

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

Top items this week

24 JUNE 2022



Homes for Ukraine scheme



EMC AGM, 15 July 2022



National census of local authority councillors 2022



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

EMC Annual General Meeting (AGM), 15 July 2022

The East Midlands Councils AGM will take place on the afternoon of 15 July at Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall. The invitation is extended to all councillors and chief executives of councils in the East Midlands. Cllr James Jamieson, Chairman of the Local Government Association will be attending. The papers for this meeting will be available in due course.



EMC Executive Board

EMC Executive Board met on Friday 24 June. It was the first in-person board meeting since before the start of the Covid pandemic and Members focused discussion and considered a collective approach on a number of the key issues facing local authorities including devolution and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill; economic growth and investment; inflationary and cost pressures; and asylum and refugee resettlement.

EMC News

EMC Councillor Events

Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings - EMC is hosting a virtual training session on 'Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings'. The workshop will provide training for chairs to maximise opportunities within hybrid meetings. Outcomes from the workshop;

- Awareness of effective techniques for chairing hybrid meetings
- Development and embedding key skills
- The important of body language
- Control and engagement
- Handling various styles of challenge

Audience - this workshop is open to both Councillors and Officers, those involved with chairing meetings. For more information and to book a place visit [here](#).

EMC Support Activity

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](#)

Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

Homes for Ukraine scheme to begin processing applications from unaccompanied children - The **Homes for Ukraine scheme** will allow children and minors under the age of 18 who have already applied through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme to come to the UK without a parent or guardian, the government announced on 22 June 2022.

- Children who have already applied for a Homes for Ukraine Scheme visa will be allowed to travel to the UK without a parent or legal guardian, subject to strict sponsor checks
- As part of robust safeguarding regime applicants must also have notarised parental consent, the sponsor should be personally known to the parents, except in exceptional circumstances

After working closely with the Ukraine government, the changes will enable a child to apply for a visa if they have proof of parental consent. This must be certified by an authority approved by the Ukraine government, such as the Ukrainian consul abroad.

This policy will initially apply to the 1,000 children who have already applied but are unable to travel as they are not travelling or reuniting with a parent or guardian.

For details visit [here](#).

Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement continued

Ukraine refugees, Lord Harrington to appear before Levelling-Up Committee on Homes for Ukraine concerns - Lord Harrington, Minister for Refugees, will appear before the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee on Wednesday 29 June to respond to questions on the Homes for Ukraine scheme and support for Ukrainian refugees.

The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee has also published correspondence from Lord Harrington following a series of letters (on 4 May and also on 24 May) from Clive Betts, Chair of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee.

The correspondence from Clive Betts raised a series of questions concerning problems with the operation of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, including delays in criminal records checks for UK hosts and of accounts of Ukrainian refugees being forced into temporary accommodation such as B&Bs. For more information visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Government response to the independent review into scaling up self-build and custom housebuilding - The government's response to the recommendations made by the independent review into scaling up self-build and custom housebuilding.

In April 2021, the Prime Minister commissioned Richard Bacon MP to undertake an independent review into scaling up self-build and custom housebuilding.

Richard Bacon published his report in August 2021. The report made 6 overarching recommendations to government on how to support to support growth in all parts of the self and custom build market, helping to boost capacity and overall housing supply in our housing market.

This government response to the independent review sets out how the government intends to respond to the recommendations [details [here](#)].

Design Midlands Webinars 2022 Area Design Code; Are we ready for the challenge? 7 July 2022 - This session will look at some of the key design issues arising from the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, with a focus on Design Codes.

The panel will also touch on related issues such as: 'street vote' powers enabling residents to determine design preferences in their neighbourhoods; greater heritage protection; and the new 'national development management policies' and how they will embed high quality design? These changes will be set against a backdrop of increased digitalisation of the planning system. How will we meet the challenges ahead?

Panel members at this event include Andrew Pritchard, Director of Policy and Infrastructure at East Midlands Councils. For more information and to book a place visit [here](#).

LGA Case Study, Delivering the first passivhaus home in Mansfield - Mansfield District Council are on course to add four new homes to the database once the properties are certified as Passivhaus compliant. The LGA case study [here](#).

LGA Event, Building housing retrofit skills, Tuesday 12 July 2022, 10.00am - focusing on key proposals in the Government's Planning White Paper, this virtual LGA webinar workshop with MHCLG's interim chief planner, is for LGA, DCN and CCN members to provide feedback on proposals as officers develop submission responses. Delegates are encouraged to read the briefing on the Planning for the Future consultations beforehand [details [here](#)].

£100,000 funding awarded to supercharge sustainable travel around Derbyshire - An online platform that will encourage EV usage and car sharing in Derbyshire has been awarded £100,000 funding from Sub-national Transport Body Midlands Connect, it has been announced.

Independent research consultancy Cenex, in partnership with Derbyshire County Council, has been announced as the winner of Midlands Connect's rural mobility competition, receiving £100,000 of funding to develop its proposal for an online Electric Vehicle (EV) charging and car sharing platform.

Once developed, the online platform will allow EV users across Derbyshire to 'rent out' their private charge points, giving motorists access to more chargers to power up their vehicles. The platform will also promote car sharing by providing opportunities for people to rent out their cars when they're not using them, meaning that residents without their own private vehicle can get around more easily.

The project will encourage sustainable travel and open up opportunities for EV ownership to groups who may not have benefitted from access to local charging points before, particularly households without off-street parking [here](#).

Employers' issues

LGA's Work Local employment and skills proposals and Levelling Up, 13 July 2022, 2pm - The LGA's Work Local: Unlocking talent to level up proposals build on the Levelling up White Paper, and recommend ways Whitehall can improve its approach to employment and skills policy for all places and deliver a coherent devolution approach to free up local government to coordinate a joined up offer for residents and businesses.

This session is relevant to council and combined authority officers and elected members working on employment and skills, economic development and place planning [details [here](#)].

Local Government News



Statutory Intervention: Nottingham City Council: ‘Minded to’ decision - Documents related to the minded to decision to intervene in Nottingham City Council.

The Minister for Equalities, Local Government, Faith and Communities, Kemi Badenoch MP, announced in a [Written Ministerial Statement](#) on 23 June that the Secretary of State is ‘minded to’ intervene in Nottingham City Council. The Council and other interested parties have been invited to make representations on the proposed intervention package by Thursday 7 July [details [here](#)].

Nottingham City Council’s response to Government statement on proposed intervention - Nottingham City Council has pledged that the major improvements it has been making to financial governance and management will continue in light of the Government’s announcement that it is minded to appoint Commissioners to take over some decision making functions to ensure compliance with the council’s best value duty. This relates to:

- The governance and scrutiny of strategic decision making by the Authority
- The strategic financial management of the Authority under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

The appointment and dismissal of persons to positions the holders of which are to be designated as statutory officers, and the designation of those persons as statutory officers under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Council Leader, Cllr David Mellen said: *“The Government’s decision to appoint Commissioners follows our discovery last December that Housing Revenue Account funds had been allocated unlawfully. This was a significant setback but it’s important to understand that we brought the matter to light ourselves as part of our work to tighten up our financial and governance arrangements and have already taken swift and direct action to address the issue, including seeking the necessary ministerial direction to pay the money back into the Housing Revenue Account.*

“In light of the improvements we have been making, it’s clearly disappointing that the Housing Revenue Account issue has led to the Government taking the action it has. We understand that it will be a major concern for city residents, council staff, our partners and local businesses but we are committed to working with Commissioners on any further improvements we need to make

“Our staff do a great job providing vital services to city residents and we will support them to continue to do that in the months and years ahead.” [for more on the Nottingham City press release visit [here](#)].

10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising gambling harm (Centre for Governance and Scrutiny publication) - This publication is part of a Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) project in partnership with the Gambling Commission to raise awareness and increase the involvement of elected members in overview and scrutiny roles, in tackling gambling harm.

The production of this guide has been informed by a series of gambling harm scrutiny inquiry days held with personnel from local authorities.

This also forms part of the CfGS’s wider “10 questions” series, which lays out key issues on which local scrutineers (members sitting on scrutiny committees and the officers who support them) can pose questions to those with decision-making responsibilities [access [here](#)].

National census of local authority councillors 2022 - The Local Government Association (LGA) has carried out the ninth Census of Local Authority Councillors in England. This census provides the most comprehensive, timely overview of local government representation and, with previous years’ data, how that has changed over time. The results will help to inform central and local government and political groups in the development of strategies and policies for local government. The 2022 Census was conducted in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on local communities, and recent prominent issues of personal safety [details [here](#)].

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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