

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

Top items this week

17 JUNE 2022

Government welcomes bid for new East Midlands combined authority

EMC Regional Pay Consultation Briefing - 21 June

East Midlands Councils AGM, 15 July 2022

EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

EMC Regional Pay Consultation Briefing - 21 June

East Midlands Councils will be hosting a regional pay consultation briefing on Tuesday 21 June from 2.00-4.00pm. The meeting will take place virtually on MS Teams.

The purpose of the meeting will be to provide councils in region the opportunity to meet lead national negotiators and discuss and input to the national pay negotiations for 2022.

We will circulate further information ahead of the meeting, but wanted to make lead Councillors, HR and Finance Leads aware of the date as soon as possible. To book a place please visit our website [here](#).

Government welcomes bid for new East Midlands combined authority

The government has welcomed an initial bid from local council leaders to form an East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority to form an East Midlands Combined Authority across the D2N2 area.

Neil O'Brien MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, said he was 'very pleased' that Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council are looking for a mayoral deal, describing the plans as 'exciting' and welcoming the 'ambitious devolution deal'.

The leaders of the four councils sent initial proposals to negotiate a combined devolution deal in March, after being named as pathfinder areas by the Government in February and being invited to apply for a devolution deal.

If devolution plans are approved, it could mean more money for services in the regions, more major decisions being made locally, nearer the people they affect, and a bigger voice for the region.

The councils are looking for greater funding and autonomy in areas including transport and infrastructure, business growth, inward investment, strategic regeneration, destination management, employment, and skills.

If the proposals are given the green light, the first election for a regional mayor, for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire, could be in May 2024.

Nottinghamshire County Council press release [here](#) and Derby City Council press release [here](#).

EMC News

EMC AGM - The East Midlands Councils AGM will take place on the afternoon of 15 July at Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall. We would like to invite all councillors and Chief Executives to attend. The papers for this meeting will be available in due course.

EMC Boards Activity

Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) - The TfEM Board will meet on the 22nd June 2022 chaired by Sir Peter Soulsby. The Board will consider a revised draft of the TfEM/Midlands Connect joint priorities document originally published in 2018, the latest position on the railways resulting from planned strike action and a presentation on the Government's recently published freight plan. Papers for the meeting will be available on the EMC website.

EMC Councillor Events

East Midlands Scrutiny Network, 24 June 2022 - The next East Midlands Scrutiny network meeting will take place on 24 June, 10:00 – 12:30. The theme for this network meeting will be on **budget scrutiny**. This network meeting will be hosted by Erewash Borough Council. For more information on this network meeting contact

Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

The East Midlands Councils Scrutiny network is a local authority network for Councillors and Officers involved with Scrutiny. 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.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Fairer private rented sector white paper to ensure improvements to the rights and conditions for millions of renters.

- A ban section 21 'no-fault' evictions and extend the Decent Homes Standard to the sector
- An end arbitrary rent review clauses, give tenants stronger powers to challenge poor practice, unjustified rent increases and enable them to be repaid rent for non-decent homes
- It will be illegal for landlords or agents to have blanket bans on renting to families with children or those in receipt of benefits

For more information visit [here](#).

Local authority enforcement in the private rented sector: headline report - Headline findings from a study to explore local authority enforcement in the private rented sector.

This report presents the findings from a study commissioned by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and carried out by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University to explore local authority enforcement in the private rented sector.

The findings are based on survey responses from 140 local authorities in England, and 80 interviews with stakeholders in 14 case study areas [details [here](#)].

A new deal for renting: resetting the balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants - This is the government response to the consultation 'A New Deal for Renting' on removing Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 and improving Section 8 eviction grounds.

This includes details of the planned reforms to the tenancy system following the removal of Section 21 and a summary of the responses received to the consultation [details [here](#)].

Nutrient and water neutrality: The impact of environmental protections on housing supply - The LGA commissioned Residential Analysts and Canal Street Research to investigate the potential impact of environmental protections on new housing delivery [details [here](#)].

Planning experts questioned on planning reform concerns - Following concerns raised regarding the centralisation of the planning system in Monday's [evidence hearing](#) with Secretary of State, Michael Gove, the LUHC Committee is holding an additional evidence session to explore these issues with Victoria Hills, Chief Executive, Royal Town Planning Institute, Dr Hugh Ellis, Policy Director, Town and Country Planning Association, and Christopher Young QC, No5 Barristers Chamber [further information [here](#)].

The cross-party group of MPs are likely to examine questions concerning the Government's planning proposals and how effective they are likely to be in making progress on the levelling-up agenda.

The Committee are also likely to explore issues around public participation in the planning system and the Bill's framework for the Infrastructure Levy.

Midlands Connect

20-year vision for A46 corridor will boost economy by £7.1 billion - Sub-national Transport Body Midlands Connect is today presenting its 20-year vision for the A46 corridor, with improvement plans predicted to boost the economy by £7.1 billion over the next 60 years.

The A46 corridor, a major cross-country route, spans 155 miles from Gloucestershire to Lincolnshire. Home to a variety of sectors including automotive, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, textiles and agriculture, it has an economic output of £115 billion a year. Future projections along the corridor have shown that significant growth is expected over the next 20 years, with 600,000 new residents, 150,000 new jobs and 250,000 new homes expected by 2041.

Midlands Connect's 20-year vision for the A46 aims to future proof the route and if delivered in full, could boost the national economy by an additional £7.1 billion over 60 years. It will also bring 150,000 new jobs to the region.

Suggested interventions include improving junctions, roundabouts and reducing congestion at pinch points along the route.

The vision was presented at the transport body's A46 Conference, taking place at Coventry University Technology Park. The conference saw technical experts and representatives from Local and National Government delivering a number of keynote speeches and panels on improving the corridor and maximising productivity. The transport body is now seeking Government support to fund the improvements needed as new residents, homes and jobs are projected along the corridor over the next 20 years [details [here](#)].

The conference was opened by Cllr Phil King, Leader of Harborough District Council and Andrew Prichard, Director of Policy and Infrastructure spoke as part of one of the Panel sessions. The event also highlighted the wider strategic importance of delivering the A46 Newark Northern Bypass, which remains Transport for the East Midlands top road priority.

Local Government News

Bids open for cash to preserve prized community assets - The second round of £150 million Community Ownership Fund opens for bids from Wales and across the UK [details [here](#)].

Cost-of-living case studies – the Local Government Association is seeking case studies for a cost-of-living support page, to share good practice and innovative ideas from councils supporting people during this difficult time. Case studies should be 500 words long and explain how your initiative helps residents, how it is funded, its impact, any collaboration with partner organisations and future plans. Please send submissions to ben.murray@local.gov.uk by 5pm on Friday 24 June 2022.

Health & Social Care

New funding for local authorities to prepare for charging reform - New funding will be given to local authorities and government trailblazers to prepare for the charging reform.

- £15.5 million will help local authorities prepare for adult social care charging reform in October 2023
- Adult social care reforms will change how social care is paid for and will protect people from unpredictable care costs across England
- Charging reform forms part of the wider social care reform which will reduce pressure on the NHS, helping the government continue to tackle the COVID-19 backlogs

More than £15 million will be given to local authorities across England today (Wednesday 15 June) to help them implement new social care charging reforms to bring an end to the unpredictable cost of care for the public.

The introduction of charging reform, which will include a cap on the cost of care and a more generous means test, will result in an increase in demand for additional assessments and will require local authorities to upgrade IT systems to record and maintain care accounts.

The £15.5 million will be shared by local authorities to hire additional staff, prepare their workforce, and recruit dedicated IT staff to oversee the implementation of the care accounts.

This is the first portion of funding for local authorities, and further support will be made available later to strengthen capacity and to support implementation of technology that can support charging reform.

An additional £2.9 million of funding will also be distributed across trailblazer local authorities to cover the costs of implementing charging reform early. The trailblazing authorities are areas that have been selected to ensure any insight, evidence and lessons learned from this initiative will be useful to providers and authorities to support the rollout in all parts of England [detail [here](#)].

LGA Workshop, Supporting suicide prevention Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 July 2022, 10.00am - the Suicide Prevention sector-led improvement programme is hosting a two-day webinar taking place on the mornings of 5 and 6 July. The sessions will look at the latest work around the programme and will include expert speakers discussing topical issues currently impacting suicide prevention work. Anyone working in the area of public health and suicide prevention is welcome to attend [details [here](#)].

EMC Events



High Impact Leadership, ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management, An accredited Leadership Development Programme - EMC is launching an ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management starting in September 2022. The course will take place with a combination of face to face workshops and interactive virtual workshops. The programme information booklet can be accessed from here [Programme Information - September 2022](#)

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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