

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

Top items this week

8 APRIL 2022

Strategic Transport Plan for the Midlands

Infants, children and families support

Cyber Security workshop for Councillors in the East Midlands

EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

UK Support for Ukrainian Refugees

Local Authorities are continuing to work through offers of sponsorship under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, conducting property, safeguarding, and DBS checks on prospective hosts, and feeding issues through to the regional level for redress with DLUHC. Guidance and systems are undergoing continual refinement, and partners are thanked for their hard work and patience while this new scheme develops.

Some model document translations have been shared by the Institute of Translation and Interpreting to assist colleagues in understanding ID documents which are provided in Ukrainian or Russian. These can be accessed here: [Ukrainian crisis \(iti.org.uk\)](https://iti.org.uk).

The Government has announced its intention to partner with Reset Communities and Refugees, Refugees at Home, and Citizens UK to develop matching services for Sponsors and Guests under Homes for Ukraine, and an accreditation scheme for other VCS groups who wish to participate in matching is being developed – further processes are being considered to ‘rematch’ Guests with Sponsors in the event of a breakdown in the arrangement. There is currently no mechanism to transfer other visa holders into Homes for Ukraine where arrangements outside of the scheme have failed.

For more information visit [here](#).

Cyber Security workshop for Councillors in the East Midlands

EMC, working collaboratively with the East Midlands Special Operations Unit is hosting two free webinars for Councillors on cyber security.

Cyber Security is the protection of your hardware, software and data from unauthorised access and cyber-attacks. We recognise the value and responsibility you bring to our communities as a councillor, with this in mind we want to ensure that you have strong cyber security protection available to you. With the current news around global conflicts, we are seeing a real increase in targeted cybercrime, to combat this, we will cover topics around securing your digital footprint, securing your social media, how to work in public using technology and practical tips. **Dates and times**- 27 May 2022, 10am - 11am or 8 June 2022, 3pm - 4pm (Virtual workshop using MS Teams). To book a place visit [here](#).

Masterplan lays out the future of transport network in the Midlands

Regional Transport body Midlands Connect week launched its Strategic Transport Plan for the Midlands entitled ‘Greener, Fairer, Stronger’. The plan lays out the key challenges facing transport in the Midlands, including how a lack of mobility is holding back economic growth and productivity, how levelling up and social exclusion can be addressed with better accessibility, and the need to slash carbon emissions. The plan sets out where the region can come together and work as one to tackle some of these challenges [details [here](#)]. The plan identifies requirements for major investment needed, from both the public and private sectors, in programmes for:

- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Alternative fuels, including natural gas and hydrogen for HGVs;
- Boosting mobility in rural areas;
- Creating more space for passengers and freight on our rail network
- A ‘tap and cap’ smart ticketing solution for passengers using buses, trams, bike hire and the rail network across the Midlands

Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

Survey of Homelessness Presentations by Ukrainian Arrivals - This report presents the findings of a Local Government Association (LGA) survey of councils to obtain a snapshot of the number of new Ukrainian households presenting to homelessness services [details [here](#)].

Support for vulnerable applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme - The Home Office announced further funding to help vulnerable EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members applying to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). The additional funding of £2.5 million will go to a network of 68 grant funded organisations located throughout the UK which help people to apply to the EUSS who have vulnerabilities such as language barriers and IT support [[here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

£7 billion package to level up transport outside London - Funding for major local transport schemes across the UK will speed up journeys and make services more reliable and greener [details [here](#)].

- government confirms nearly £7 billion to overhaul and level up major local transport schemes
- major upgrades to local tram, cycling, walking and rail networks will also be funded
- Thirty-one counties, city regions and unitary authorities have been chosen for funding to level up their local bus services in the latest awards from the government's bus transformation programme.

Those successful in the East Midlands: Derby City £7m, Derbyshire £47m, Nottingham £11.4m, Nottinghamshire £18.7m.

The government is also confirming that tram and light rail operators across the Midlands and the North will also benefit from over £37 million of government support including: Nottingham (£3.3 million)

£30 million for cutting-edge highway decarbonisation projects - Funding will support pioneering projects to decarbonise local highways infrastructure across the UK [details [here](#)].

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Climate Change Survey 2021 - In October 2021 the LGA conducted a survey of the climate change officers of all councils in England. The purposes of the survey were to assess what actions local authorities are taking to combat climate change, to assess their future needs for support in this area, and to evaluate the climate change sector support offer provided by the LGA. A total of 178 responded – a response rate of 53 per cent [details [here](#)].

Local Government News

Changes to the structure at the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) - Going forward there will be five Director General led groups along with Second Permanent Secretary-led portfolio.

1. **Strategy, devolution and growth** grouping led by Will Garton which will cover Strategy, the Levelling Up implementation unit, the Levelling Up Data Unit, Private Offices and Policy Unit and the policy unit now known as Funding Design.
2. **A Regeneration** grouping, led by Emran Mian. This will comprise all the former Housing and Planning directorates, except Homelessness and Rough Sleeping.
3. **A Local Government and Public Services** grouping, led by Alex Skinner while Catherine Frances is covering the Ukraine Gold Response work. This will welcome the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping directorate and in the short term will contain the Ukraine coordination.
4. **A Corporate** grouping led by Matt Thurstan, will welcome the Analysis and Data Directorate, as well as the Communications Directorate.
5. **Safer, Greener Buildings**, led by Richard Goodman will remain in its current form focussing on Building Safety, Grenfell and Net Zero.

Consultation launched on replacing the outdated Vagrancy Act - The government is set to repeal the Vagrancy Act as part of plans to end rough sleeping for good [details [here](#)]. The consultation will last from 7 April 2022 to 5 May 2022.

Call for evidence launched to understand people's experiences of extremism and its impact on social cohesion - Victims and communities are being urged to share their experiences as part of a major independent review into the impacts of extremism [details [here](#)].

Infants, children and families support - To support parents, 75 local authorities have been announced as eligible for a share of £302 million to create new Family Hubs in their areas [details [here](#)]. To further support children in their early years, £100 million of this funding will be shared among eligible areas to roll out bespoke parent-infant relationship and perinatal mental health support. The 75 local authorities (LAs) eligible for Family Hubs will be contacted and provided with further details on next steps. Including in the East Midlands; Derby, Leicester, Lincolnshire, North Northamptonshire and Nottingham.

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