasks of the Chair and Vice-chair in providing leadership to the scrutiny function, exploring the guidance provided by Government in 2019, considering matters relating to the culture and relationships in your council that influence scrutiny, discussing how you build capacity for O&S activity of different types and motivate your members and getting the most out of O&S to make an impact on your council and for its residents. The focus will be guided by participants and your particular approach to scrutiny in your council. Audience - This workshop will focus specifically on the role of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Costs - £75 per person (plus VAT). Please note that places are limited, we recommend early booking to ensure a place.

**Report Writing, 30 June** - EMC is hosting a 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. The virtual workshop 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.

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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 Alan Rhodes  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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