

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

Top items this week

28 JANUARY 2021



EMC General Meeting, 11  
February 2022



Local Government  
Apprentice of the Year 2022



Government Cyber Security  
Strategy



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2022

This is a national event with participants across the country competing to become the Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2022. All Councils in England are encouraged to send one apprentice or more, to take part in the event, to make this a truly National celebration of our apprenticeship talent. The event will take place on 25 May (08:30 – 16:30), with colleagues returning on the morning on 26 May (10:00 – 11:00) to celebrate the successes of the day and crown our Local Government Apprentice of the Year.

EMC colleagues will be supporting the delivery of the event and hope to see many apprentices from across the East Midlands take part.

This national event is open to all level 2 and level 3 apprentices in local government across England (current apprentices or recently qualified within last 12 months). Bookings can now be made, the full launch of the event will take place in National Apprenticeship Week 2022 (7-13 February). Further information is available here and the [here](#).

## EMC News

**EMC General Meeting** - Invitation for all councillors to attend EMC's General Meeting, scheduled for 10.00am on Friday 11 February 2022, to be held virtually via MS Teams. For further information about the meeting please contact Lisa Hopkins via email on [lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk). The papers for the meeting will be available in due course.



### Upcoming Board meeting dates;

- **Regional Migration Board** - 9 March 2022
- **Regional Employers' Board/Joint Council** - 16 March 2022
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 21 March 2022
- **EMC Executive Board** - 1 April 2022

## EMC Councillor Events

**The Role of the Civic Head, 31 May 2022** - The workshop will explore the role of the Civic Head and the expectations of the role from a range of perspectives, including the expectations of the incoming mayor, and those of the public and the council. It will include short introductory sessions on Chairing Full Council, Public Speaking and Social Media [details will be available shortly]. Audience - the intended audience for this workshop is newly appointed Mayors and deputy Mayors.

## EMC Support Activity

**Learning and Development Network** - On Thursday 27 January EMC held a virtual network meeting for those involved with Learning and Development. The meeting provided an opportunity for colleagues from across the region to share current priorities and future areas of work. Key themes identified from the meeting were that of; Induction, Leadership Development and Recruitment and Selection. The group agreed to meet again for a focused session on Induction, this will take place on 3 March. If you are interested in attending this free virtual network email [Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Events

**Support for the delivery of national Afghan resettlement programmes**

**IOM UK Afghanistan: Geography, History, Experiences in Conflict (and Displacement) and Services**, 8 Feb 2022, 14:00 - This session's content will focus primarily on the geography and history of Afghanistan, as well as Afghan's experiences in conflict [details [here](#)].

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**East Midlands Development Corporation appoints Board Chair** – A former head of commercial property consultancy Carter Jonas has been appointed to chair the board leading one of the biggest large-scale development opportunities in the Midlands. Sir Chris Haworth, has become independent chair of the East Midlands Development Company, which has been set up to accelerate the development of three huge sites covering an area the size of three London Olympic Parks [[here](#)].

**North West on track to benefit from faster and more reliable train journeys as bill for next phase of HS2 to be laid in Parliament** - details [here](#).

- government to lay bill to extend HS2 from Crewe up to Manchester and beyond, creating 17,500 direct jobs across the North
- this is a major phase of the £96 billion commitment in the Integrated Rail Plan to deliver faster and better journeys across the North quicker than under previous plans

new High Speed stations will also be built at Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport, making way for new lines to Leeds and Liverpool, as part of Northern Powerhouse Rail

**Olympic gold medallist and cyclist Chris Boardman to lead government's new active travel body** - Active Travel England to create safer streets for cycling and walking to boost air quality and help improve the health and wellbeing of the nation [details [here](#)].

- new £5.5 million investment in cycling and walking schemes, including £300,000 top-up to e-cargo bike schemes – £3 million to improve cycling infrastructure around train stations and to explore active travel on prescription

The government is today also announcing £5.5 million of new funding for local authorities, train operators and businesses to encourage various active travel schemes, including:

- a £300,000 top-up to e-cargo bike schemes
- £3 million to improve cycling infrastructure around train stations
- £2.2 million to explore active travel on prescription schemes

**Highway Code changes set to take effect this weekend** - Changes to The Highway Code, including the hierarchy of road-users and the 'Dutch Reach' are set to change from 29 January 2022 [details [here](#)].

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## Health & Social Care



**Government eases social care restrictions** - Restrictions in place to help prevent the spread of Omicron in adult social care will now be eased as Plan B measures are removed following the success of the booster programme.

- Unlimited visiting for care home residents to return
- Reduced isolation following a COVID-19 infection for those receiving care

Changes will ensure those providing and receiving care are kept safe while increasing freedoms for residents

From Monday 31 January, there will be no limit on the number of visitors allowed into care homes and self-isolation periods will be cut and now care homes only have to follow outbreak management rules for 14 rather than 28 days.

By Wednesday 16 February, care workers will be asked to use LFD tests before their shifts replacing the current system which included the use of weekly asymptomatic PCR tests.

86.5 per cent of all care home residents have now had their booster jab, which provides maximum protection against Omicron, with the latest data from the UK Health Security Agency showing it is 92% effective in preventing hospitalisation two weeks after it is administered [details [here](#)].

**Health inequalities report – the unequal pandemic, Friday 11 February 2022, 10.00am** - In this LGA webinar Professor Clare Bambra will share the findings of her recent co-authored book ‘The Unequal Pandemic: COVID-19 and Health Inequalities’. In her talk, she will outline how the pandemic is unequal in three ways: it has killed unequally, been experienced unequally and will impoverish unequally. Professor Bambra will be joined by a range of speakers from across the sector [details [here](#)].

**COVID-19 vaccination in your community, session for councillors and their staff** - All councillors are invited to this LGA webinar on addressing low vaccination take-up in your community – understanding what works.

The webinar will provide an overview of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, including work to tackle barriers to vaccinations. The NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme will share key facts about the COVID-19 vaccine, including who has been offered COVID vaccination, how people can get vaccinated and why people are advised to get a booster. Common myths regarding vaccines and how best to approach misinformation amongst communities will also be addressed [details [here](#)].

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## Local Government News

**Derby City Council adopts 'all-council' elections** - At an extraordinary meeting of Derby City Council on Wednesday 19 January a motion was passed to move to 'all-Council' elections in 2023. This will mean all 51 council seats will be elected once every four years beginning in 2023. The 2022 elections will still go ahead, under the current system of three elections in four years with 17 out of the 51 seats contested.

Prior to the decision being made by Council, a public consultation was held in early 2020 on moving to 'all-Council' elections. Over 80 percent of respondents to the consultation indicated they would prefer a change to whole council elections. This was an increase on the previous 2016 consultation where 68 percent of respondents were in favour of moving to 'all-Council' elections.

It is estimated that moving to an 'all-Council' model with elections once every four years will save approximately £475k. The savings will be a result of reduced administrative costs associated with holding fewer local elections [details [here](#)].

**Commonwealth Games 2022** - Birmingham will host the Commonwealth Games this year (Opening Ceremony 28<sup>th</sup> July). As part of the programme leading up to the Games, a Queen's Baton Relay is planned. Its route is yet to be confirmed, but the provisional dates for the East Midlands visit are Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> & Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022. EMC is working with DCMS, local authorities, DMOs/County Sport Partnerships/Active Partnerships, Canals & Rivers Trust and others in submitting proposals, including a route and programme of activity.

Also, as part of the lead up to the Games, the organising committee has opened nominations for Baton-bearers for the Queen's Baton Relay, a core element of the celebrations leading up to the opening ceremony. The website for public nominations is [here](#).

Nominations will be open until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February. The criteria for a Baton-bearer in England is someone who meets one or more of the following:

- Always willing to take on a challenge and has a unique and inspiring story;
- Has made a meaningful contribution to sport, education, the arts, culture, or charity;
- Is a figure of inspiration that positively challenges others to achieve their best;

Has taken on a challenge or cause and made a positive impact within their community

We encourage you to share this opportunity with your colleagues/local community groups.

**Creating resilient and revitalised high streets in the 'new normal'** - This LGA report was informed via more than 30 video-conference interviews with experts from the private sector and academia, council officers and business improvement district members from across England. This was supplemented by desktop research using existing literature and evidence [details [here](#)].

**First ever Government Cyber Security Strategy to step up Britain's defence and resilience** - The new strategy will be backed by £37.8 million invested to help local authorities boost their cyber resilience - protecting the essential services and data on which citizens rely on including housing benefit, voter registration, electoral management, school grants and the provision of social care [details [here](#)].

**Building a cyber-resilient public sector** - Speech by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay on the launch of the Government Cyber Security Strategy [details [here](#)].

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## Employers' Information

**Workshop on T Levels, 20 January 2022** - Last week EMC hosted a free workshop in partnership with the LGA on T Levels. The session provided an overview of what T Levels are and how the work placements will operate. LGA colleagues shared details of their T Level Support Programme, available to up to 35 councils, providing dedicated support to deliver high quality Industry Placements [brochure available [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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Click on our [Twitter](#) & [YouTube](#) accounts for further information.

