

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

Top items this week

7 OCTOBER 2022

Levelling Up and
Regeneration Bill (LURB) in
relation to planning Event

Investment Zones

East Midlands Challenge 2023

EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

Investment Zone applications open

Local areas can apply to host a new Investment Zone from 2 October. The government is encouraging councils to take advantage of its offer of lower taxes and streamlined planning rules for specific sites to boost investment and development – both commercial and residential.

Investment Zones could benefit from a range of tax incentives over the next 10 years, such as reliefs on business rates, stamp duty land tax and employer national insurance contributions.

The government proposes that investment zones will also empower local places to deliver planning that is right for their area, while maintaining high environmental outcomes and keeping national Green Belt protections in place. To ensure this, local areas must agree in the Expressions of Interest (EOI) process to require mitigation of any adverse environmental impacts of the proposed development.

It was also announced that government is in discussion with 38 local authorities to establish investment zones in England. In the East Midlands these are;

- Derbyshire County Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is now inviting expressions of interest from those initial places and all other Mayoral Combined Authorities or Upper Tier Local Authorities and Freeports in England by 14 October.

To ensure Zones have the infrastructure and skilled workforce that they need, the government will give greater control over local growth funding to local leaders. Local authorities are being asked to keep growth at the front and centre of their plans by setting out the potential economic opportunities of an Investment Zone in their area, how they fit into the area's wider economic strategy and how they will support long-term UK economic growth.

While Investment Zones will be open to all, the government has stated its intention to focus on areas where they are expected to have the greatest impact on growth and housing supply. Bids will also be considered on the pace at which development can be delivered and should set out any live or potential, public, private or foreign direct investment that is likely to come forward. Freeport governing bodies will be able to convert their existing tax sites to Investment Zones, should they wish to. For more information on Investment Zones visit [here](#).

A number of organisations have raised questions about the impact of the proposed Investment Zones, including the Town & County Planning Association [visit [here](#)].

What's LURB got to do with it?

***FREE Event - Planning* - A symposium on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) in relation to planning**

Councillors, Join EMC for a symposium to explore the LURB in relation to planning, its journey so far, and how it will impact the devolution and the Levelling Up agenda. We are delighted to share the programme for the event, which can be accessed from here. The programme includes keynotes on;

- Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill – Background to the Bill and key proposals
- Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill: A Planning Lawyer's Perspective
- The Infrastructure Levy: the journey from the Planning Reform White Paper to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill
- Impact on Devolution and the Levelling Up agenda

For more information and to book a place, please visit [here](#).

Date and time - 11 November 2022, 10:00—13:00 (with coffee available from 9:30 and lunch served at the event close)

Venue - City Hall, Leicester – Attenborough Room

Cost - The event is fully subsidised by EMC and free to attend.

EMC News

EMC Support Activity

EMC provides a range of practitioner networks across a number of different areas, upcoming dates include;

- **EMC Learning and Development Network** - 11 October, 14:00 - 15:30 via MS Teams. This network meeting includes a presentation and discussion on Learning Management Platforms and an update from the LGA on the new Local Government Culture and Organisational Development Exchange.
- **EMC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network** - 12 October, 14:00 - 15:30 via MS Teams. This network meeting includes a presentation on the LGA Equality Framework.
- **EMC Performance Management Network** - 12 October, 9:30 - 12:00 hosted by Nottingham City Council. This face to face network meeting will include an interactive network session on the skills set of the modern performance team.

For more information about these networks contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Asylum Support, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

East Midlands Asylum and Refugee Resettlement – Quarterly briefing Q2 2022/23 - Each quarter, the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership publish a briefing that brings together different sources of information relating to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants, as well as upcoming training and events. This briefing contains information from Q2 of 2022/2023 and includes key recent announcements. To access the briefing visit [here](#).

Tackling Modern Slavery (virtual webinar), Tuesday 18 October 2022, 10.00am - To mark anti-slavery day, the LGA is hosting a webinar to launch their refreshed council guide on tackling modern slavery. This webinar, which will be hosted in partnership with the [Human Trafficking Foundation](#), will provide an overview of the guidance and accompanying maturity index that have been designed to support the work of councils to tackle modern slavery in our communities. For more information visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

A guide to applying to the Housing Advisers Programme (virtual webinar) Friday 14 October 2022, 10.30am - following the launch of the 2022/23 Housing Advisers Programme in September, this LGA webinar is aimed at council officers and members interested in applying to join the sixth cohort of the programme. For more information on this webinar visit [here](#).

Using design to level up places - An evaluation of the Local Government Association's 'Design Skills for Economic Growth' Programme 2021/22. To access the report visit [here](#).

Midlands Connect Newsletter - in this months edition -

- Get tickets for our A5 Corridor Conference in Hinckley
- New shared vision document launched with Transport for the East Midlands
- Businesses 'all aboard' for rail improvements
- Delays along the A50 at a huge cost to the economy

To access the newsletter visit [here](#).

Air quality: clean air zone framework for England - Principles which local authorities should follow when setting up clean air zones in England. This framework sets out the principles local authorities should follow when setting up clean air zones in England.

It explains the approach they should take if they are introducing a zone to improve air quality, and the types of measures they should include. For more information visit [here](#).

Employers' Information

East Midlands Challenge 2023 - EMC will once again host the regional Challenge event. The East Midlands Challenge will take place on 16 March 2023, with 20 team places available. We have a great new venue for the event - Leicester Racecourse in Oadby Leicestershire.

The Local Authority Challenge is a simulation exercise in which teams take on the role of a senior management team at one of four fictitious councils. The challenge offers a fantastic opportunity for aspiring leaders to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal work giving them a taste of what senior management is really like.

Key Information about the Challenge

Date – 16 March 2023, 9:00 – 20:30

Closing date - The closing date for registering a team is 3 February 2023. This year we are offering an early bird rate, register a team by 10 December 2022.

How to book - To secure your places, please complete the online booking form below. For more information about the 2023 East Midlands Challenge visit [here](#).

Local Government News



Levelling Up Committee scrutinises Government's elections policy - On Wednesday 12 October, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee begins the public evidence sessions for its inquiry on the Government's [Draft Electoral Commission Strategy and Policy Statement](#).

The LUHC Committee question political and constitutional experts on the new guidance and the Draft Electoral Commission Strategy and Policy Statement.

The Draft Strategy and Policy Statement sets out the Government's strategic and policy priorities for elections and referendums. It also sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Electoral Commission – the independent body that oversees elections – in meeting those priorities. The Draft Statement, made by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, is a new procedure introduced by the Elections Act 2022.

As a statutory consultee, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee is holding a short inquiry into the Draft Statement and is intending to publish recommendations for the Government in the Autumn. For more information visit [here](#).

Call-in guidance: CfGS discussion paper - In autumn 2022 CfGS plans the publication of new guidance on the operation of call-in for English local authorities. To inform this process we are issuing some introductory information setting out likely areas that the guidance will consider, and the likely overall tone and structure of the document to elicit feedback. To access the discussion paper visit [here](#).

This work is being carried out in partnership with ADSO (the Association of Democratic Services Officers) and LLG (Lawyers in Local Government), and with the financial support of the LGA and HM Government.

LGA Be a Councillor: Guide launched to support disabled residents to stand as councillors - The LGA's new guide; Improving access to local government elected office for disabled people, offers specific advice and support for disabled people who are considering the role. To access the guide visit [here](#).

Health & Social Care



Hunger and health: addressing children's food insecurity Wednesday 12 October 2022, 3.00pm - this LGA webinar will explore how councils are creating meaningful action to understand and address the drivers of food insecurity facing children and young people in their local area as essential costs rapidly rise in the coming months. For more information visit [here](#).

Adult social care assurance: all you need to know to prepare for the return of regulation (virtual meeting) Monday 10 October 2022, 2.00pm – a new assurance regime in adult social care is due to commence in 2023. This must-attend LGA hosted session will help senior council colleagues prepare for the implementation of this significant new policy initiative and consider what they can be doing now in advance to get ready for go-live. For more information visit [here](#).

EMC Events



Employment Law Seminar with Darren Newman - We are pleased to offer an Employment Law Update Seminar with Darren Newman on Wednesday 9 November 2022. Back by popular demand, the seminar will offer Darren's pragmatic advice and interpretation of the main developments in employment law and implications for councils.

The session will take place via MS Teams and will run from 10.00 to 12.15, including a 15-minute break. To book, please go to our website at the following link [here](#).

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
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Executive Director: Stuart Young

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