

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

Top items this week

30 OCTOBER 2020



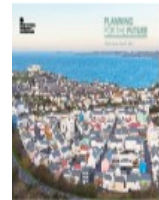
East Midlands responds to the migration crisis



EMC HR Bulletin, October 2020



£235m vision for future of East Midland economy



EMC responds to the Planning White Paper Consultation

EMC HR Bulletin, October 2020 Edition

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

The October Bulletin includes:-

- Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article - Exit Pay continues to be the hot topic and Darren Newman provides further insights on it in his article this month
- National Developments - Exit Pay Cap

Learning & Development

- Social Connections - any ideas to share
- EMC Learning and Development network on Performance Management and appraisals
- Kickstart - join our regional group to access the scheme
- Taking Your Training Remote - regional virtual training programme, news on a new cohort
- Action Learning Sets - virtual case study



EMC News

EMC Responds to the Planning White Paper Consultation

The EMC Executive Board met on the 25th September 2020 and agreed to respond to the Government's Planning White Paper consultation. In doing so the Executive Board agreed to focus on key issues of common concern across the local government family, rather than detailed points which are better addressed by individual local authorities.

EMC's response offers constructive challenge in a number of areas while accepting the need for reform to the planning system. In taking forward the Government's thinking over the coming months, there is an important opportunity to work closely with local government and within spirit, EMC has offered to work with the Minister and officials to help develop a planning reform agenda that delivers the outcomes we all want for our communities.

EMC's response is available [here](#).

EMC Support Activity

Mediation - this week EMC staff have been providing Mediation support to a local authority. Mediation is one of the services offered by East Midlands Councils to local councils, it is a confidential and voluntary process aimed at helping people to resolve disputes and improve working relationships. It is an informal and alternative approach to more formal procedures. East Midlands Councils 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 more information visit [here](#) or contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

Migration, Asylum Support, Refugee Resettlement



East Midlands responds to the migration crisis - The situation along the south coast has been widely reported over recent months, where significant numbers of migrants, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), have been arriving across the Channel in small boats. The number of unaccompanied children being taken into the care of local authorities in the affected areas has placed unprecedented pressure on their Children's Services. As part of the national response, local authorities across the East Midlands have offered support by agreeing to receive a number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children transferring from the south coast, coordinated for this region by East Midlands Councils, under the Government's flagship UASC National Transfer Scheme. The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership is extremely grateful to all local authorities in the region that have been able to provide such assistance during these extraordinary times.

Local Government News

LGA Digital Connectivity Programme: prospectus - [apply for funding](#) to build your council's skills and capacity to take advantage of the opportunities offered by connectivity to your local place and communities. The deadline is 12 November 2020.

Latest Regional Analysis on the Regional Impact of Covid-19 - The Midlands Engine State of the Region provides the latest update on the impact of Covid-19 on the regional economy [here](#) . Work is also on-going to better understand the capacity and challenges within the voluntary sector, with the publication of a 'barometer' and data dashboard (available [here](#)). The dashboard will be regularly updated, based on a monthly survey of VS organisations.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

£235m vision for future of East Midland economy unveiled as region comes together to fight back post-Covid

On Wednesday 28 October, Midlands Engine Chairman Sir John Peace announced the vision for the area and the proposed corporation . The East Midlands is planning an historic fightback from the economic impact of Covid-19 with a bold new vision to grow the economy. Councils, businesses, local enterprise partnerships and universities across the region have come together to develop long-term plans which aim to create 84,000 jobs, unleash new technologies and add billions to the value of the East Midlands economy.

Backed by the Midlands Engine partnership, they will use proposals for a new East Midlands Development Corporation to drive a series of large-scale development sites, linking them to local communities through drastically improved transport connections.

They are also looking to East Midlands Airport to build on its status as the UK's biggest airfreight gateway to drive international trade for key regional industries and businesses. A copy of the press release and further information is available [here](#).

Employers' Information

Social Europe E-Newsletter - The newsletter includes information about policy developments, funding opportunities, new publications and events. The most recent newsletters from 20 October and 27 October are available from [here](#).

LGA Draft Submission - MHCLG Consultation on Exit Reform—MHCLG is currently consulting on [Local Government Exit Pay Reform](#) and the consultation closes on 9th November 2020. Details of how to respond are in the consultation document and responses should be sent to LGExitPay@communities.gov.uk with the subject heading 'Consultation on Exit Payment Cap'. Further information on the consultation is also available in Advisory Bulletin 683 [here](#) . The LGA has developed a draft response ([here](#)) which may assist you in developing a response from your own organisation and which you can adapt to include any points relating to your council and examples of the impact that the proposals would have on your employees. If you provide a copy of your response to Samantha.maher@emcouncils.gov.uk by the end of 5th November, she will be able to reflect your issues/points within a regional response to the consultation and will forward it to the LGA to inform their support on this issue for the sector.

Implementation of the Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2020

A letter has been sent by Luke Hall MP (MHCLG) to all councils' chief executives and administering authorities in respect of the implementation of the Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2020 from 4 November 2020. The letter is available [here](#) . The LGA's pensions team are considering its contents alongside legal advice the Pensions Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) is currently obtaining on this matter.

In addition, at lunchtime today (29.10.20), HM Treasury published the Guidance and Directions to accompany the Exit Cap Regulations [here](#). The Guidance and Directions do not look substantially different from those consulted upon.

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

East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB

Click on our [Twitter](#) & [YouTube](#) accounts for further information.

