

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

Top items this week

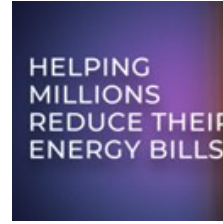
2 DECEMBER 2022



East Midlands Challenge early Bird discount extended!



National Audit Office publishes report on Road Investment Strategy 2



Government unveils £1bn ECO+ energy efficiency scheme



Up to £100 million boost to improve HGV roadside facilities

HR NEWS

EMC HR Bulletin, November 2022

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

Featured in the November Bulletin:-

- XpertHR Regional Deal 2023-24
- Regional Pay Briefing 2023 – 8th Feb 2023
- LA Challenge 2023: Early Bird Extension!
- Updates to National Pay and Conditions

Chief Executive's pay agreement 2022

Agreement has been reached on pay awards for Chief Executives.

The individual basic salaries of all officers within scope of the JNC for Chief Executives of Local Authorities should be increased by £1,925 with effect from 1 April 2022.

Read more [here](#).



EMC NEWS



EAST MIDLANDS CHALLENGE 2023—Early Bird discount extended!

The LA Challenge is on 16th March 2023 at Leicester Racecourse in Oadby. It is a showcase event – a day that provides the opportunity to learn through experience and fun working as a team. Successful teams and individuals are recognised at the awards dinner held that evening.

We have extended our early bird offer to Friday 6th January 2023 to give you the opportunity to save £245 per team. Names of individual participants aren't required at this stage. Full details are available [here](#).

TRANSPORT NEWS

Up to £100 million boost to improve HGV roadside facilities

Lorry drivers will benefit from improved and safer rest areas and roadside facilities thanks to up to £100 million investment from industry and government.

Truck-stop and road service operators can bid for a share of the £32.5 million match-funding pot from the government. This is in addition to the £20 million match-funding launched earlier this year from National Highways to improve roadside facilities and security for lorry drivers.

Read more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/up-to-100-million-boost-to-improve-hgv-roadside-facilities>.



Road Investment Strategy 2—National Audit Office publishes report



National Audit Office

The National Audit Office (NAO) has published a report examining National Highways (NH) and the Department for Transport (DfT) performance in planning, delivering and managing risks across the portfolio of road enhancement projects.

The NAO report looks at the Road Investment Strategy (2015-20) and the Road Investment Strategy 2 (2020-25), investigating risks to deliverability, affordability, capacity and value for money.

The report concluded that DfT and NH will need to make difficult decisions in prioritising road enhancements projects. Delays to road projects and inflationary pressures mean that, by March 2025, National Highways will have undertaken less work on road enhancements and at a higher cost than originally planned.

Read the full report here: <https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/progress-with-the-second-road-investment-strategy/>

COST OF LIVING

Government unveils £1bn ECO+ energy efficiency scheme

Business and Energy Secretary Grant Shapps has this week launched a government push to help millions of people across the country bring down their energy costs for this winter and beyond.

Under plans announced this week, the new ECO+ scheme will extend support to those who do not currently benefit from any other government support to upgrade their homes.

Joining the existing £6.6 billion 'Help to Heat' energy schemes this new £1 billion funding will ensure hundreds of thousands more households benefit from new home insulation and with that, lower bills.

The government has also expanded its public awareness campaign to help reduce bills for households by offering technical tips and advice for people to cut their energy use. With £18 million of funding, the campaign will complement existing government support schemes, such as the Energy Price Guarantee and the Energy Bills Support Scheme.

Find out more: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news>



NATIONAL NEWS

census 2021

Census 2021—Less than half of England and Wales population Christian

For the first time fewer than half of people in England and Wales describe themselves as Christian, the Census 2021 has revealed.

Regionally, the data also shows that Leicester and Birmingham have become the first UK cities to have “minority majorities”.

The Office for National Statistics data showed 59.1% of the people of Leicester are now from ethnic minority groups, a major change since 1991, when black and minority ethnic people made up just over a quarter of the city’s residents.

The East Midlands was also the region with the highest percentage of people who had Polish as a main language (1.5%, or 71,000), rising to 5.7% in the local authority of Boston in Lincolnshire.

The full report, including a breakdown per local area can be found here: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/bulletins/religionenglandandwales/census2021>

Funding to tackle violence against women and girls

On 25 November, the government announced £15 million of funding to tackle violence against women and girls.

Over half (£8.4 million) will fund specialist support services for the most vulnerable which are led, designed and delivered by the users and communities they serve. The government has allocated up to £7.5 million for domestic abuse interventions in healthcare settings. The funding will equip more healthcare professionals with the right tools to better identify and respond to domestic abuse.



The government is also granting an additional £70,000 of funding for rapid forensic testing of samples from reported incidents of drink and needle spiking.

Read more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-million-funding-boost-for-women-who-are-victims-of-violence>.

Upcoming EMC Board meeting dates

- EMC Executive Board - 16 December 2022
- Transport for the East Midlands – 19 December 2022
- HS2 Executive Board - 21 December 2022

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell

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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